

October 10, 2011

Radiation Air Monitors Continue to Show Typical Fluctuations in Background Radiation

Two stationary monitors in Honolulu and Hilo continue to measure radiation levels throughout the state. Recent analysis continues to show typical fluctuations associated with background radiation. DOH continues to work with other federal, state and county partners to monitor the situation in Japan. The department is prepared to accelerate radiation sampling if the need arises.

Near real-time radiation air monitoring data can be found at EPA's Radnet website: <http://epa.gov/radnet/radnet-data/radnet-honolulu-bg.html>

Sampling results can also be found at EPA's Envirofacts website: http://oaspub.epa.gov/enviro/erams_query.simple_query

Latest Milk Sample From Big Island Dairy Still Far Below Levels of Public Health Concern

Results of EPA laboratory analysis of a milk sample collected July 28, 2011 on the Big Island showed trace amounts of Cesium-137 (3.7 pCi/L). These findings have decreased from the previous sample collected on April 13, 2011 and continue to be far below levels of public health concern. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Derived Intervention Levels (DIL) for milk are 33,000 pCi/L for Cs-134 and Cs-137 combined.

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.

Samples From Surface Water Systems on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai To Be Collected

Water samples will be collected in October and submitted to a private lab in California. The results will be posted in a future DOH update as the data becomes available.

Previous samples from one catchment and three surface water systems showed no detectable levels of radioactive materials. The samples were tested for Iodine-131, Cesium-134, Cesium-137, Cobalt-60 and fourteen other radionuclides of concern.

Shoreline Environmental Sampling

Shoreline environmental sampling has been conducted on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island. All results show normal fluctuations associated with background levels. Shoreline sampling will continue in October.