

Press Release (This is provisional translation. Please refer to the original text written in Japanese.)

April 4, 2011  
Water Supply Division,  
Health Service Bureau

To Press and those who may concern,

## Handling of the Index Levels on Radioactive Materials in Tap Water, etc.

Today, an announcement was made on the handling of the provisional regulation levels on radioactive materials in food. Based on this announcement, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare announces the following regarding tap water:

- (1) The handling of the index levels on radioactive materials in tap water;
- (2) The monitoring policy on radioactive materials in tap water.

1. See Attachment 1 for the handling of the index levels on radioactive materials in tap water.
2. See Attachment 2 for the monitoring policy on radioactive materials in tap water. In the attachment, the requests for the restriction of intake and public announcement as well as recommended measure for its cancellation are indicated.
3. See Reference for the implementation status of inspection on radioactive materials in tap water (from March 16 to April 2, 2011).

(Reference: Omitted)

April 4, 2011

Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW)

Handling of the Index Levels on Radioactive Materials in Tap Water, etc.

- The MHLW has requested that water supply utilities refrain from having their users intake tap water, when the radioactive materials in their tap water exceeded the index levels (for radioactive iodine: 300 Bq/kg (for intake by infants: 100 Bq/kg); for radioactive cesium: 200 Bq/kg);
- Regarding the above measure, the MHLW has decided to maintain the present index levels for the time being, taking into consideration of such conditions that the first nuclear emergency situation ever experienced in Japan has not restored to its normal state; and
- This handling has been adopted in response to the policy that the provisional regulation levels on radioactive materials in food were decided to be maintained, following the issuance of the “Emergency Report on Radioactive Materials” (Food Safety Committee, March 29, 2011), the opinions of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters based on the advice of the Nuclear Safety Commission, and the “Provisional Remarks on Radioactive Materials Present in Food” compiled by the Food Sanitation Subcommittee, Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council.

April 4, 2011  
MHLW

## The Monitoring Policy on Radioactive Materials in Tap Water

### 1. Introduction

In response to radioactive materials detected in tap water in relation to the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant, the MHLW has decided to request that water supply utilities refrain from having their users intake tap water when the radioactive materials in their tap water exceed the index levels (for radioactive iodine: 300 Bq/kg (for intake by infants: 100 Bq/kg); for radioactive cesium: 200 Bq/kg), based on the “Measures to be taken against water supply associated with the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 and No 2. Nuclear Power Plants (No. 2-0319 Notice of the director of the Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW, issued on March 19, 2011) and the “Measures for infants’ ingestion of tap water” (No. 2-0321 Notice of the director of the Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW, issued on March 21, 2011).

As the results of measurements conducted by the Local Headquarters for Disaster Control, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), local governments, and water supply utilities have accumulated, the MHLW requested that water supply utilities whose water supply exceeded the index levels restrict their users’ intake of tap water and publicly announce it. In response, the water supply utilities informed their users of the restriction. With the subsequent decrease in the concentration of radioactive materials, the water supply utilities have lifted their restriction on the intake of tap water.

Considering the changes in the results of measurements over time, it has become apparent that the concentration of radioactive materials in tap water fluctuates considerably.

Based on the above course and the inspection outcomes obtained so far, the MHLW officially announces the monitoring policy from now on, the judgment on necessity of the restriction of tap water intake based on the inspection results, and recommended measure for its cancellation.

### 2. Fundamental concepts

Taking into consideration of such conditions that the first nuclear emergency situation ever experienced in Japan has not restored to its normal state, the continuous and regular inspections on tap water is necessary.

Under such circumstances, Fukushima prefecture and the neighboring local governments need to enhance their inspection systems in order to check the influence on tap water associated with

the diffusion of radioactive materials as well as its safety. The situation of non-inspected areas that tap water is considered to be influenced by the diffusion of radioactive materials has to be resolved, so the steady implementation of wide-area inspection is necessary.

In the light of these inspection results, it is important that the MHLW request that water supply utilities refrain from having their users intake tap water and publicly announce it, in case the concentration of radioactive materials in tap water exceeds the index level, based on the judgment on the necessity of the restriction of tap water intake and recommended measures for its cancellation. Also, it is essential to sustain safe and secure water supply by dispelling the concerns of water users, with the public announcement of the inspection results including data on the concentration of radioactive materials in tap water that falls below the index levels.

### 3. The monitoring policy

#### (1) Survey policy

The MHLW implements monitoring focused on water supply utilities in Fukushima prefecture and its neighboring regions (Miyagi prefecture, Yamagata prefecture, Niigata prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture, Tochigi prefecture, Gunma prefecture, Saitama prefecture, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Kanagawa prefecture, and Chiba prefecture), in reference to the inspection results on radioactive materials in tap water and in the atmosphere, and the distance from the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant.

In carrying out these inspections, the MHLW requests that these local governments regularly conduct inspections on tap water in municipalities of these regions, to resolve the situation of the non-inspected areas.

In Fukushima prefecture, the Local Headquarters for Disaster Control has been conducting inspections with the cooperation of Fukushima prefecture. The MHLW continues to collect this information including the inspection data and the contents of investigations. Furthermore, the MHLW accumulates the monitoring results, by collecting nation-wide results of the survey conducted by the MEXT and water supply utilities.

Moreover, the MHLW continuously keeps track of the inspection systems of the local governments, and considers securing the inspection systems including setting up exclusive inspection equipments for tap water in the medium and long term.

#### (2) Inspection items

Radioactive iodine and radioactive cesium are inspected for the time being.

Inspection items are reviewed as needed as a result of the change in the accident of nuclear power plant.

#### (3) Samples

The sampling places are set up by each water supply utility: tap water at the end of pipelines or treated water at water treatment plant.

✕In case water is supplied by a single water treatment plant, tap water that residents intake is sampled. In case supplied water is a mixture of water from multiple water treatment plants of different water systems, water at one of the water treatment plants is sampled, because the inspection results obtained from tap water at the end of pipelines is not regarded as those representing the whole water supply areas.

(4) Frequency of inspection

Inspections are performed more than once per week, in accordance with the inspection systems of the local governments and water supply utilities. However, if the obtained results exceed the index levels or are close to the index levels, the inspection will be conducted every day in principle.

For water supply utilities exposed to the influence of rainfall such as those with river water source, the frequency of inspection should be increased while water is affected by precipitation.

(5) Securing inspection system

If the inspection of tap water by the laboratories of local governments is difficult in spite of the request, the MHLW introduces these local governments to private laboratories or national research institutions capable of inspection, so thereby tentatively secures the inspection systems.

✕If it is difficult to ensure the frequency of inspection for the time being, the inspection results obtained by the nearby water supply utilities that share the same water system can be used as reference.

(6) Compilation and public announcement

MHLW summarizes the nation-wide inspection results and regularly announces them publicly together with the charts indicating the inspected areas (with the legend of “less than index levels”, “the restriction of intake by infants”, and “the restriction of intake by general public) and the non-inspected areas.

4. The requests for the restrictions on intake of tap water and public announcement by the MHLW

In principle, the MHLW requests the restriction of intake and public announcement to water supply utilities whose average inspection results of the radioactive materials in tap water in the last three days exceeds the index levels. However, in case a single inspection outcome considerably exceeds the index levels, the MHLW requests the restriction of intake and public announcement to the said water supply utility.

If a single water supply utility owns multiple water treatment plants and its water supply areas

are exclusive for each water treatment plant, the MHLW requests the restriction of intake and public announcement by the water supply area.

※Fundamentally, the index levels on intake restrictions are set up taking into account the long-term effects of radioactive materials, and thus the assessment should be conducted in comparison with the long-term intake. On the other hand, according to the inspection results obtained so far, the concentration of radioactive materials in tap water fluctuates in time. Therefore, it is difficult to forecast fluctuation in the long-term. In the light of the above, the MHLW has decided to conduct an assessment with acquired data over three days for the time being, considering that the prompt judgment to a certain extent is required for the commencement and cancellation of the restriction of the intake.

#### 5. Recommended measure for the cancellation of intake restrictions by water supply utilities

Water supply utilities restricting the intake of tap water are recommended to lift their restrictions in case the average inspection results of radioactive materials in tap water in the last immediate 3 days falls below the index levels and that the outcomes have been on the decrease. The MHLW also requests that they properly publicly announce the cancellation of the intake of tap water.

#### 6. Others

Regarding the above 3, 4, and 5, the MHLW may make additional requests to the local governments as needed.

#### 7. Measures to be taken in the future

- By coordinating with the local governments, appropriate monitoring systems will be prepared and expanded.
- Monitoring manuals with the methods of sampling and analysis of water will be compiled.
- With the accumulation of monitoring results of tap water in the future, the MHLW will further consider the conditions of requesting the restriction of tap water intake and recommended measure for its cancellation, based on the inspection results on radioactive materials in the atmosphere, meteorological conditions including precipitation and wind direction, the distance from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, etc.