

Evaluation of Environment Radiation Monitoring Results

Original released on May 10, 2011
Nuclear Safety Commission

Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) evaluates the Environmental Monitoring Results published by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The evaluation results based on the information published on May 9, 2011 are described as below:

1. Ambient radiation dose 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.
- A part of area where the integrated dose was high value, and annual cumulative dose after the onset of the accident would potentially reach 20mSv was set to be "Deliberate Evacuation Area".

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 20km or more far from Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP on May 5, neither I-131, Cs-134 nor Cs-137 was detected.

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 regarding the airborne monitoring result.

4. Environmental sample around Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP

- Monitoring results collected between May 4 and 9 were obtained on the land water (pond or rain), soil and fallout. Weed and land water still 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.

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 by related organizations under the arrangement by MEXT, considering various elements such as weather change.

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 Saitama and others, readings of drinking water (tap water) monitoring were 0.13Bq/kg for radioactive iodine and 0.15Bq/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 (Note1).

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

(Note)

(Note 1) Indices to limit ingestion of drinking water shown on "Regulatory Guide of Emergency Preparedness for Nuclear Facilities" are 300Bq/kg for radioactive iodine and 200Bq/kg for radioactive cesium.