

AEC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

# PROPERTIES OF $^{60}\text{Co}$ AND COBALT METAL FUEL FORMS

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*Aiken, South Carolina*

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# PROPERTIES OF $^{60}\text{Co}$ AND COBALT METAL FUEL FORMS

Approved by

S. Mirshak, Research Manager  
Reactor Engineering Division

June 1968

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY  
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## PROPERTIES OF $^{60}\text{Co}$ AND COBALT METAL FUEL FORMS

This report is a compilation of properties of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  and cobalt metal, and includes information on compatibility of cobalt with possible encapsulating materials. In general, data on properties are reported for unirradiated cobalt metal, and any data specific to radioactive cobalt are so indicated.

Data for high temperature fuel forms other than metallic cobalt (melting point -  $1495^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) are limited at present and are not included here. Cobalt-rhenium alloys and solid solutions of cobalt and magnesium oxides offer the possibility of higher melting point fuel forms with reasonable power density. However, development of these forms has been deferred because of the applicability of cobalt metal for most near-term uses.

This report supersedes DP-1051 (Rev. 1) in its entirety. Future quarterly reports will report new data, and this report will be reviewed and reissued periodically.

# RADIOISOTOPIC FUEL DATA

I. ISOTOPE  $^{60}\text{Co}$  HALF-LIFE 5.24 years

Ref.  
1

FUEL FORM (as produced)

## A. METAL:

### 1. Composition

a. Recommended composition of cobalt raw material\*

| Element | Recommended Content |
|---------|---------------------|
| Co + Ni | 99.9 wt % min       |
| Ni      | 1500 ppm (wt) max   |
| Fe      | 1000                |
| Cu      | 100                 |
| O       | 100                 |
| Si      | 100                 |
| Th      | 100                 |
| U       | 100                 |
| Al      | 50                  |
| Cd      | 50                  |
| Mn      | 50                  |
| Pb      | 50                  |
| S       | 50                  |
| Cr      | 20                  |
| Mo      | 20                  |
| V       | 20                  |
| W       | 20                  |
| P       | 10                  |
| B       | 5                   |
| Gd      | 5                   |
| Li      | 5                   |

b. Composition of radioactive cobalt

2,3

Radioactive cobalt is basically a mixture of  $^{59}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{60}\text{Ni}$ , and  $^{61}\text{Ni}$ . Natural cobalt is 100%  $^{59}\text{Co}$  and is irradiated in a nuclear reactor to produce  $^{60}\text{Co}$ , the radioactive isotope with a half-life of 5.24 years. The  $^{60}\text{Co}$  decays by emitting beta particles and gamma rays to form  $^{60}\text{Ni}$ . Neutron bombardment of  $^{60}\text{Ni}$  forms  $^{61}\text{Ni}$  in only small amounts due to the small absorption cross section of  $^{60}\text{Ni}$ .  $^{61}\text{Ni}$  is also

\* This composition can be obtained from the following commercial producers:

Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited  
Metals for Electronics (Division of Chas. Pfizer & Co.)  
African Metals Corporation

formed by the neutron bombardment and subsequent beta decay of  $^{60}\text{Co}$ . The  $^{61}\text{Co}$  formed by neutron bombardment has a half-life of 99 minutes, and essentially all of it is converted to  $^{61}\text{Ni}$  within a day after irradiation is completed. Since the absorption cross section for  $^{60}\text{Co}$  is much less than that for  $^{59}\text{Co}$ , the amount of  $^{61}\text{Co}$  and  $^{61}\text{Ni}$  formed during irradiation is small except for extended or high flux irradiations.

The alloy composition of radioactive cobalt is shown in Figure 1 as a function of irradiation flux. The solid portions of the curves give the composition for practical irradiations (irradiation times less than those required to produce the maximum  $^{60}\text{Co}$  content possible at the irradiation flux level). The composition at any time after irradiation lies on a line of constant  $^{59}\text{Co}$  content. As an example of

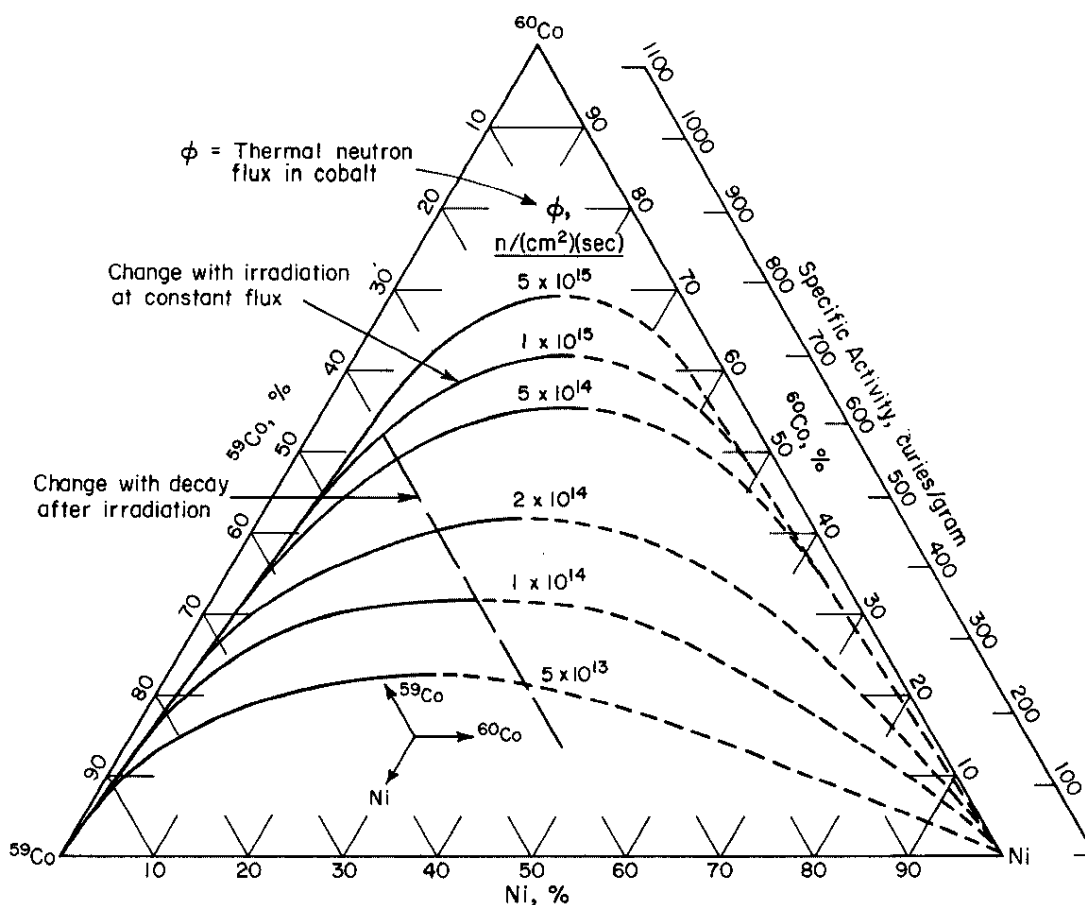


FIG. 1 COMPOSITION OF RADIOACTIVE COBALT



determining the composition of radioactive cobalt, material that had been irradiated at a flux of  $10^{15}$  n/(cm<sup>2</sup>)(sec) to a specific activity of 600 curies/grams would consist of 52.6% <sup>60</sup>Co, 39.4% <sup>59</sup>Co, and 8.0% Ni. After this material decays to 300 curies/gram, its composition would be 26.3% <sup>60</sup>Co, 39.4% <sup>59</sup>Co, and 34.3% Ni.

Ref.

## 2. Specific Power

3,4

The basic activity to power conversion factor is 64.2 curies/watt. Both specific activity and specific power of radioactive cobalt are shown as a function of irradiation conditions in Figure 2. The curve of Figure 3 converts specific activity to convenient units of specific power.

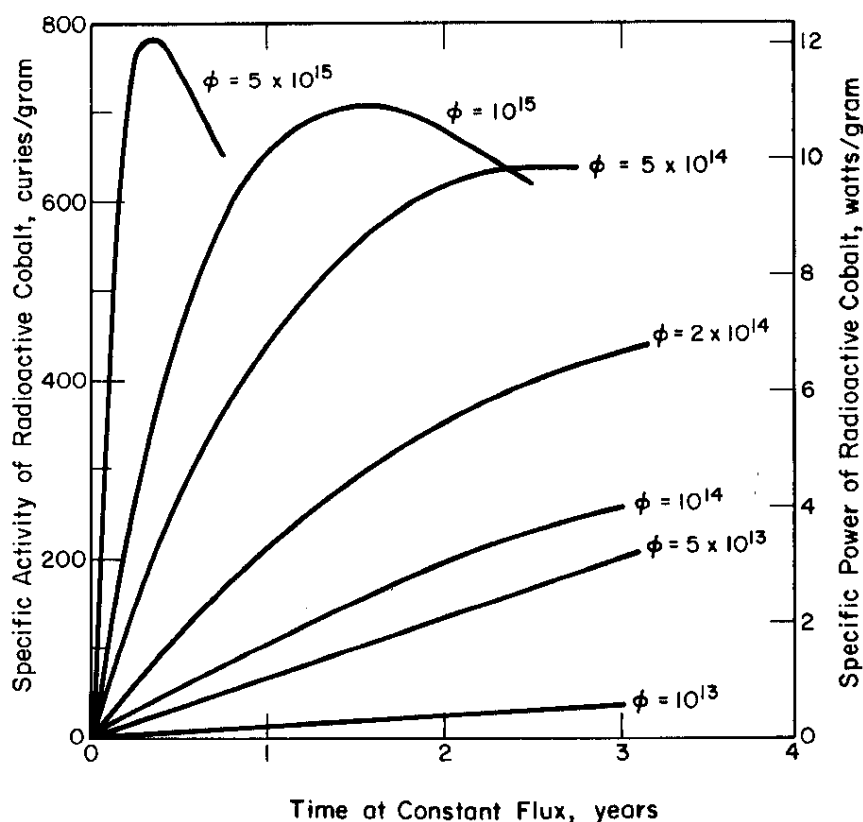


FIG. 2 SPECIFIC ACTIVITY OF RADIOACTIVE COBALT  
(As a Function of Irradiation Conditions)  
 $\phi$  = thermal neutron flux in cobalt, n/(cm<sup>2</sup>)(sec)

3,4

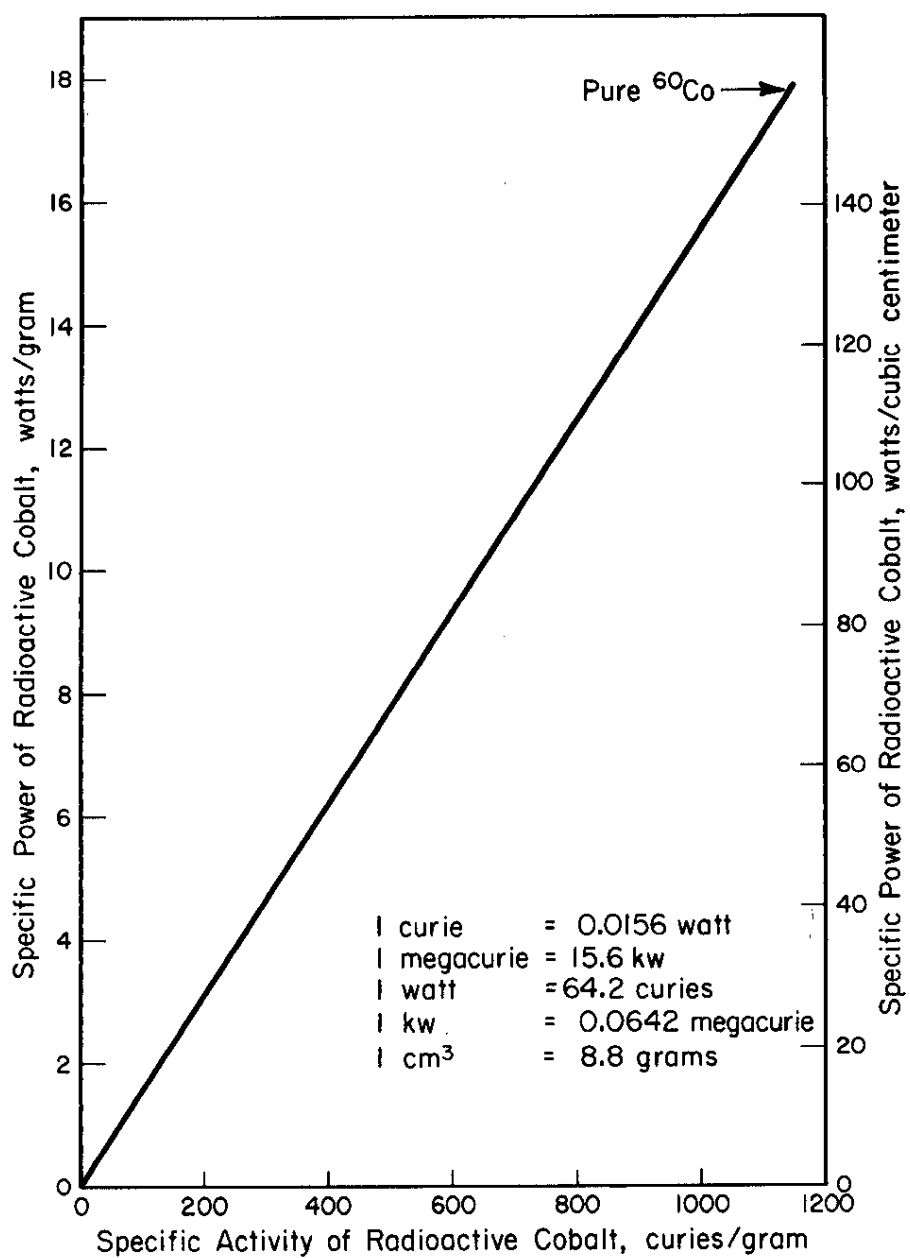


FIG. 3 CONVERSION OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$  ACTIVITY TO POWER

| 3. Radiation      | Energy, Mev                | Particles/Watt-Sec                               |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| a. $\alpha$       | None                       |  |
| b. $\beta^-$      | 0.312 (max)<br>0.095 (avg) |  |
| c. $\gamma$       | 1.172<br>1.333             | $2.375 \times 10^{12}$<br>$2.375 \times 10^{12}$ |
| d. Bremsstrahlung | None                       |  |
| e. Neutrons       | None                       |  |

5

#### 4. Critical Mass - not applicable

#### 5. Compatibility with Materials of Encapsulation

6,19,  
24,25

The principal aspect of compatibility between cobalt and cladding is interdiffusion at heat source temperatures. Of particular concern in diffusion are (1) penetration of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  through the cladding, (2) formation of brittle and highly corrodable intermetallic compounds at the cobalt-cladding interface, and (3) changes in mechanical and physical properties of the cobalt or cladding.

The diffusion of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  into selected capsule materials has been calculated for various operating conditions, as shown in the table below. These calculations are based on radiotracer measurements of the coefficients of volume and grain boundary diffusion into the different materials during short-term tests (up to 100 hr). The analyses of the data from these tests and the extrapolations to longer times were made using the models reported by Suzuoka (Reference 25). These models include the contribution of grain boundary diffusion, which leads to deeper penetrations than when volume diffusion alone is considered. A  $^{60}\text{Co}$  concentration of 1 ppm was selected as a reference limit since a concentration of this magnitude at the outer capsule surface could constitute a radiation hazard if the surface layers became corroded and the corrosion product were carried outside the biological shield by the heat transfer fluid.

# Calculated Diffusion of $^{60}\text{Co}$ in Capsule Materials

| Materials   | Depth at Which $^{60}\text{Co}$ Concentration is 1 ppm, mils |      |                     |      |
|-------------|--|------|---------------------|------|
|             | Operation at 800°C   |      | Operation at 1000°C |      |
|             | 1 yr   | 5 yr | 1 yr                | 5 yr |
| Hastelloy X | 8  | 12   | 35                  | 77   |
| Haynes 25   | 12   | 18   | 37                  | 67   |
| Hastelloy C | 12   | 18   | 45                  | 76   |
| Inconel 600 | 20   | 38   | 100                 | >100 |

Of nickel- and cobalt-based heat-resistant alloys, TD Nickel, Inconel 600, TD Nickel Chromium, Hastelloy C, and Haynes 25 have the highest degree of compatibility with cobalt (Figure 4). These results were calculated from measured widths of diffusion zones formed in multi-layered diffusion couples annealed for 168 hr at 800,

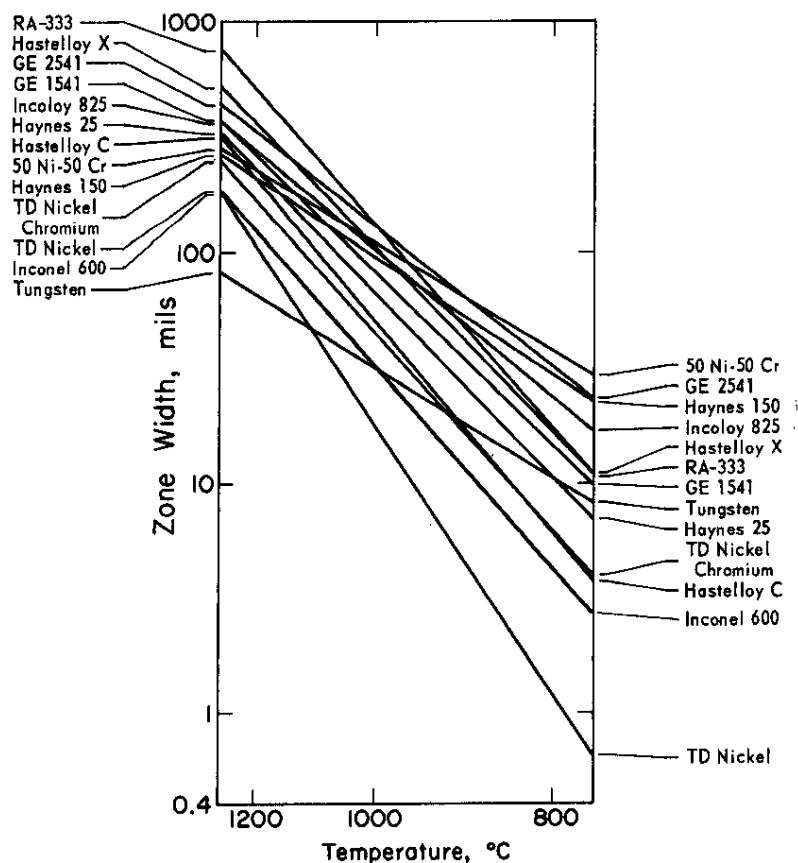


FIG. 4 CALCULATED DIFFUSION ZONE WIDTHS AFTER ONE HALF-LIFE OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
(Based on 168 hr anneal)

1000, and 1200°C, as shown in the table below. Data from tests for up to 5000 hr at 850 and 1000°C on selected alloys are in general agreement with the short-term tests. Metallographic examinations and electron microprobe analyses show that the diffusion zone formed between each of these alloys and cobalt is a region of solid solution terminating in a band of voids. These voids are less prevalent in the cobalt-based alloys and non-existent in pure nickel. The compatibility of pure nickel depends on the rate of diffusion of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  atoms at the expected operating temperature.

Of the refractory metals, rhenium should be the most compatible since it forms a continuous series of solid solutions with cobalt; the diffusion rate of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  atoms is the governing factor as with pure nickel. The compatibility of tungsten has been measured as shown in Figure 4; the diffusion zone consists of two intermetallic compounds. Tantalum and molybdenum would be incompatible above 1200 and 1300°C, respectively, due to eutectic melting.

Microhardness measurements indicate that the strength of the diffusion zone in nickel- and cobalt-based alloys will be no more than 25% lower than the unreacted cladding material.

Widths of Diffusion Zones After 168 Hours, mils

| Alloy                 | Annealing Temperature, °C |      |      |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------|------|
|                       | 800                       | 1000 | 1200 |
| Ni-based Alloys       |                           |      |      |
| TD Nickel(a)          | 0.06                      | 1.1  | 7.0  |
| "Inconel"(b) 600      | 0.6                       | 2.5  | 7.3  |
| TD Nickel Chromium(a) | 0.4                       | 3.8  | 10.5 |
| "Hastelloy"(c) C      | 0.4                       | 3.2  | 16.4 |
| "RA-333"(d)           | 0.8                       | 7.8  | 31.0 |
| "Hastelloy"(c) X      | 0.8                       | 5.8  | 22.5 |
| "Incoloy"(b) 825      | 1.0                       | 6.4  | 19.0 |
| 50Ni-50Cr             | 2.0                       | 6.5  | 17.0 |
| Co-based Alloys       |                           |      |      |
| "Haynes"(c) 25        | 0.5                       | 3.8  | 14.4 |
| "Haynes"(c) 150       | 1.6                       | 5.7  | 13.4 |
| Fe-based Alloys       |                           |      |      |
| GE 1541(e)            | 0.6                       | 4.8  | 16.2 |
| GE 2541(e)            | 1.7                       | 7.7  | 20.5 |
| Others                |                           |      |      |
| Tungsten              | -                         | 2.0  | 4.2  |

- (a) Product of Fansteel Metallurgical Corp.
- (b) Trademark of International Nickel Co.
- (c) Trademark of Union Carbide Corp.
- (d) Trademark of Rolled Alloys, Inc.
- (e) Product of General Electric Co.

## 6. Thermophysical Properties ( $^{59}\text{Co}$ ) \*

### a. Density

#### 1) Solid

8.85 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (hcp) at room temperature

8.80 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (fcc) at room temperature

hcp = close-packed hexagonal structure ( $\epsilon$  phase)  
<417  $\pm 7^\circ\text{C}$

fcc = face-centered cubic structure ( $\alpha$  phase)  
>417  $\pm 7^\circ\text{C}$

The transition temperature will change with nickel content as indicated in the cobalt-nickel phase diagram of Figure 5.

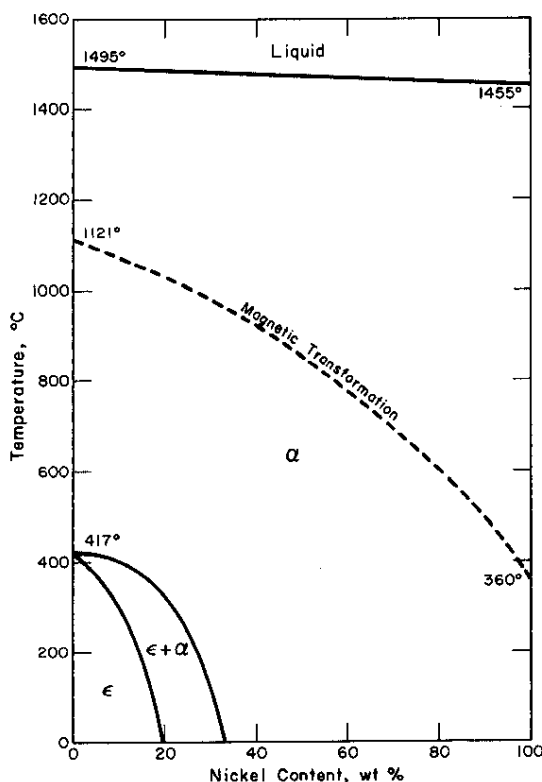


FIG. 5 COBALT-NICKEL PHASE DIAGRAM

\*Little data are available on the properties of  $^{60}\text{Co}$ . Properties of  $^{59}\text{Co}$  are listed for Sections I.A.6 through I.A.8 (except as noted), since its properties will be very similar to those of radioactive cobalt, as discussed in the reference.

The effect of irradiation on density was negligible. Values for various samples irradiated up to 700 Ci/g ranged between 8.77 and 8.93 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

## 2) Liquid

Density is the inverse of the specific volume  $v$  expressed by the following equation proposed by L. D. Lucas (1964):

$$v = 0.1304 + 20.9 \times 10^{-6}(T - 1766)$$

where T is in °K.

| Temperature, °C | g/cm <sup>3</sup> |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1500            | 7.66              |
| 1550            | 7.60              |
| 1600            | 7.54              |
| 1650            | 7.48              |
| 1700            | 7.42              |
| 1750            | 7.36              |

## b. Coefficient of linear thermal expansion; volumetric changes due to transformations

| Temp, °C | Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion, 10 <sup>-6</sup> /°C |                           |                                  | Manufacturer's Data (99.9% Co) |
|----------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|          | Masumoto and Nara (1926)                                      | Schulze (1927) (99.2% Co) | Fine and Ellis (1948) (99.9% Co) |                                |
| 20-100   | 12.55   | 12.5                      | -                                | 12.6                           |
| 100-200  | 13.57   | 13.6                      | 14.2                             | -                              |
| 200      | -   | -                         | 14.2                             | -                              |
| 200-300  | 14.37   | 14.4                      | 14.2                             | -                              |
| 300-400  | 15.4  | 15.1                      | 14.8                             | -                              |
| 400      | -   | -                         | 15.7                             | -                              |
| 450-500  | -   | 14.0                      | -                                | -                              |
| 20-500   | -   | -                         | -                                | 13.5                           |
| 600      | -   | -                         | 16.0                             | -                              |
| 750      | -   | -                         | 16.8                             | -                              |
| 20-700   | -   | -                         | -                                | 13.9                           |

| Volume Expansion ( $\Delta V/V$ ) on Transforming from $\epsilon$ (hcp) to $\alpha$ (fcc) Cobalt, % |                          |                           |                         |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Temp, °C  | Fine and                 |                           |                         |
|   | Masumoto and Nara (1926) | Schulze (1927) (99.2% Co) | Ellis (1948) (99.9% Co) |
| ~417  | 0.30                     | 0.24                      | 0.27-0.36               |

c. Specific heat and enthalpy

Ref.

10

| Temperature,<br>°K | Specific<br>Heat,<br>cal/°K g-atom | Enthalpy<br>$H_T^0 - H_{298}^0$ (a),<br>cal/g-atom |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 298                | 5.89                               | 0  |
| 300                | 5.90                               | 10   |
| 400                | 6.35                               | 623  |
| 500                | 6.80                               | 1280   |
| 600                | 7.17                               | 1980   |
| 700                | 7.35                               | 2710   |
| 800                | 7.65                               | 3510   |
| 900                | 8.20                               | 4305   |
| 1000               | 8.90                               | 5160   |
| 1100               | 9.64                               | 6090   |
| 1200               | 10.50                              | 7090   |
| 1300               | 11.50                              | 8190   |
| 1400               | 9.60                               | 9520   |
| 1500               | 9.60                               | 10,480   |
| 1600               | 9.60                               | 11,440   |
| 1700               | 9.60                               | 12,400   |
| 1800               | 8.30                               | 16,950   |
| 1900               | 8.30                               | 17,780   |
| 2000               | 8.30                               | 18,610   |
| 2100               | 8.30                               | 19,440   |
| 2200               | 8.30                               | 20,270   |
| 2300               | 8.30                               | 21,100   |
| 2400               | 8.30                               | 21,930   |
| 2500               | 8.30                               | 22,760   |
| 2600               | 8.30                               | 23,590   |
| 2700               | 8.30                               | 24,420   |
| 2800               | 8.30                               | 25,250   |
| 2900               | 8.30                               | 26,080   |
| 3000               | 8.30                               | 26,910   |

(a) Reference enthalpy taken at 298°K.

d. Temperatures of phase transformations (see Figure 5 for cobalt-nickel phase diagram)

11,7

417 ±7°C - The phase transformation is sluggish and typically occurs at 390°C on cooling or 430°C on heating.

1495°C - melting point

3100°C - boiling point



|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| e. Latent heats of phase transformations | Ref.<br>9 |
| 1 cal/g $\epsilon$ - $\alpha$ phases     |           |
| 62 cal/g      heat of fusion             |           |
| 1500 cal/g    heat of vaporization       |           |
| f. Vapor pressure                        | 7         |

| <u>Temperature, °C</u> | <u>Pressure, atm</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1050                   | $7 \times 10^{-9}$   |
| 1200                   | $3 \times 10^{-7}$   |
| 1595                   | $1 \times 10^{-5}$   |
| 2027                   | $1 \times 10^{-3}$   |
| 2327                   | $1 \times 10^{-2}$   |
| 3097                   | 1                    |

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| g. Thermal conductivity | 12,20 |
|-------------------------|-------|

| <u>Temperature, °C</u> | <u>Conductivity,<br/>cal/(sec)(cm)(°C)</u> |
|------------------------|--|
| 50                     | 0.22                                       |
| 70                     | 0.23 (Manufacturer's data)                 |
| 100                    | 0.20                                       |
| 150                    | 0.19                                       |
| 500                    | 0.13 } calculated using                    |
| 1000                   | 0.09 } Wiedemann-Franz Law                 |

h. Thermal diffusivity ( $\alpha$ ) - Calculated from previous data

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{\rho c}$$

where       $\alpha$  = thermal diffusivity  
              $k$  = thermal conductivity  
              $\rho$  = density  
              $c$  = specific heat

| <u>Temperature, °C</u> | <u><math>\alpha</math>, cm<sup>2</sup>/sec</u> |
|------------------------|--|
| 50                     | 0.24   |
| 100                    | 0.21   |
| 150                    | 0.20   |
| 500                    | 0.12   |
| 1000                   | 0.055  |

# 1. Viscosity

Ref.  
8

| <u>Temperature, °C</u> | <u>Viscosity, centipoises</u> |                                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                        | <u>Cavalier<br/>(1963)</u>    | <u>Frohberg,<br/>Weber<br/>(1964)</u> |
| 1450 (supercooled)     | 4.46                          |                                       |
| 1495                   | 4.18                          |                                       |
| 1500                   | 4.14                          | 5.21                                  |
| 1550                   | 3.85                          | 4.75                                  |
| 1600                   | 3.61                          | 4.36                                  |
| 1700                   | 3.20                          |                                       |
| 1750                   | 3.03                          |                                       |

# j. Surface tension

8

| <u>Investigators</u> | <u>Temp., °C</u> | <u>Atmos.</u>  | <u>Density,<br/>g/cm<sup>3</sup></u> | <u>Surface<br/>Tension, dyn/cm</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kozakevitch, (1957)  | 1550             | H <sub>2</sub> | 7.8                                  | 1886                               |
| Urbain (1961)        | 1550             | H <sub>2</sub> | 7.6                                  | 1886                               |
| Allen (1963)         | 1500             | Vacuum         | 7.67                                 | 1900                               |
|                      | 1500             | Vacuum         |                                      | 1855                               |
|                      | 1500             | Vacuum         |                                      | 1873                               |

# k.. Total normal emissivity ( $\epsilon_n$ )

13

| <u>Temperature, °C</u> | <u><math>\epsilon_n</math> (surface unoxidized)</u> |
|------------------------|---|
| Room temp              | 0.03  |
| 500                    | 0.13  |
| 1000                   | 0.23  |

Total hemispherical emissivity  $\approx 1.2 \epsilon_n$   
for most metals

1. Spectral emissivity ( $\epsilon_\lambda$ , T)

Ref.

13,7

| Wavelength,<br>$\mu$ | Temperature,<br>$^{\circ}\text{C}$ | $\epsilon_\lambda$ , T       |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0.65                 | Room temp                          | 0.75 <sup>(a)</sup>          |
| 0.65                 | 1280                               | 0.36 <sup>(b)</sup>          |
| 0.65                 | 1500                               | 0.37 <sup>(b)</sup> (liquid) |
| 1.0                  | Room temp                          | 0.32                         |
| 2.0                  | "                                  | 0.28                         |
| 3.0                  | "                                  | 0.23                         |
| 4.0                  | "                                  | 0.19                         |
| 5.0                  | "                                  | 0.15                         |
| 7.0                  | "                                  | 0.07                         |
| 9.0                  | "                                  | 0.04                         |
| 10.0                 | "                                  | 0.03                         |
| 12.0                 | "                                  | 0.03                         |
| 14.0                 | "                                  | 0.03                         |

(a) Value for cobalt oxide formed on smooth metal

(b) Surface unoxidized

m. Crystallography

7

Variations in Lattice Parameters for  
99.9% Cobalt

| Temperature,<br>$^{\circ}\text{C}$ | Cobalt (hcp)       |       | Cobalt (fcc)       |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
|                                    | $a$ , $\text{\AA}$ | $c/a$ | $a$ , $\text{\AA}$ |
| Room temp                          | 2.507              | 1.623 | 3.544              |
| 295                                | 2.532              | 1.630 | 3.581              |
| 420                                | 2.541              | 1.631 | 3.587              |
| 625                                |                    |       | 3.597              |
| 843                                |                    |       | 3.610              |
| 1099                               |                    |       | 3.625              |
| 1121                               |                    |       | 3.637              |
| 1148                               |                    |       | 3.652              |
| 1187                               |                    |       | 3.655              |

hcp = close-packed hexagonal structure ( $\epsilon$  phase)

fcc = face-centered cubic structure ( $\alpha$  phase)

n. Solubility

22

Soluble in acids, insoluble in cold and hot water. See section 8.b. for rates of corrosion in aqueous media.

o. Diffusion rates

The temperature dependence of the diffusion of one material into another is described by an Arrhenius-type equation,

$$D = A e^{-Q/RT}$$

where  $D$  = diffusion coefficient,  $\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$   
 $T$  = temperature,  $^{\circ}\text{K}$   
 $A$  = diffusion constant,  $\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$   
 $Q$  = activation energy,  $\text{cal/g-mole}$   
 $R$  =  $1.987 \text{ cal/(g-mole)}(^{\circ}\text{K})$

Values of these constants for the diffusion of cobalt in various metals are summarized below.

Diffusion of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  in Various Materials (a)

| <u>Material</u>           | <u>Temperature, <math>^{\circ}\text{C}</math></u> | <u>Diffusion Constant, <math>\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}</math></u> | <u>Activation Energy, <math>\text{cal/g-mole}</math></u> |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|
| <u>Pure Metals</u>        |   |  |  |
| Al (1962)                 | 360-630   | $1.1 \times 10^{-6}$   | 19,900   |
| $^{60}\text{Co}$ (1951)   | 1050-1250   | 0.367  | 67,000   |
| " (1951)                  | 1000-1250   | 0.032  | 61,900   |
| " (1952)                  | 1000-1300   | 0.2  | 62,000   |
| " (1955)                  | 1100-1405   | 0.83   | 67,700   |
| " (1962)                  | 772-1048  | 0.5  | 65,400   |
| " (1962)                  | 1192-1297   | 0.17   | 62,200   |
| Cu (1958)                 | 700-950   | 5.7  | 52,200   |
| " (1958)                  | 701-1077  | 1.93   | 54,100   |
| $\text{Fe}_\alpha$ (1954) | 700-790   | 0.2  | 54,000   |
| " (1954)                  | 700-850   | 0.4  | 54,000   |
| " (1961)                  | 800-905   | 64.4   | 64,600   |
| " (1963)                  | 690-905   | 118  | 68,300   |
| $\text{Fe}_\gamma$ (1954) | 1050-1250   | $1.2 \times 10^5$  | 104,000  |
| " (1955)                  | 1100-1200   | 300  | 87,000   |
| " (1961)                  | 1138-1340   | 1.25   | 72,900   |
| $\text{Fe}_\delta$ (1963) | 1396-1502   | 5.5  | 61,200   |
| Ni (1951)                 | 900-1250  | 1.46   | 68,300   |
| " (1962)                  | 748-1192  | 0.75   | 64,700   |
| " (1968)                  | 800-1200  | 0.45   | 61,400   |
| Nb (1962)                 | 1500-2100   | 0.74   | 70,500   |
| <u>Co-based Alloys</u>    |   |  |  |
| Haynes 25 (1968)          | 800-1200  | 0.035  | 58,700   |
| <u>Ni-based Alloys</u>    |   |  |  |
| Inconel 600               | 800-1200  | 0.40   | 62,600   |
| Hastelloy C               | 800-1200  | $1.4 \times 10^{-3}$   | 51,000   |

(a) "No distinction has been made between the data as far as reliability is concerned ..."  
 (Reference 14).

## 7. Mechanical Properties (<sup>59</sup>Co)

Ref.

### a. Hardness

| Type               | Brinell Hardness No. | Rockwell 45 T Hardness No. | 7,20 |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------|
| Cast               | 124-130              | -                          |      |
| Annealed           | 48                   | -                          |      |
| Electrolytic Strip | 270-311              | -                          |      |
|                    | -                    | 50-70                      |      |

| Type         | Temperature, °C | Vickers Hardness No. (a) | 15 |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----|
| Zone refined | Room temp       | 253                      |    |
|              | 300             | 145                      |    |
|              | 425             | 109                      |    |
|              | 450             | 98                       |    |
|              | 600             | 43                       |    |
|              | 750             | 26                       |    |
|              | 900             | 17                       |    |

(a) Held one hour at 500°C after hot rolling.

Hardness increases sharply with small amount of irradiation; small additional increases are related to increase in Ni content from radioactive decay (see Figure 6).

### b. Compressive Strength, Room Temperature

| Form             | Compressive Strength, psi | Compressive Yield Strength, psi | 7 |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Cast, unannealed | 122,000                   | 43,000                          |   |
| Annealed         | 117,200                   | 56,100                          |   |

### c. Tensile Strength

#### 1. Room Temperature

| Form              | Tensile Strength, psi | Tensile Yield Strength, psi | 20 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| Strip, unannealed | 110,000-125,000       | 45,000-50,000               |    |

#### 2. Elevated Temperature Effects

(See Figure 7)

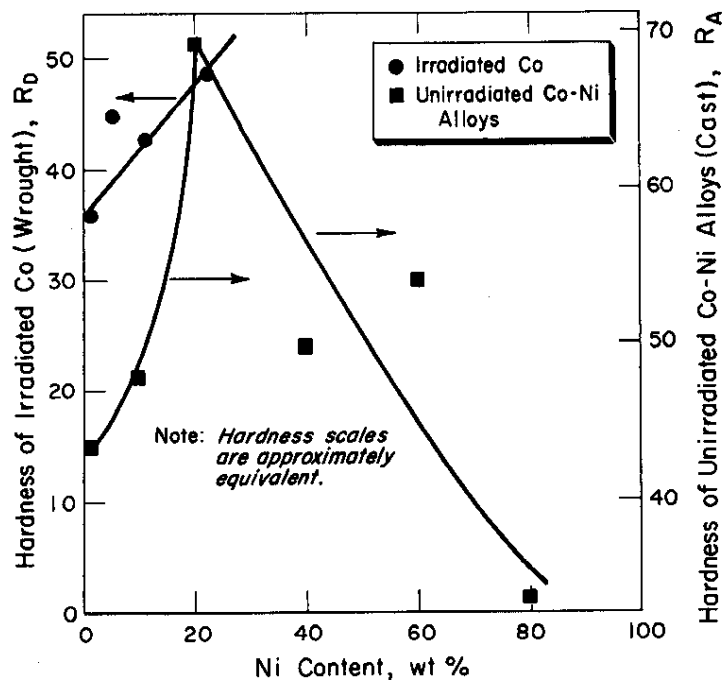


FIG. 6 HARDNESS OF Co-Ni ALLOYS

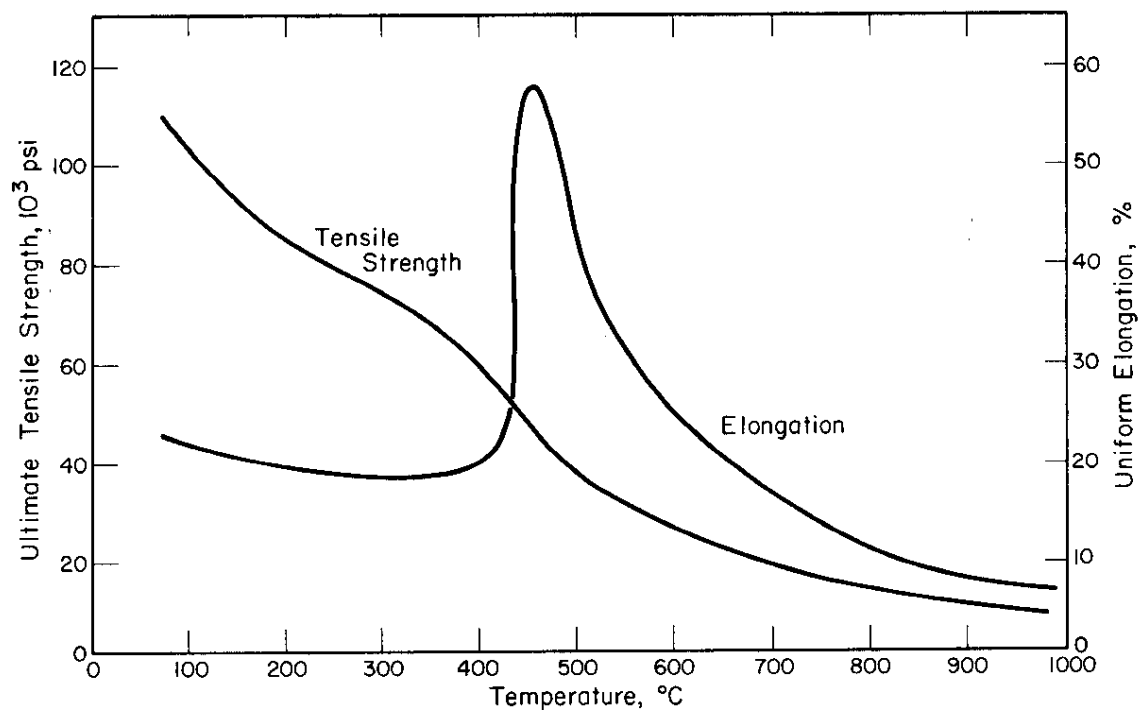


FIG. 7 ELEVATED TEMPERATURE PROPERTIES OF ANNEALED COBALT STRIP

## 8. Chemical Properties (<sup>59</sup>Co)

Ref.

### a. Heat and free energy of formation, entropy

10

| Temperature,<br>°K | Absolute Entropy,<br>$S_T^0$ ,<br>cal/°K g-atom | Free Energy Function,<br>$-(F^0 - H_{298}^0)/T$ ,<br>cal/°K g-atom |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 298                | 7.18  | 7.18   |
| 300                | 7.21  | 7.18   |
| 400                | 8.97  | 7.42   |
| 500                | 10.44   | 7.88   |
| 600                | 11.71   | 8.41   |
| 700                | 12.84   | 8.97   |
| 800                | 13.91   | 9.53   |
| 900                | 14.84   | 10.06  |
| 1000               | 15.74   | 10.58  |
| 1100               | 16.62   | 11.09  |
| 1200               | 17.50   | 11.60  |
| 1300               | 18.38   | 12.08  |
| 1400               | 19.36   | 12.56  |
| 1500               | 20.02   | 13.04  |
| 1600               | 20.64   | 13.49  |
| 1700               | 21.22   | 13.93  |
| 1800               | 23.80   | 14.39  |
| 1900               | 24.25   | 14.90  |
| 2000               | 24.68   | 15.38  |
| 2100               | 25.08   | 15.83  |
| 2200               | 25.47   | 16.26  |
| 2300               | 25.84   | 16.67  |
| 2400               | 26.19   | 17.06  |
| 2500               | 26.53   | 17.43  |
| 2600               | 26.85   | 17.78  |
| 2700               | 27.17   | 18.13  |
| 2800               | 27.47   | 18.46  |
| 2900               | 27.76   | 18.77  |
| 3000               | 28.04   | 19.07  |

### b. Chemical reactions and reaction rates

The oxidation rate in air, shown in Figure 8, is defined by the equation:

7

$$W/A = K_p t^{1/2}$$

where W is the grams of oxygen, A is the area,  $K_p$  is the square root of the parabolic scaling constant, and t is the oxidation time. Oxidation follows the parabolic rate law and is more rapid for hcp than for fcc form. Some evidence indicates that irradiated cobalt oxidizes more rapidly than unirradiated cobalt at room temperature.

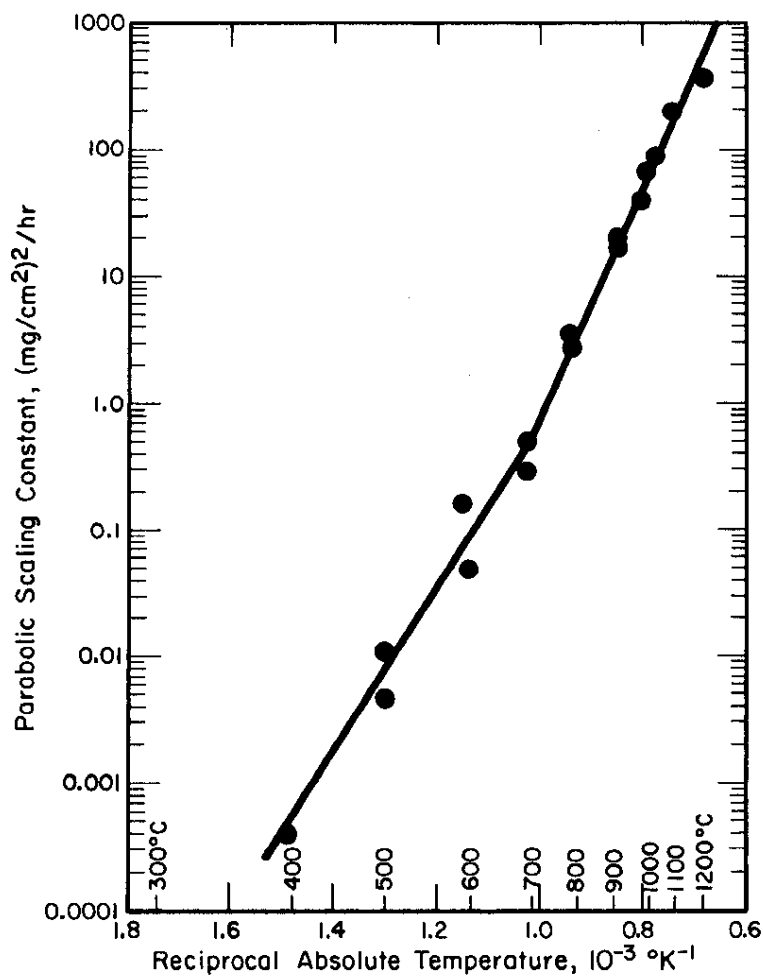


FIG. 8 ARRHENIUS PLOT OF REACTION RATE  
FOR COBALT HEATED IN AIR FOR 1 TO 2 HOURS

Corrosion of cobalt in aqueous media at 25°C

Ref.

16,17

| Reagent                          | Corrosion Rate,<br>$\text{mg}/\text{dm}^2\text{-day}$ |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 5 vol % $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ | 12.5  |
| 5 vol % $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$   | 5.3   |
| 5 vol % $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  | 56.8  |
| 10 vol % $\text{NaOH}$           | 5.6   |
| 1:1 HF                           | 178.6   |
| Conc HF                          | 101.5   |
| 1:1 $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$      | 65.1  |
| Conc $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$     | 7.4   |
| 5 vol % $\text{H}_2\text{NNH}_2$ | 7.8   |
| $\text{H}_2\text{O}$             | 1.1   |



## 9. Biological Tolerances

Ref.  
18

### Maximum Permissible Concentration of $^{60}\text{Co}$ for Occupational Exposure

| Cobalt Form | Organ of Reference | Max Permissible Body Burden (Total Body), microcuries | Max Permissible Concentration, microcuries/cm <sup>3</sup> |                    |                    |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|---|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|             |                    |   | For 40-hr Week   |                    | For 168-hr Week    |                    |
|             |                    |   | Water  | Air                | Water              | Air                |
| Soluble     | Gastrointestinal   |   | $10^{-8}$  | $3 \times 10^{-7}$ | $5 \times 10^{-4}$ | $10^{-7}$          |
|             | Total body         | 10  | $4 \times 10^{-8}$   | $4 \times 10^{-7}$ | $10^{-8}$          | $10^{-7}$          |
|             | Pancreas           | 70  | 0.02   | $2 \times 10^{-6}$ | $7 \times 10^{-8}$ | $6 \times 10^{-7}$ |
|             | Liver              | 90  | 0.03   | $10^{-6}$          | $9 \times 10^{-8}$ | $5 \times 10^{-7}$ |
|             | Spleen             | 200   | 0.05   | $4 \times 10^{-8}$ | 0.02               | $2 \times 10^{-6}$ |
|             | Kidney             | 200   | 0.07   | $6 \times 10^{-8}$ | 0.03               | $2 \times 10^{-6}$ |
| Insoluble   | Lung               |   | -  | $9 \times 10^{-8}$ | -                  | $3 \times 10^{-8}$ |
|             | Gastrointestinal   |   | $10^{-8}$  | $2 \times 10^{-7}$ | $3 \times 10^{-4}$ | $6 \times 10^{-8}$ |

| Cobalt Form | Organ | Max Permissible Intake   |
|-------------|-------|--|
|             |       | Critical in 8 hr, $\mu\text{c}$ for dose of:<br>.3 Rem in 1 week |
| Soluble     | Liver | $3.7 \times 10^2$  |
| Insoluble   | Lungs | 4.7  |

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## 10. Shielding Data

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Figure 9 shows gamma dose rates from unshielded 200 Ci/g  $^{60}\text{Co}$  source. Figures 10 through 15 show dose rates from 75 and 200 Ci/g  $^{60}\text{Co}$  shielded by iron, lead, or uranium.

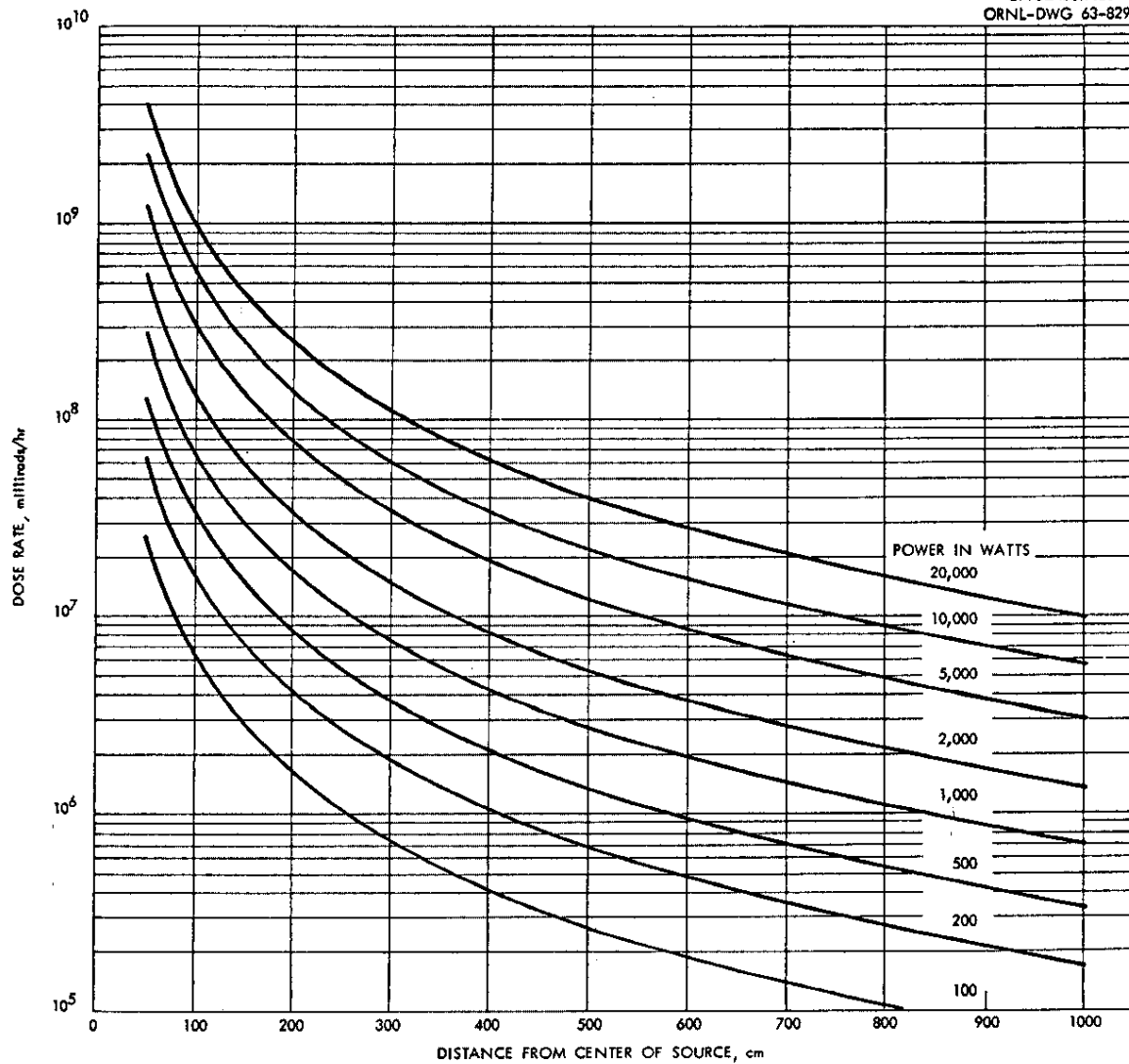


FIG. 9 GAMMA DOSE RATES FROM UNSHIELDED ISOTOPIC POWER SOURCES OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
Specific activity of source = 200 curies per gram of cobalt

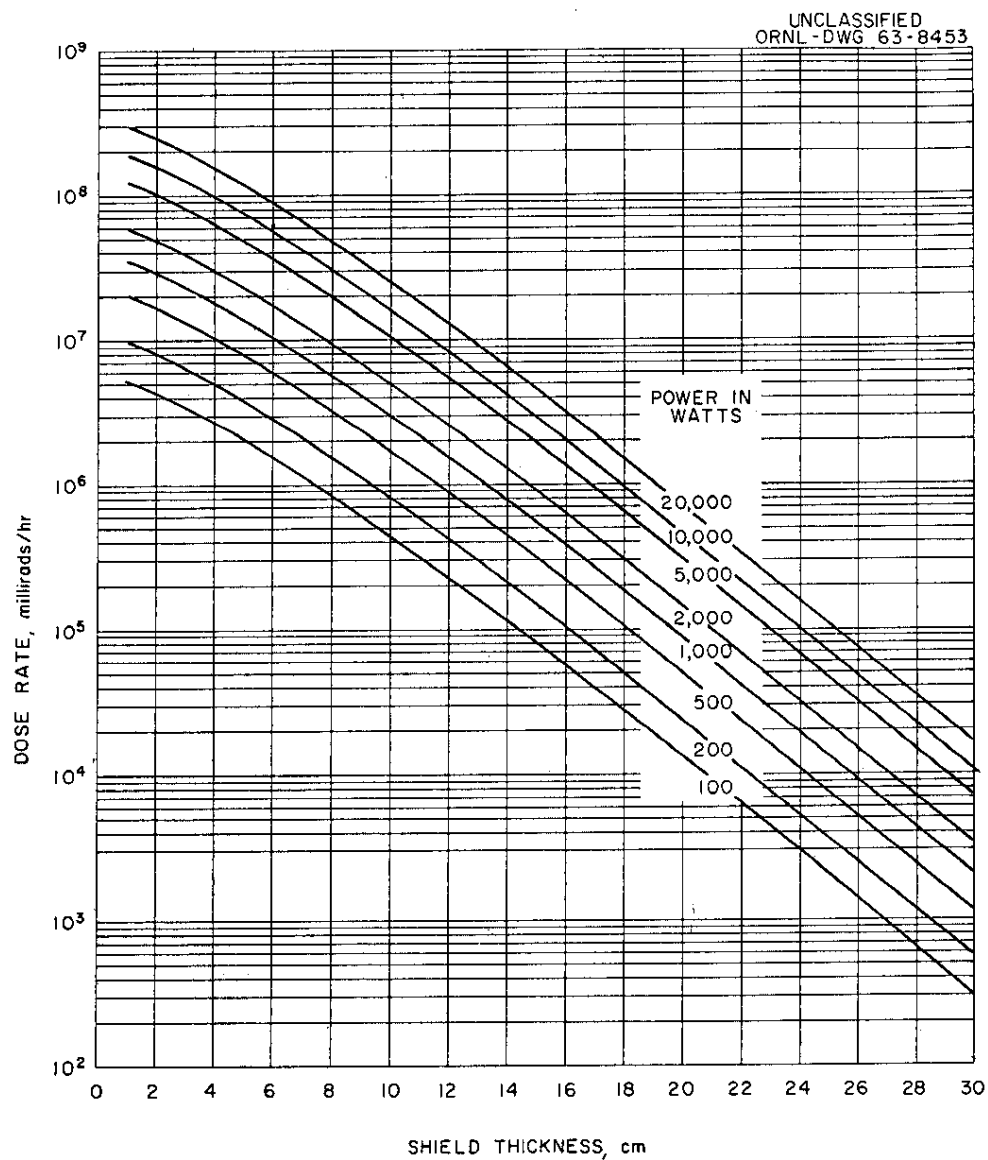


FIG. 10 GAMMA DOSE RATES FROM IRON-SHIELDED ISOTOPIC POWER SOURCES OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
Center of source to dose point separation distance = 100 cm  
Specific activity of source = 75 curies per gram of cobalt

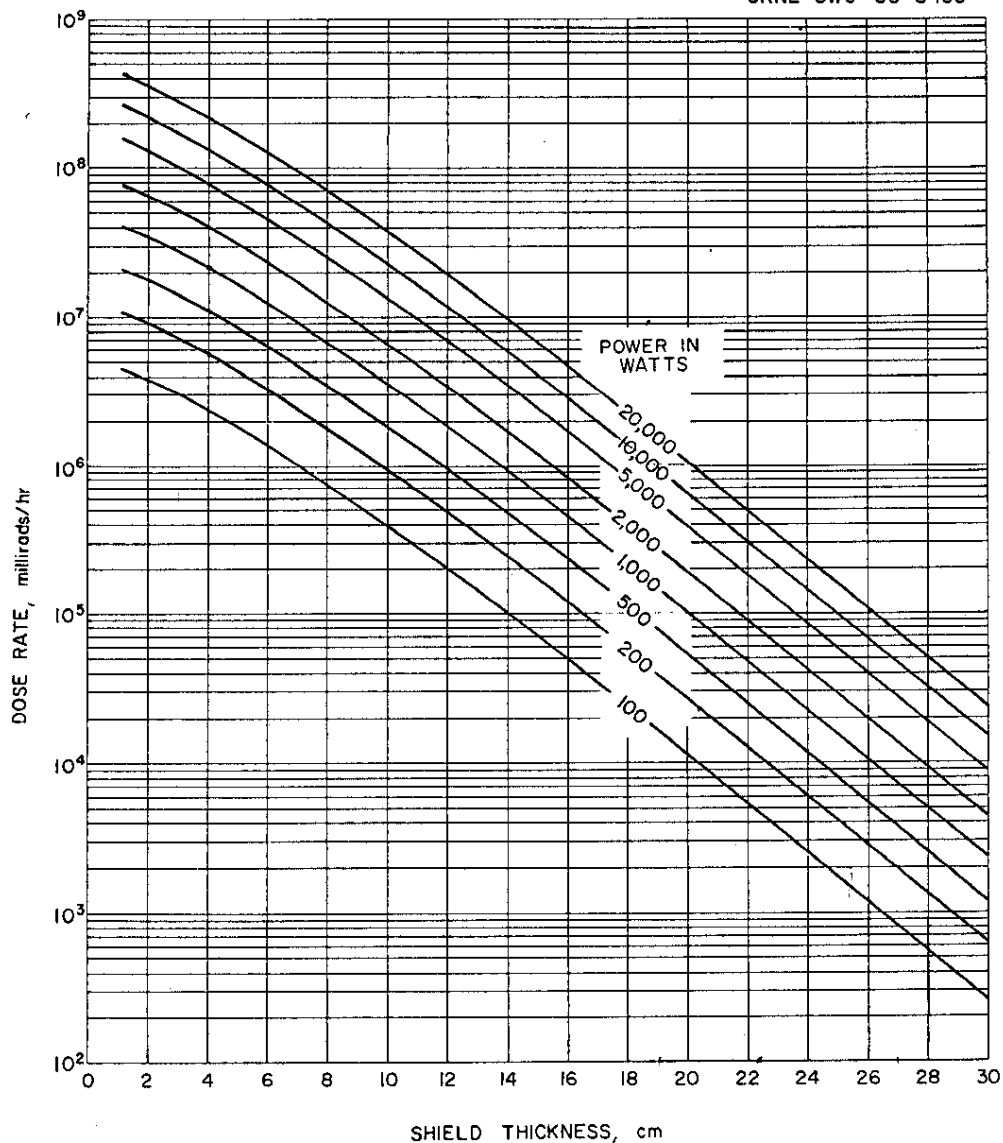


FIG. 11 GAMMA DOSE RATES FROM IRON-SHIELDED ISOTOPIC POWER SOURCES OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
Center of source to dose point separation distance = 100 cm  
Specific activity of source = 200 curies per gram of cobalt

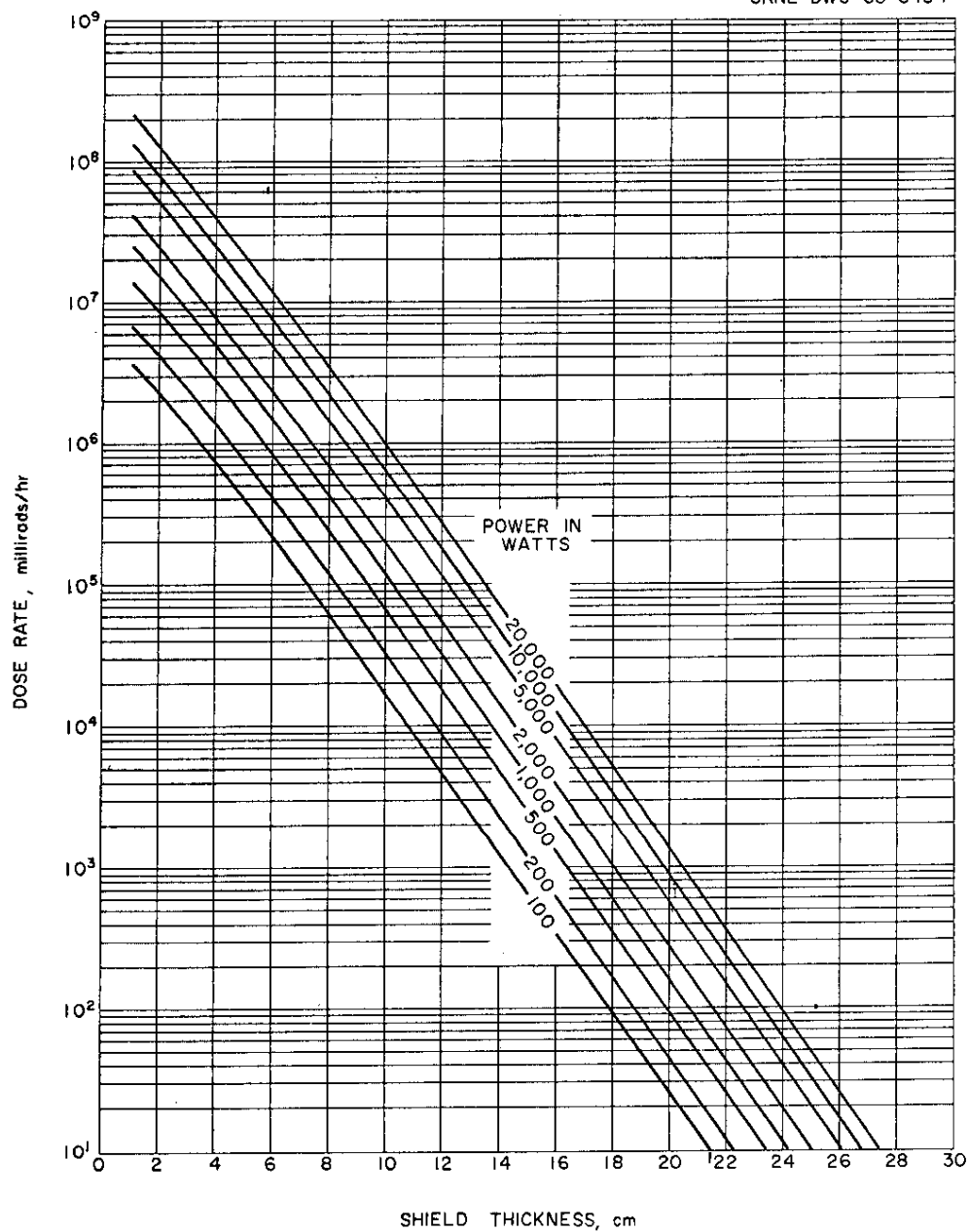


FIG. 12 GAMMA DOSE RATES FROM LEAD-SHIELDED ISOTOPIC POWER SOURCES OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
Center of source to dose point separation distance = 100 cm  
Specific activity of source = 75 curies per gram of cobalt

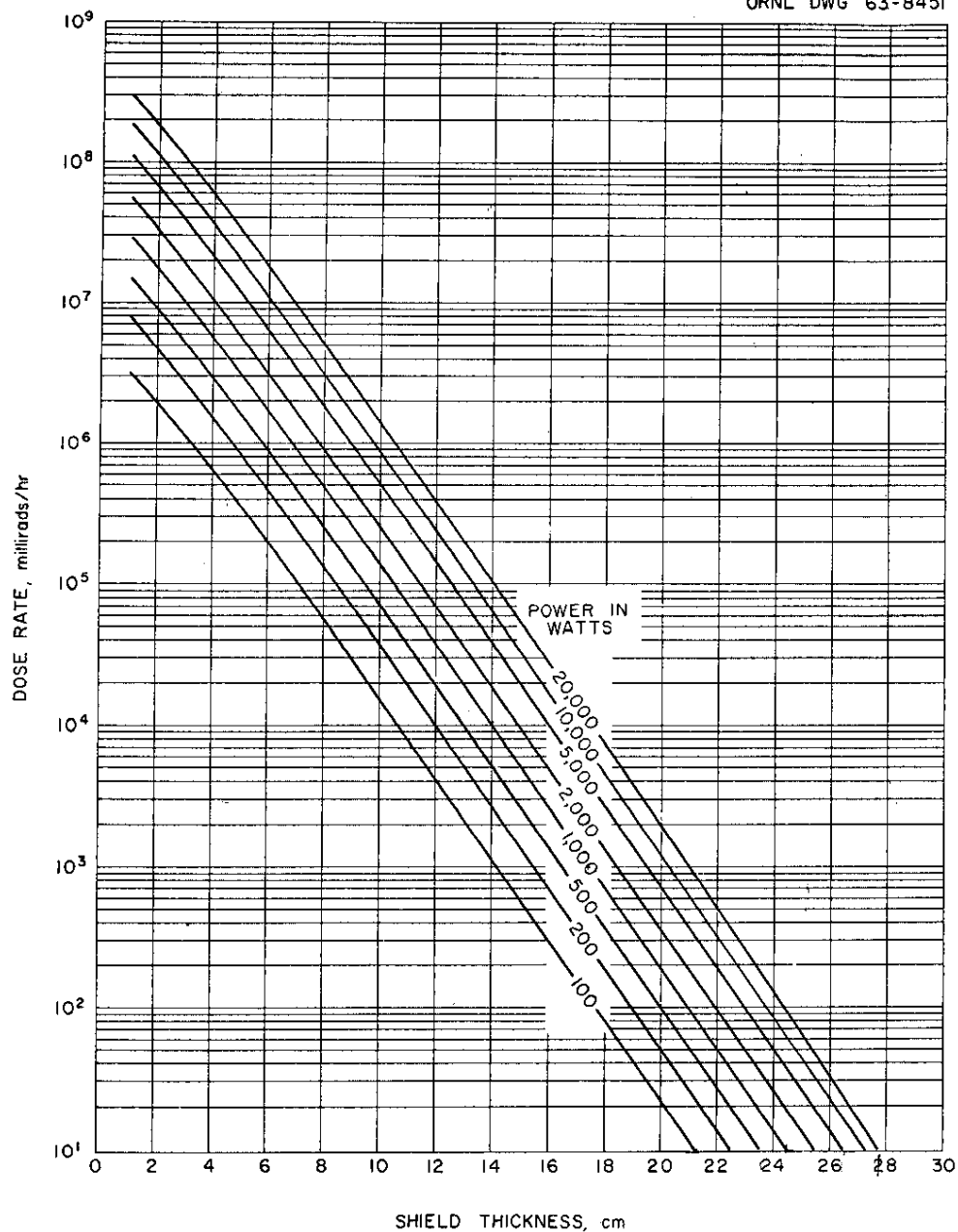


FIG. 13 GAMMA DOSE RATES FROM LEAD-SHIELDED ISOTOPIC POWER SOURCES OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
Center of source to dose point separation distance = 100 cm  
Specific activity of source = 200 curies per gram of cobalt

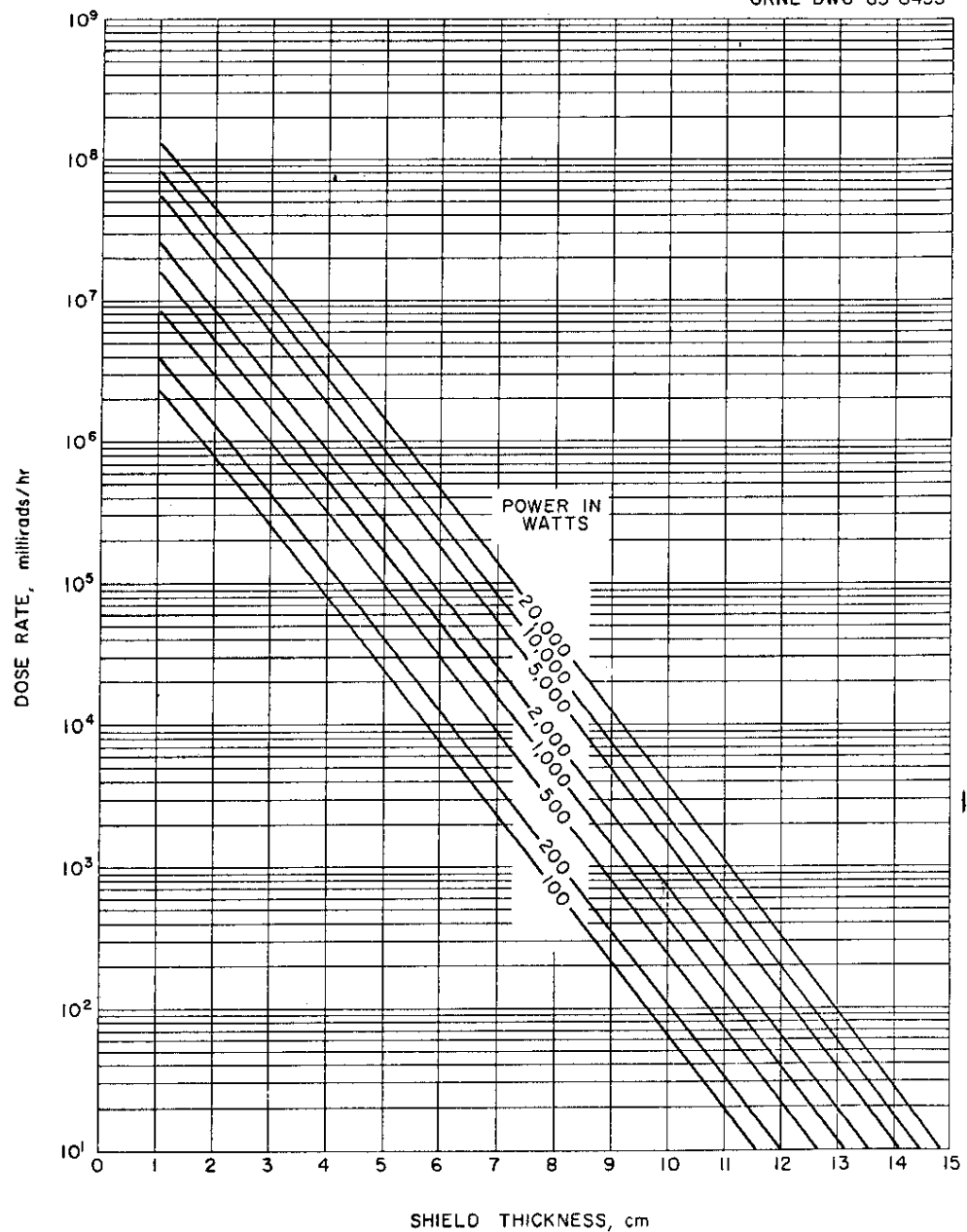


FIG. 14 GAMMA DOSE RATES FROM URANIUM-SHIELDED ISOTOPIC POWER SOURCES OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
Center of source to dose point separation distance = 100 cm  
Specific activity of source = 75 curies per gram of cobalt

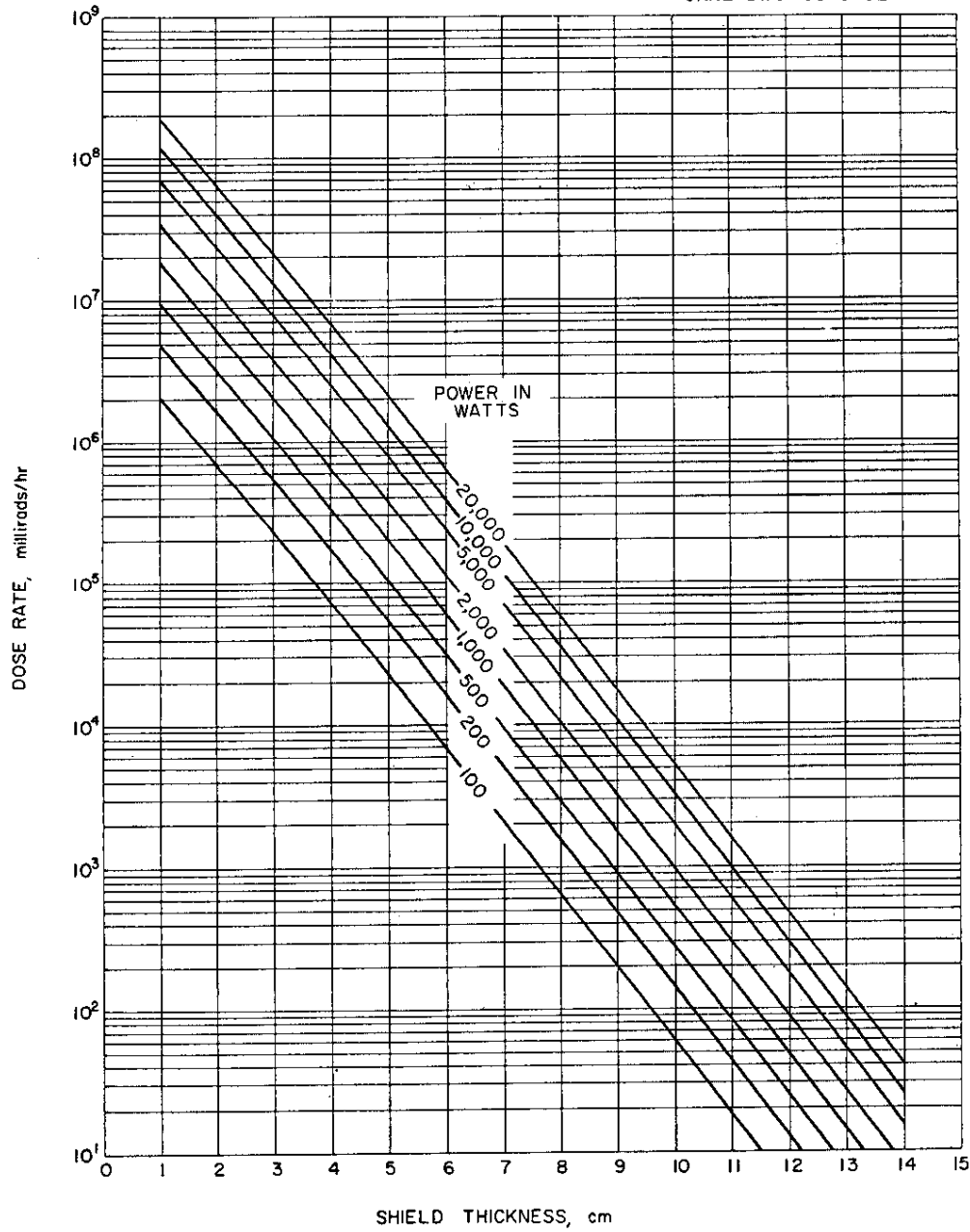


FIG. 15 GAMMA DOSE RATES FROM URANIUM-SHIELDED ISOTOPIC POWER SOURCES OF  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
Center of source to dose point separation distance = 100 cm  
Specific activity of source = 200 curies per gram of cobalt



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