

CITY OF BALTIMORE

MAYOR STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH ALERT:

Baltimore City monitoring water quality in wake of Japan nuclear incident; no public health risk at this time

BALTIMORE, MD (March 27, 2011) — Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene announced today that routine air sampling around Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Facility revealed very small amounts of radiation. This is not a surprise finding in light of the release of Iodine 131 from the incident at the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan. Similar reports were made earlier in the week from samples in California. The level of detection is far below levels of public health concern.

Some states have detected very small amounts of radioactive material in rainwater which is also not unexpected. Since the incident in Japan, no harmful radioactivity has been detected in Baltimore City's raw water reservoirs or drinking water reservoirs. The municipal water supply is safe. In Baltimore City, the municipal water supply is tested three times each day to insure the quality and safety of the water entering our homes and businesses.

At the direction of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, the city departments of Health and Public Works will continue to communicate and collaborate closely with state officials to insure that testing procedures and protocols are increased as necessary.

While we do not expect to see radiation at harmful levels reaching the U.S. from damaged Japanese nuclear power plants, Baltimore City has in place preparedness and response plans that provide the flexibility and agility we need to respond aggressively and effectively to any hazard, including nuclear accidents. At this time, we do not recommend citizens take any additional precautionary measures beyond staying informed.

Additional information can be found here:

- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Website at <http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/>
- The EPA has posted information on its Website at <http://www.epa.gov/japan2011/>
- CDC has posted FAQs on our website at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/isotopes/iodine131surfacewater.asp>
- USA.gov continues to consolidate federal guidance related to this situation at <http://www.usa.gov/Japan2011.shtml>

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