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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water[®]

Public Affairs Advisory

**TO: AWWA Section Government Affairs Contacts
All Utilities**

FROM: AWWA Public Affairs

DATE: March 28, 2011

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| Who: | Water utilities |
| What: | Elevated radiation in rainwater |
| When: | Today |

Utilities may expect to receive local media inquiries regarding iodine-131 levels in rain and surface water after the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced yesterday that it has detected low levels of radioactive iodine linked to the nuclear disaster in Japan in a sample of rainwater.

A link to an article on the story is available at

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/03/28/state_steps_up_monitoring_after_radioactivity_found_in_rainwater/.

In response to the announcement, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) posted an FAQ on their website addressing concerns about iodine-131 in rain and surface water:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/isotopes/iodine131surfacewater.asp>.

Utilities who receive inquiries may also want to reference the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) FAQ's regarding the nuclear situation at <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/faq-need-to-know.pdf> or the World Health Organization's (WHO) updates at <http://www.who.int/en/>.

Additionally, the EPA released another press release today stating that the situation in Japan has not produced radiation levels of concern in the United States. The release is available at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/1b5f547616b996538525786100635842?OpenDocument>.

More complete information on radiation and water is available on EPA's web site here:

<http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/topics.html>. AWWA also recommends regular communication with your state primacy agency or health department for information on the subject of radiation.

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