

Second Airborne Monitoring by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the U.S. Department of Energy

May 17, 2011

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

1. Second Airborne Monitoring by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the U.S. Department of Energy

In order to understand the effects of radioactive substances over a wide area, and for the assessment of the doses and deposition of radioactive substances for future evacuation zones, etc., the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "MEXT") and the U.S. Department of Energy (hereinafter referred to as, "the U.S. DOE") jointly performed airborne monitoring from April 6 to April 29*¹ (i.e., the First Airborne Monitoring), checking the air dose rate 1m above the ground surface within 80km from Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear power plant, and the deposition of radioactive substances in the ground surface.

Having confirmed, as of April 29, the deposition of radioactive substances in the ground surface in the aforementioned zone, our efforts will continue with airborne monitoring inside the zone located 80-100km away from Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP (i.e., the Second Airborne Monitoring). (See attachment.)

Please note that since the U.S. DOE will not be able to fly due to aircraft-related circumstances, for this monitoring they will collaborate with us only on the analysis of the measurements taken.

*Airborne monitoring is a technique in which highly sensitive, large radiation detectors are installed in aircraft, and gamma rays from radioactive substances accumulated in the ground are quickly measured over a large area, in order to check the surface deposition.

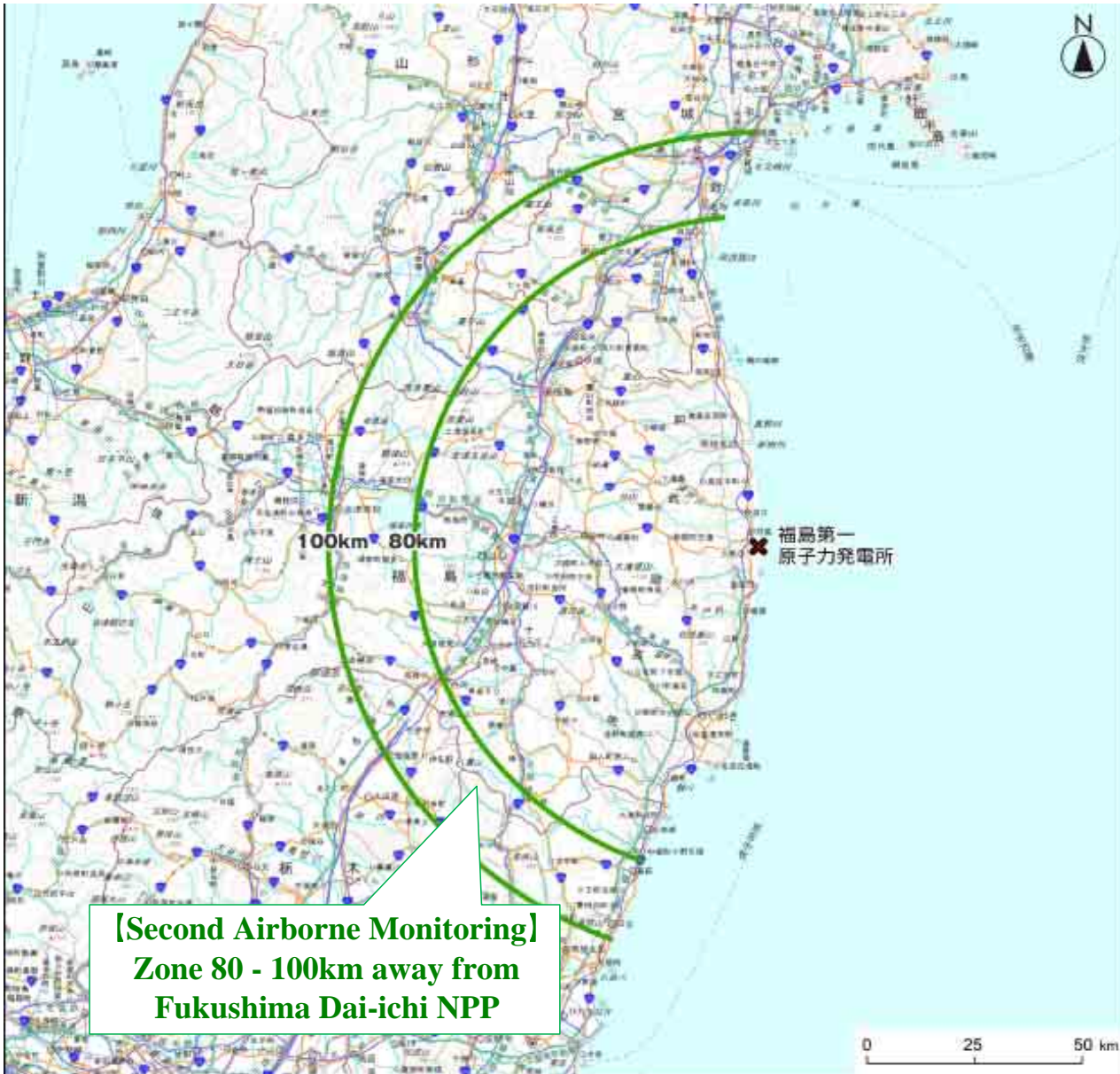
2. Details on the Airborne Monitoring by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the U.S. Department of Energy

- Measurement dates: May 18 to 29

*Dates may change depending on the status of preparations and the weather

- Aircraft: MEXT (Nuclear Safety Technology Center)
 - Private helicopter (BELL 412)
- Items covered: Air dose rate 1m above the ground surface in the zone within a 80-100km radius of Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP, and deposition of radioactive substances in the ground surface
 - *Based on the results of the measurements, we will consider expanding the measurement zone.
- Publication method: Results to be published by the MEXT

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Background image: Denshi Kokudo

*The duration of the monitoring period may change depending on weather conditions, etc., at the site .

*There is a possibility that measurements may not be taken in mountainous regions due to the difficulties of flying at a low altitude

(Monitoring Specifications)

- Monitoring Mesh: 3 - 5km
(If necessary, expansion of the monitoring zone will be considered)
- Target Altitude of Measurement: Terrain clearance 150 - 300m
- Monitoring Period: May 18 - 29
- Monitoring Items: Air dose rate 1 m above the ground surface and status of deposition of radioactive substances in the ground surface

Results of airborne monitoring by MEXT and DOE

(Readings of air dose monitoring inside 80km zone of Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP)

(Already announced on May 6)

