

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

March 23, 2011
Water Supply Division,
Health Service Bureau

To Press and those whom may concern,

Detection of radioactive materials in tap water in Fukushima Prefecture and Tokyo

Today, we obtained the measurement results of radioactive materials conducted by the Government's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on tap water in Fukushima prefecture and those by the Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government on tap water in Tokyo. Based on the results, we requested that Iwaki-shi (city) and Tokyo Metropolitan Government inform their residents to refrain from having infants intake tap water.

1. The survey results of 5 locations in Fukushima prefecture (Attachment 1)

The results of the survey conducted from March 20 to 21 by the Government's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters (and measured by the Fukushima branch office of the Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima) on radioactive materials in tap water at 5 points within Fukushima prefecture are as follows. (None of the results exceeded the index level except for the following.)

○Water supply exceeding the level of the "Index values for infants (radioactive iodine)" (Reference 3): Kawamata-machi (town) Water Supply Utility: 1 point, 174 Bq/kg (on March 21), Minamisoma-shi (city) Water Supply Utility: 1 point, 137 Bq/kg (March 21), and Iwaki-shi (city) Water Supply Utility: 1 point, 103 Bq/kg (March 21)

※No measurement results exceeded the "Index values for restrictions on the intake of food and beverages (Reference 1).

2. The survey results of Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Attachment 2)

The outcome of the survey conducted on March 22 by the Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (and measured by the Tokyo Metropolitan Industrial Technology Research Institute) on radioactive materials in tap water at 3 points within Tokyo are as follows.

○Water supply exceeding the "Index values for infants (radioactive iodine)" (Reference 3): Kanamachi Treatment Plant (1 point, 210 Bq/kg (March 22))

※No measurement results exceeded the "Index values for restrictions on the intake of food and beverages (Reference 1).

3. Our response to the results

After receiving the survey results, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) requested that Iwaki-shi (city) and Tokyo Metropolitan Government inform their residents using water supply in the relevant areas in Iwaki-shi (city) and Tokyo to refrain from having infants intake tap water (including giving infants formula milk dissolved by tap water, etc.) today.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, in response to these results, have officially announced to residents in Tokyo's 23 wards, Musashino-shi (city), Machida-shi (city), Tama-shi (city), Inagi-shi (city), and Mitaka-shi (city) to refrain from having their infants intake tap water. (Attachment 2)

※1 By yesterday, MHLW requested that Fukushima prefecture inform all residents using the Iitate Small-Scale Water Supply Utility (Iitate-shi (city)) to refrain from the intake of tap water. (Ongoing)

※2 By yesterday, MHLW requested that Date-shi (city) Tsukitate Small-Scale Water Supply Utility, Koriyama-shi (city) Water Supply Utility, Tamura-shi (city) Water Supply Utility, Minamisoma-shi (city) Water Supply Utility, and Kawamata-machi (town) Water Supply Utility inform its residents to refrain from having infants intake tap water, through Fukushima prefecture (The request for all these utilities are ongoing)

※3 Please note that the possibility that the health risk posed by the short period of tap water intake exceeding the index values is extremely low. It is not intended to restrict drinking water (including infants' ingestion of tap water) in case you have no access to alternative drinking water. You can use the tap water for washing hands and bathing at home without any concern.

※4 Infants here mean babies who take breast feeding or formula milk.

(Reference 1)

Index values for the restrictions on the intake of food and beverages set out by the Nuclear Safety Commission

Radioactive iodine in drinking water: 300 Bq (Becquerel)/kg;

Radioactive cesium in drinking water: 200 Bq (Becquerel)/kg

(Note) The concept of the "Index values for restrictions on the intake of food and beverages"

The index values were established by the Nuclear Safety Commission by foodstuff category (drinking water, food, etc.), taking into account such factors as the amount of Japanese foodstuff intake, based on the radiation protection standards recommended by the International Committee on Radiological Protection (ICRP) (Thyroid gland equivalent dose of radioactive iodine is 50 millisieverts (mSv)).

(Reference 2) "Measures to be taken against water supply associated with the accident in the Fukushima No.1 and No.2 nuclear power plants" (No. 1-0319 issued by Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW on March 19, 2011)

Measures to be taken against tap water in case radiation measured in the tap water exceeds in connection with the nuclear power plant accident: Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau notified heads of

departments in charge of water supply administration in each prefecture and water supply utilities:

- 1) To refrain from intake of tap water exceeding the index values;
- 2) That you can use the tap water for domestic use without any concern;
- 3) That it is not intended to restrict drinking tap water in case you have no access to alternative drinking water; and such.

(Reference 3) “Measures for infants’ ingestion of tap water” (No. 1-0321 issued by Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW on March 21, 2011)

○MHLW notified heads of departments in charge of water supply administration in each prefecture and water supply utilities, in case the level of radioactive iodine in tap water exceeds 100 Bq/kg, to refrain from giving infants formula milk dissolved by tap water and having them intake tap water, and so on.

Attachment 1 Omitted

Attachment 2: Omitted