American Water Works Association

The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water ®

Utility Member Benefit

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Public Affairs Advisory

TO: **AWWA Section Government Affairs Contacts**
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FROM: **AWWA Public Affairs**

DATE: **March 23, 2011**

Who:	**US Environmental Protection Agency**
What:	**Announcement that radiation levels are below level of concern in United States**
When:	**March 22, 2011**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) yesterday confirmed that, as of March 22, the tsunami-damaged nuclear reactors in Daiichi, Japan had not produced radiation levels of concern in the United States. EPA reported in part that: "In a typical day, Americans receive doses of radiation from natural sources like rocks, bricks and the sun that are about 100,000 times higher than what we have detected coming from Japan. For example, the levels we're seeing coming from Japan are 100,000 times lower than what you get from taking a roundtrip international flight."

See the full announcement here:
http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/1e5ab1124055f3b28525781f0042ed40/3724de8571e1b03f8525785c00041a7a!OpenDocument

The EPA information may be helpful to water utilities who are contacted by customers or media following reports elevated levels of radioactive iodine in Japan tap water. Japanese public health officials have advised citizens in some areas to limit tap water given to infants. See sampling of stories below:
www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/8401179/Japan-nuclear-crisis-Tokyo-tap-water-not-safe-for-infants.html
www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2011/0323/Tokyo-tap-water-too-radioactive-for-infants-officials-say

More complete information on radiation and water is available on EPA's web site here: www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/topics.html. Your state primacy agency or health department can also be a good source of information on the subject of radiation.

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