

(News Release)

The Results of Radioactive Material Monitoring of the Surface Water Bodies within Gunma Prefecture (October-December Samples)

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In accordance with the Comprehensive Radiation Monitoring Plan determined by the Monitoring Coordination Meeting, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is continuing to monitor radioactive materials in water environments (surface water bodies (rivers, lakes and headwaters, and coasts), etc.).

Samples taken from the surface water bodies of Gunma Prefecture during the period of October 8-December 19, 2012 have been measured as part of MOE's efforts to monitor radioactive materials; the results have recently been compiled and are released here.

The monitoring results of radioactive materials in surface water bodies carried out to date can be found at the following web page: <http://www.env.go.jp/jishin/rmp.html#monitoring>

1. Survey Overview

(1) Survey Locations

70 environmental reference points, etc. in the surface water bodies within Gunma Prefecture
(Rivers: 48 locations, Lakes: 22 locations)

(2) Survey Method

- Measurement of concentrations of radioactive materials (radioactive cesium (Cs-134 and Cs-137), etc.) in water and sediment
- Measurement of concentrations of radioactive materials and spatial dose-rate in soil in the surrounding environment of water and sediment sample collection points (river terraces, etc.)

2. Outline of Results (* denotes the results of the previous survey: July-October 2012)

(1) Water Quality (Lower detection limit: 1Bq/L)

Cs-134 + Cs-137: Not detectable (ND) at any location (* ND-1Bq/L)

<Reference>

Specification and Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc. in accordance with the Food Sanitation Act (Drinking Water) (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Public Notice No.130, March 15, 2012)
Radioactive cesium (total for Cs-134+Cs-137): 10Bq/kg

Target value for radioactive materials in tap water (management target for water supply facilities) (March 5, 2012; 0305 Notice No.1 from the Director of the Water Supply Division, Health Service Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

Radioactive cesium (total for Cs-134+Cs-137): 10Bq/kg

(2) Sediment (Lower detection limit: 10Bq/kg (dried mud))

For rivers, levels were around 500Bq/kg or below at most of the locations, and have generally remained constant or had a declining tendency. For lakes and headwaters, levels were around 1,000Bq/kg or below at most of the locations, and in general, a decline were seen at many of the locations compared to the previous survey results.

(Rivers)

Cs-134 + Cs-137: ND-1,560Bq/kg (dried mud) (*ND-720Bq/kg (dried mud))

(Lakes and headwaters)

Cs-134 + Cs-137: 16-3,500Bq/kg (dried mud) (*33-4,100Bq/kg (dried mud))

<Reference> Number of locations by radioactive cesium concentration (500Bq/kg)

Numbers in () denote results measured on the previous occasion.

	500 or below	501 -1,000	1,001 -1,500	1,501 -2,000	2,001 -2,500	2,501 -3,000	3,001 or more	Total
Rivers	53 (55)	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	55 (57)
Lakes and headwaters	9 (13)	6 (9)	2 (5)	2 (1)	2 (2)	0 (2)	1 (4)	22 (36)

(3) Surrounding Environment (Lower detection limit: 10Bq/kg (dry))

(Rivers)

Cs-134 + Cs-137: 11-9,300Bq/kg (dry) (*32-6,000Bq/kg (dry))

Spatial dose: 0.04-0.35 μ Sv/h

(Lakes and headwaters)

Cs-134 + Cs-137: 120-3,300Bq/kg (dry) (* 86-6,600Bq/kg (dry))

Spatial dose: 0.06-0.32 μ Sv/h

(Annex for details)
(Map attached)

Future Plans

MOE intends to continue to measure radioactive materials in water, sediment, etc. in rivers, lakes, etc. since concentrations of radioactive materials seem to show fluctuations, depending on locations, due to minor differences in sampling points or properties of samples of each survey.

