

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

EPA RadNet Drinking Water Results

April 4, 2011

Statement on Results

Drinking water samples from two locations, Boise, Idaho and Richland, Washington, showed trace amounts of Iodine-131 – about 0.2 picocuries per liter in each case. Even an infant would have to drink almost 7,000 liters of this water to receive a radiation dose equivalent to a day's worth of the natural background radiation exposure we experience continuously from natural sources of radioactivity in our environment.

About the Data

EPA's RadNet Drinking Water Program obtains quarterly drinking water samples from more than 50 sites across the country. Due to the Japanese nuclear incident, our sampling stations nationwide will collect the samples immediately and send them to our laboratory for analysis.

It may take about a week for results, because of the number of samples being directed to the laboratory. This is to ensure the proper analysis and quality assurance measures take place before the results are released. All results are measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). A picocurie is one trillionth of a curie.

It's important to remember that radioactive material from Japan will have to travel thousands of miles through the air before reaching the U.S. The material will be widely dispersed and diluted by wind. To impact drinking water, the material would need to be caught in precipitation, fall to the ground and eventually enter drinking water.

EPA RadNet Drinking Water 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
ID	Boise	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.20	ND	ND	ND
ID	Idaho Falls	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
LA	New Orleans	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ND	Bismark	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
OR	Portland	3/25/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TX	Austin	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
VA	Lynchburg	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
VA	Lynchburg	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
WA	Seattle	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
WA	Richland	3/28/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.23	ND	ND	ND

KEY: "ND" - radionuclide not detected.