

18 November 2019

Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi
Minister
Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan
Godochosha No.5, Kasumigaseki 1-2-2
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan

Re: URGENT - High levels of radiation observed at J-Village in Fukushima Prefecture

Dear Minister Koizumi,

I am writing to raise urgent concerns resulting from our recent radiation study in Fukushima prefecture, specifically at J-Village in the towns of Naraha and Hirono. This requires your urgent attention and immediate decontamination. Preliminary results from our recently completed radiation study have discovered high levels of radioactive contamination and serious public health risks at J-Village, where commencement of the 2020 Olympic/Paralympic Torch Relay is scheduled to begin on 26 March 2020.

On 26 October 2019, the contamination in and around J-Village was investigated by Greenpeace during a short visit as part of a larger survey of radioactivity resulting from the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. During our recent survey, J-Village was hosting a soccer tournament where players and spectators were frequenting areas in close proximity to where we measured high concentrations of radioactivity in publicly accessible areas.

There were three different survey methodologies employed:

1. Measuring dose rate from a car driving along the main roads near J-Village, taking one measurement every second on the outside of the car at 1m above the street level. The instrument was a highly sensitive Nal scintillator Georadis RT-30;
2. Measuring dose rate walking on the pavements in J-Village in the area near the Training Centre, taking one measurement every second at 1m above the street level. The instrument was a highly sensitive Nal scintillator Georadis RT-30;
3. Measuring hotspots in J-Village in the area near the Training Centre, measuring dose rate at 10cm, 50cm and 1m from the ground at those locations that were found with the highest dose rate levels. The dose rate of these hotspots were measured with a Thermo Radeye Nal scintillator.

Initial summary of our findings

Greenpeace recently conducted a radiation survey in Fukushima Prefecture from October 16th to November 5th in Fukushima City, the towns of Namie and Okuma, the village of Iitate Village, along the banks of the Abukuma and Niida rivers, as well as around J-Village. We will issue our full report and analysis in February 2020. However, the dangerously high levels of radiation observed at J-Village requires your immediate attention. Our communication to you is intended to be constructive towards taking immediate precautions to reduce public health risks from radiation exposure.

Our investigation at J-Village was not comprehensive. Greenpeace's Nuclear Monitoring & Radiation Protection Advisors only spent two hours in this particular area. Nevertheless, several hotspots were detected and documented; which are of particular concern because they are located in an area that is currently visited by a large number of unaware people (specifically at the parking lot near the J-Village Training Centre, where the highest hot spot identified was 71 μ Sv/h at contact, 32 μ Sv/h at 10cm, 6 μ Sv/h at 50cm and 1.7 μ Sv/h at 1m). These hotspots were typically found in the soil less than 50cm from the border of the hardened surface with vegetation growth such as grass or forest. See image below.

There is a risk that heavy rain will spread these higher levels of contamination on the public road, and thus re-contaminate already decontaminated surfaces. This could partially undo earlier efforts to decontaminate the public area in J-Village. From our observations, it is unlikely that hotspots of such high level re-emerged from re-contamination after previous decontamination as it is more logical that the decontamination was not sufficiently and thoroughly conducted in the first place.

The walk-scan and car-scan at 1m from the street level on the other hand, showed relatively low levels of contamination, compared to the levels that are typical for other areas near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant that was investigated in more depth by the Greenpeace team in October 2018 and October-November 2019, such as Okuma or Namie (see our report March 2019 report On the Frontline of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident: Workers and Children; Radiation risks and human rights violations: (<https://master.k8s.p4.greenpeace.org/japan/sustainable/publication/2019/03/14/7190/>)).

It is Greenpeace's assessment that there is still sufficient time to take corrective measures and to provide assurance that the public will not be exposed to hotspots during Olympic/Paralympic-related events, including the opening of the Olympic/Paralympic torch relay at J-Village on 26 March, 2020. However, as the locations are currently intensively visited by the public we recommend urgent and immediate actions to decontaminate these hotspots, which are publicly accessible.

Furthermore, the nature of the contamination is such that it has some mobility in the environment. Decontamination should therefore only be regarded as a temporary measure, not a static state, requiring permanent vigilance, both in the run-up, during, and also after the Olympic/Paralympic Games. The presence of these high levels of contamination hot spots raises more fundamental questions regarding current government policy, including:

- the effectiveness of the substantial decontamination program conducted at J-Village;



- how such high concentrations of radioactivity exist at the locations identified, and for how long have they been there; and,
- how widespread these hot spots at J-Village are and what ongoing monitoring is being conducted by the relevant authorities.

The levels of radioactivity identified in our survey raise major issues over the effectiveness of previous and future decontamination efforts. As we have documented over recent years, including in our reports from 2016-2019, much of the radio-caesium remains in the forested mountainous areas of Fukushima. These areas are not possible to decontaminate and therefore recontamination is inevitable over the coming decades. Additional measures to decontaminate, including at J-Village, are likely therefore to be only short-term in their effectiveness. We therefore urgently request that the Environment Agency responsible for Fukushima decontamination take immediate action to address the issue of radioactive contamination at the J-Village, in consultation with Japan's Olympic Organizing Committee and the International Olympic Committee.

Greenpeace recommends the following actions

- An immediate and extensive radiation survey of the public area in and around J-Village and nearby Olympic/Paralympic venues. The survey should identify the overall areas of high radioactive contamination concentration, and remove these from the highly visited areas for as long as possible before re-contamination. This should not only include the roads, pavements and sport fields themselves, but also the soil with vegetation growth such as grass and forests along those areas where higher levels of contamination were found, and which could re-contaminate previously decontaminated areas.
- Decontamination of the identified hotspots in particular, but also of a wider area of soil (grass, forests, etc.) near the public area.
- After further decontamination, regular screening of the radiation levels in J-Village to monitor possible re-contamination of public areas.

In the spirit of good partnership, and with a strong desire to support immediate decontamination efforts, we would like to make our survey team and their findings available to you. We can also offer any additional information or assistance that may help you to immediately address this urgent public health concern.

We have included a map of the locations where we identified the highest levels of contamination in public spaces. Given the continuing use of J-Village facilities by the general public and the planned opening of the Olympic/Paralympic Torch route at J-Village on 26 March 2020, I kindly request that you:

- urgently provide us with details of the measures you will undertake to immediately identify and remove the presence of high concentrations of radioactivity; and,
- inform us what program(s) will be applied to prevent future recontamination.



We are sending this letter to you in both Japanese and English, via registered mail, electronic mail, and by hand-delivery to you at the Ministry of the Environment. We kindly request a response to this urgent notification before Thursday 19 December 2019, which we consider to be a reasonable amount of time.

I can be contacted by email at sam.annesley@greenpeace.org or by mail at:

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Sincerely,



Sam Annesley
Executive Director
Greenpeace Japan

cc: Yamashita Yasuhiro, President of the Japanese Olympic Committee;
Toriyama Mitsunori, President of the Japanese Paralympic Committee;
Thomas Bach, OLY, President of the International Olympic Committee;
Andrew Parsons, President of the International Paralympic Committee;
Uchibori Masao, Governor of Fukushima Prefecture & President of J-Village.



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