

May 2, 2011

Samples From Surface Water Systems on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai Show No Detectable Levels of Radioactive Materials

Samples from one catchment and three surface water systems on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai were collected on April 18 and 19, 2011 and submitted to a private lab in California. The results show no detectable levels of radioactive materials in any of the samples. The samples were tested for Iodine-131, Cesium-134, Cesium-137, Cobalt-60 and fourteen other radionuclides of concern.

Drinking Water Samples on Oahu Show Non-Detect

A drinking water sample collected from Oahu's municipal supply system was submitted to the EPA for analysis on April 19, 2011. The results of the analysis showed no detectable quantities of radioactive materials. It takes many years for surface water to reach the water table in Hawaii and we do not expect to see any levels of concern.

Latest Milk Sample Shows Decreased Amounts of Radiation in Milk From Big Island Dairy Still Far Below Levels of Public Health Concern

Results of EPA laboratory analysis of a milk sample collected April 13, 2011 on the Big Island showed small amounts of Cesium-134 and Cesium-137. The amounts were 11 pCi/L and 10 pCi/L, respectively. The results for Iodine-131 were non-detect. These findings have decreased from the previous sample collected on April 4, 2011 and are still far below levels of public health concern. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Derived Intervention Levels (DIL) for milk are 4700 pCi/L for I-131 and 33,000 pCi/L for Cs-134 and Cs-137 combined.

Additional analysis was performed by the EPA on the milk sample collected on April 4, 2011. Trace amounts of Strontium-89 were detected (1.4 pCi/L). Strontium-90 was non-detect in this sample. These levels are below FDA's DIL of 4400 pCi/L for the Strontium-90 radionuclide group.

The department is continuing to monitor all milk produced at Big Island dairies, as well as milk imported from California. We do not expect to see any levels of significant health impact and there is no need to take any protective action based on current guidance.

Precipitation Samples Show Low Levels of Iodine-131 But Are Not a Public Health Risk

Precipitation (rainwater) samples collected on April 4 and April 7, 2011 showed small amounts of Iodine-131. The sample collected on April 4, 2011 detected 2.0 pCi/L of I-131. The sample collected on April 7, 2011 detected 2.2 pCi/L of I-131. Both samples were non-detect for all other radionuclides of concern.

Elevated levels of radioactive material in rainwater are expected as a result of the Japanese nuclear incident. Several states have shown increased levels of radiation in recent precipitation events. Short-term elevations such as these do not raise public health concerns. The department and the EPA have taken steps to increase the level of monitoring and test results continue to verify that there is no public health risk.

Radiation Air Monitors Continue to Show Typical Fluctuations in Background Radiation

Current data from Hawaii RadNet monitors still indicate no risk of harmful radiation exposure. The Department of Health continues to send samples from monitors here to the EPA laboratory for further analysis and confirmation of preliminary findings. Information on findings can also be found at www.epa.gov/japan2011.