

Result of review at the “review meeting on occupational/non-occupational ionizing radiation disease” and approval as occupational disease/injury

Review meeting on occupational/non-occupational ionizing radiation disease

○ Judgment on ionizing radiation injury was made based on the criteria for occupational disease/injury approval (Director-General’s notice No. 810 of Nov. 8, 1976 “Criteria for approving occupational/non-occupational diseases related to ionizing radiation disease”).

(Criteria for occupational disease/injury approval for occurrence of leukemia)

- 5 mSv × years of engagement
- Developed one year or more after the start of exposure

○ If application for occupational disease/injury approval is made on the grounds that cancer is developed due to ionizing radiation disease, judgement on whether the injury is occupational or non-occupational will be made after review at a “review meeting on occupational/non-occupational ionizing radiation disease” (closed-door) attended by medical specialists (chaired by Makoto Akashi, National Institute of Radiological Sciences) in the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Result of review

○ Date of meeting: August 18, 2016

○ Result of review: Policy to judge that leukemia developed in those engaging in works after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company is occupational.

Case where a worker was granted with occupational disease/injury approval

- The worker is a male in his 50s.
- Engaged in radiation works for 3 years and 9 months from Apr. 2011 to Jan. 2015.
- The works he engaged in mainly consisted of repairing equipment/machines at the site of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.
※During the works, he wore protective clothing, a lead vest, a full-face mask, etc.

Status of past occupational disease/injury approval for workers at nuclear power plants

○ A total of 14 nuclear plant workers have so far been granted industrial accident/injury approval for “cancer” occurrence caused by radiation exposure.

(7 with leukemia (※), 5 with malignant lymphoma, and 2 with multiple myeloma occurrence)

※This includes the case of leukemia that occurred to the worker, engaging in works after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company, who was granted with occupational disease/injury approval in October 2015.

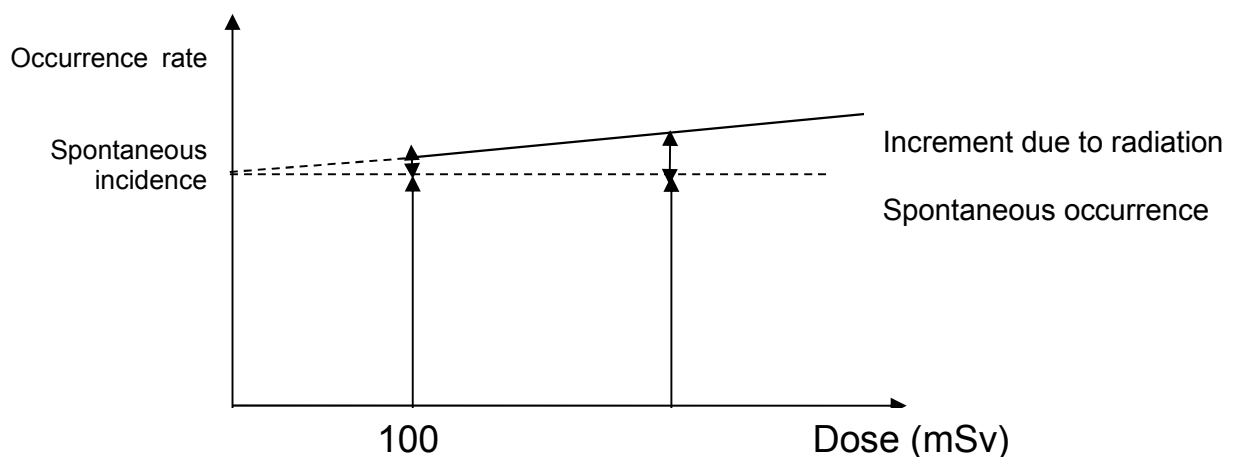
Radiation exposure and the policy for occupational disease/injury approval for occurrence of leukemia

1. The impact of low dose exposure at approximately 100 mSv or less on cancer occurrence is much smaller than that of other factors, and it is internationally recognized as being difficult to prove an obvious increase in health risk by low dose exposure. In addition, the development of leukemia involves various factors. Therefore, it is not easy to certify the cause-effect relationship between the work undertaken by each worker and the disease occurrence.

For these reasons, criteria for occupational disease/injury approval* related to the occurrence of leukemia caused by radiation exposure have been established from the viewpoint of compensation for workers in light of the intent of the occupational disease/injury approval system. And, as long as these criteria are met, such occurrences of leukemia shall be approved as an occupational disease/injury unless there is obviously a non-occupational factor, after discussion at a medical review meeting.

- * Approval criteria
- (1) Exposure to ionizing radiation of a certain dose ($5 \text{ mSv} \times \text{years of engagement}$)
 - (2) Development after a period of at least one year following the start of exposure

[Relationship between radiation exposure and development of cancer]



2. The criteria for occupational disease/injury approval for occurrence of leukemia do not indicate that leukemia is developed if the worker is exposed to radiation of 5 mSv or more a year, and the granting of occupational disease/injury approval does not scientifically prove the cause-effect relationship between exposure and health effects.