

Evaluation of Environment Radiation Monitoring Results

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Nuclear Safety Commission

Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) evaluates the Environmental Monitoring Results^(※), 20km or more far from Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), published by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The evaluation results based on the information published between at 10:00 on April 9, 2011 and at 10:00 on April 10 are described as below:

※ refer to http://www.mext.go.jp/english/radioactivity_level/detail/1303962.htm

1. Ambient radiation dose rate around Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP

- Observation of ambient radiation dose rate at 20km or more far from Fukushima dai-ichi NPP 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 μ Sv/h (Note 1) may have reached the indoor sheltering index (10 to 50mSv) (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 a variation of dose rate carefully, considering other factors such as weather and wind direction.

2. Dust sampling in the air around Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP

- With regard to the measuring result of the dust sample collected at 20 km or more far from Fukushima dai-ichi NPP on April 8, the maximum I-131 radioactivity was 1.94Bq/m³ (1.94×10^{-6} Bq/cm³); maximum Cs-137 radioactivity was 2.28Bq/m³ (2.28×10^{-6} Bq/cm³).
- For both I-131 and Cs-137, the values are lower than the concentration limit (Note 3).

We need to further watch a variation of dust sampling data carefully, considering other factors such as weather and wind direction.

3. Airborne monitoring

- No additional information was published on the seawater measuring result. Our view delivered the day before yesterday on this matter was as follows:

We obtained measuring result from the airborne monitoring.

4. Environmental sample around Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP

- Monitoring results was obtained on the land water (pond or rain), 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 view delivered yesterday on this matter was as follows:

According to the result collected in April 7, the maximum radioactive concentration of I-131 and Cs-137 in the seawater was as follows: on the surface layer, 56.3Bq/L ($5.63 \times 10^{-2} \text{Bq/cm}^3$) for I-131 and 19.8Bq/L ($1.98 \times 10^{-2} \text{Bq/cm}^3$) for Cs-137, and in the low layer (depth: 50 to 172m), 12.5Bq/L ($1.25 \times 10^{-2} \text{Bq/cm}^3$) for I-131 and Not Detected for Cs-137. The maximum radioactive concentration for I-131 and Cs-137 in the dust above the sea was 2.9Bq/m³ ($2.9 \times 10^{-6} \text{Bq/cm}^3$) and 0.806Bq/m³ ($8.06 \times 10^{-7} \text{Bq/cm}^3$) respectively.

It is considered that the concentration of radioactive materials emitted into the seawater will be diluted since it is diffused 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 announced by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) regarding relevant intervention.

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) Ambient radiation dose rate

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

2) Drinking water (tap water)

- Be aware of the information related announced by the MHLW regarding relevant intervention.
- In the prefectures of Fukushima, Tochigi and others, readings of drinking water (tap water) monitoring were 4.8Bq/kg for I-131 and 4.0Bq/kg for radioactive cesium at maximum as far as the data on radioactivity level in drinking water by prefecture published by MEXT was evaluated. Both were lower than the indices to limit ingestion of food and drink (Note 4).

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

(Note 1) Namie, about 30 km northwest of the Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP (Location 32):
26.1 μ Sv/h at 10:43 on April 9
550 μ Sv (ave. 23.5 μ Sv/h) as integrated from 11:20 on April 8 to 10:45 on April 9

Iitate, about 30 km northwest of the Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP (Location 33):
15.3 μ Sv/h at 10:51 on April 9,
303 μ Sv (ave. 13.0 μ Sv/h) as integrated from 11:35 on April 8 to 10:53 on April 9

(Note 2) Regulatory Guide of Emergency Preparedness for Nuclear Facilities (Adopted by NSC on June 30, 1980)
Excerpt (English) at http://www.nsc.go.jp/NSCenglish/guides/thematic/T-EP-II_01.pdf
Full text (Japanese) at <http://www.nsc.go.jp/shinsashishin/pdf/history/59-15.pdf>

(Note 3) Limits of the radioactivity in the air outside the peripheral monitoring area boundary as specified by the law are 5×10^{-6} Bq/cm³ for I-131 and 3×10^{-5} Bq/cm³ for Cs-137.

(Note 4) Indices to limit ingestion of drinking water shown on “Regulatory Guide of Emergency Preparedness for Nuclear Facilities” are 300Bq/kg for I-131 and 200Bq/kg for Cs-137.