



Government of Yukon

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NEWS *release*

FOR RELEASE #11-043
 March 16, 2011

Officials monitoring nuclear situation in Japan

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) and Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) are monitoring the current situation in Japan and do not anticipate any risks to Yukon.

"Yukon government is participating in calls with Public Safety Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada on a regular basis to keep advised on what is happening with Japan's nuclear power plants," Community Services Minister Archie Lang said. "EMO is ensuring that we are informed of all the potential risks so that Yukon is prepared in the unlikely event of an emergency."

At the same time, CMOH Dr. Brendan Hanley advised that there is no current or projected health risk to Canadians or to Yukoners from radiation.

"Based on the information that is available to us currently, there is no possibility of significant radiation fall-out reaching Yukon," Hanley said.

Based on possible scenarios created in B.C., for example, Hanley said nuclear particles released into the air would take so long to reach the Canadian coast, the radiation would be too dispersed to pose a risk to humans.

The CMOH also discouraged Yukoners from buying iodide tablets. Potassium iodide tablets are used to protect the thyroid in case of exposure to radioactive iodide, and may be useful for those in the immediate vicinity of a radioactive leak. In Yukon, the tablets would not be required as any radioactive iodide would have dissipated before reaching North America.

Any changes in the current situation will be communicated to Yukon residents.

For more information visit the Public Safety Canada website:
<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/media/nr/2011/nr20110314-eng.aspx>

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Contact:

Emily Younker
 Cabinet Communications
 867-633-7961
emily.younker@gov.yk.ca

Matt King
 Community Services
 867-456-6580
matt.king@gov.yk.ca

Pat Living
 Health and Social Services
 867-667-3673
patricia.living@gov.yk.ca