

Airborne Monitoring by MEXT and Miyagi Prefecture

June 21, 2011

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Miyagi prefecture

1. Airborne Monitoring by MEXT and Miyagi Prefecture

In order to understand the effects over a wide area due to radioactive substances, and for the assessment of future doses and of the deposition of radioactive substances in evacuation zones, etc., the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has conducted airborne monitoring in areas within 100 km of Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP (with regard to the south of Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP, as far as to around 120 km).

The results show that deposition of radioactive substances in the southern part of Miyagi prefecture has been small. However, in response to a request from Miyagi prefecture, MEXT decided to conduct airborne monitoring also in the northern part of Miyagi prefecture.

The monitoring shall be conducted by staff of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Safety Technology Center, using the airborne monitoring system provided by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) equipped on a helicopter for disaster safety owned by Miyagi prefecture.

- *1 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 of Airborne Monitoring by MEXT and Miyagi Prefecture

- Measurement dates: June 22 to the beginning of July
 - * The schedule may be changed due to preparation and weather conditions.
- Aircraft: A helicopter for disaster safety owned by Miyagi prefecture (BK 117)
- Items covered:
 - Air dose rate 1 m above the ground surface and deposition of radioactive substances in the ground surface, in the northern part of Miyagi prefecture out of a 100 km range of Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP (see the Annex)
- Method to release the results: Released by MEXT and Miyagi prefecture



*Required period for monitoring may change due to weather conditions

*As airplanes cannot fly low in mountainous areas, measurement may not be conducted there.

(Specifications)

· Grid size: 3 × 3 km

· Target altitude: 300 m

· Period: June 22 to the beginning of July

· Items covered: Air dose rate 1 m above the ground surface and contamination by deposition of radioactive substances in the ground surface, in the northern part of Miyagi prefecture (the area shaded in red on the map)