



For Immediate Release: March 17, 2011

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Current monitoring shows no elevated radiation in Alaska

Still no immediate or anticipated threat in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Daily readings from the radiation monitoring equipment in Anchorage today displayed no readings above normal background levels, according to Dr. Bernd Jilly, director of the state labs.

Additional monitors are being planned for Dutch Harbor and Nome. They should be providing readings within a week.

The Alaska departments of Military and Veteran Affairs and Health and Social Services received calls today regarding a *New York Times* article displaying what was described as one of many potential paths of radiation from Japan. Even though the story stressed that the depiction “at worst, would have extremely minor health consequences” it created concern among some Alaskans. The state reiterated that the graphic was only a possible scenario and was not an accurate depiction of current events.

President Obama stressed again today that there is no current indication that radiation from Japan will reach the United States in levels high enough to create any public health concern.

For more information we recommend the following websites:

Alaska NOAA: <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/>

State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/>

The state encourages everyone to develop a preparedness kit: www.ready.alaska.gov/prepare

MEDIA ADVISORY

What: Press Availability Teleconference

When: 18 March 10:00 a.m. AKDT

Who: Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Director John W. Madden

Deputy Director Michael O’Hare

Division of Public Health

Dr. Joe McLaughlin, State Epidemiologist

Dr. Bernd Jilly, State Public Health Laboratories Director

Chris Laborde, Public Health Preparedness Program Manager

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute,

Communications Director Tyson Fick

Topic: Update current situation and provide preparedness information

FOR MEDIA: Please call 1-800-315-6338, code 7137#

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