

**Questions Concerning the Annual Radiation Dose of 20 MilliSieverts
in the “Planned Evacuation Zone”
and Radiation Safety Standards for Schools in Fukushima Prefecture:**

**Is the Government Saying the Annual Permissible Radiation Dose for Children is
20 MilliSieverts?**

To: The Nuclear Safety Commission (Cabinet Office)
The Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology

On April 11, the Japanese government announced that it was designating “planned evacuation zones” outside the existing 20 km no-go zone around the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Station. The new zones comprise areas where people are expected to receive an annual radiation dose of 20 milliSieverts or more. The government indicated that people exposed to a lesser annual dose will not be asked to relocate.

On April 13, however, the Cabinet Office’s Nuclear Safety Commission stated that it was desirable to keep the annual cumulative radiation dose for children below 10 milliSieverts. The Commission then reportedly asked the Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology to adopt 10 milliSieverts as the radiation standard for school children. At a press conference, commission member Seiji SHIROYA explained: “we have to consider the possibility that children may inhale radioactive dust particles from contaminated soil in school yards, and for that reason we should lower their annual radiation limit to half of that for adults.”

But on April 14, the Education Ministry told the Lower House Education and Science Committee that the maximum annual radiation limit for people was to be set at 20 milliSieverts. On April 15, Education Minister Yoshiaki TAKAKI reconfirmed that the standard would be 20 milliSieverts, indicating that the radiation limit for children will be the same as for adults.

In view of these pronouncements, we submit the following questions:

1. Does the Education Ministry believe that the same standard for annual radiation exposure should be applied to both children and adults? If that is the case, please explain the reasoning behind this view and criteria invoked.

2. Children are much more sensitive to the effects of radiation than adults and therefore require more stringent radiation standards. What radiation limit does the Ministry consider appropriate for children?

3. The Nuclear Safety Commission has expressed the view that the criterion for establishing “planned evacuation zones” should be an anticipated annual radiation exposure of 20 milliSieverts.

- (1) When did the Commission officially formalize and announce this view? Please release all relevant documents.
- (2) Explain the reasoning behind this view and the criteria invoked.
- (3) Has the Commission set a limit for the annual permissible radiation dose for children inside the “planned evacuation zones”?

4. When the Nuclear Safety Commission’s Seiji Shiroya said that the radiation limit for children should be lowered to 10 milliSieverts annually, he indicated that that was also his personal view. Does this statement represent his opinion, or the view of the Commission? If this is indeed the Commission’s official position, when and how did the Commission convey its finding to the Education Ministry? Please release all relevant documents.

5. We believe that the Education Ministry should retract its annual radiation limit of 20 milliSieverts for children and adults and reinstate the current international standard of 1 milliSievert.

April 15, 2011

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