

Evaluation of Environment Radiation Monitoring Results

Original released at 16:45 April 6, 2011
Nuclear Safety Commission

NSC (Nuclear Safety Commission) evaluates the Environmental Monitoring Results published by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). The evaluation results based on the information published between at 10:00 on April 5, 2011 and at 10:00 on April 6 are described as below:

1. Spatial radiation dose rate

- Observation of spatial radiation dose rate at a distance of 20 km or more from Fukushima 1st Nuclear Power Plant found a relatively higher dose rate locally at several measuring points. It however does not reach the level that affects people's health.
- Though some area that exceeded 100 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$ (Note 1) may reach the indoor sheltering index (10 mSv to 50 mSv) (Note 2), the area is still limited. We are preparing the technical data necessary to study further actions to be taken.

We need to further watch the variation of dose rate carefully, considering other factors such as weather and wind direction.

2. Radioactivity in the air

- With regard to the measuring result of the sample collected in April 5, the maximum I-131 radioactivity was 0.9 Bq/m^3 ($9.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ Bq/cm}^3$); maximum Cs-137 radioactivity was 1.80 Bq/m^3 ($1.80 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Bq/cm}^3$).
- For both I-131 and Cs-137, the values are lower than the concentration limit (Note 3).

We, however, need to further watch the variation of dose concentration in the air carefully, considering other factors such as weather and wind direction.

3. Aviation monitoring

- We obtained measuring result from the aviation monitoring.

4. Environmental sample

- Monitoring results have been obtained on the land water (pond water or rain water), soil, fallout and sea water. Weed and land water showed relatively higher values; we further need continued measurement on the drinking water (tap water) and foods.
- No additional information was published on the seawater measuring result. Our opinion delivered yesterday on this matter was as follows:
 - *According to the result collected in April 3, the maximum radioactive concentration in the seawater was as follows: on the surface layer, 18.3 Bq/L (1.83×10^{-2} Bq/cm³) for I-131 and 10.7 Bq/L (1.07×10^{-2} Bq/cm³) for Cs-137, and in the low layer (depth: 84 to 172 m), 2.96 Bq/L (2.96×10^{-3} Bq/cm³) for I-131 and 3.40 Bq/L (3.40×10^{-3} Bq/cm³) for Cs-137. The maximum radioactive concentration for I-131 and Cs-137 in the dust above the sea was 8.84 Bq/m³ (8.84×10^{-6} Bq/cm³) and 2.82 Bq/m³ (2.82×10^{-6} Bq/cm³) respectively.*
 - *It is considered that the concentration of radioactive materials emitted into the seawater will be thinned since it is proliferated along with the tidal current before actually ingested by marine life such as fish and seaweed.*
- For the sea products, be aware of the information related with request announced by the MHLW (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare).

We also need to continue environmental monitoring, in view of various elements such as change of weather.

5. Environmental radioactivity level survey by prefecture

1) Spatial radiation dose rate

Some prefectures showed higher values compared with the average values obtained before the accident; however, it will not affect people's health.

2) Drinking water (tap water)

- Be aware of the information related with the request announced by the MHLW (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare).
- In the prefectures of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and others,

readings of drinking water (tap water) measurement are 11 Bq/kg for I-131 and 4.8 Bq/kg for radioactive cesium at maximum. Both are lower than the index concerning the limited ingestion of food and drink (Note 4) as far as the data on “Environmental radiation level survey result (drinking water (tap water))” prepared by MEXT is evaluated.

We consider that further monitoring is needed on a continuous basis.

- (Note 1) Namie-machi about 30 km northwest of the Fukushima 1st Nuclear Power Plant (Location 32: the measuring result in April 5, 10:56 was 26.0 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$; the integrated value from April 4, 10:47 to April 5, 10:56 was 640.0 μSv (26.5 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$)).
Iitate-mura about 30 km northwest of the Fukushima 1st Nuclear Power Plant (Location 33: the measuring result in April 5, 11:15 was 16.3 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$; the integrated value from April 4, 11:11 to April 5, 11:20 was 357.0 μSv (14.8 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$))
- (Note 2) “Disaster prevention measures at nuclear facilities” (Adopted in June 30, 1980, Nuclear Safety Commission)
(<http://www.nsc.go.jp/shinsashishin/pdf/history/59-15.pdf>)
- (Note 3) Limit of the radioactivity in the air outside the peripheral monitoring area boundary as specified by the law is: 5×10^{-6} Bq/cm³ for I-131 and 3×10^{-5} Bq/cm³ for Cs-137.
- (Note 4) “Disaster prevention measures at nuclear facilities” (Adopted in June 30, 1980, Nuclear Safety Commission), Index concerning the limited ingestion of food and drink (drinking water) are 300 Bq/kg for I-131 and 200 Bq/kg for Cs-137.