

EPA RadNet Precipitation Results

April 2, 2011

Statement on Results

Elevated levels of radioactive material in rainwater have been expected as a result of the nuclear incident after the events in Japan since radiation is known to travel in the atmosphere - precipitation data collected by EPA in the states of California, Idaho and Minnesota have seen elevated levels of radiation in recent precipitation events.

In all cases these are levels above the normal background levels historically reported in these areas. While short-term elevations such as these do not raise public health concerns – and the levels seen in rainwater are expected to be relatively short in duration – the U.S. EPA has taken steps to increase the level of monitoring of precipitation, drinking water, and other potential exposure routes to continue to verify that.

About the Data

EPA scientists routinely test precipitation samples from more than 30 sites in the U.S. The stations submit precipitation samples to the EPA lab as rainfall, snow or sleet occurs. Under routine circumstances, samples are composited and analyzed by EPA scientists monthly. In response to the Japanese nuclear incident, gamma analyses are being performed on the precipitation samples as they're received.

It may take up to five days for results because of the number of samples being directed to the laboratory. This is to ensure the proper analysis and quality assurance measures takes place before the results are released.

EPA expects to see radioisotopes consistent with the Japanese nuclear incident during sample analysis. EPA expects the measured levels to be extremely low as this air mass disperses across our planet. All results are in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). A picocurie is one trillionth of a curie.

EPA RadNet Precipitation Concentration Measurement Data

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State	Location	Date Collected	Radionuclide (pCi/l)							
			Ba-140	Co-60	Cs-134	Cs-137	I-131	I-132	I-133	Te-132
AL	Montgomery	3/21/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CA	Richmond	3/15/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CA	Richmond	3/22/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	138	ND	ND	5.96
CT	Hartford	3/18/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
GA	Atlanta	3/17/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ID	Boise	3/22/2011	ND	ND	11.2	11.6	242	ND	ND	ND
MA	Boston	3/18/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
MN	St. Paul	3/22/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	32.3	ND	ND	ND
MN	Welch	3/17/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
NY	Albany	3/16/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
OH	Painesville	3/15/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TN	Oak Ridge/K	3/17/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TN	Oak Ridge/M	3/17/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TN	Oak Ridge/Y	3/17/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
WA	Olympia	3/17/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

KEY: "ND" - radionuclide not detected.