ON THE RADIOACTIVITY SITUATION IN KAMCHATKA FOLLOWING THE NPS «FUKUSHIMA-1» ACCIDENT

A.I. Sidorin

Gymnazium N 1522, Moscow, Russia

Abstract. The chronology of events in Kamchatka in relation to the threat of radioactive contamination of the territory as a result of the Fukushima-1 NPS accident in Japan is briefly reviewed based on published data. The accident happened on March 11th, 2011 after a strong earthquake near Japanese coast and a giant tsunami that it caused; they damaged the power supply and, as a result, the cooling system of NPS reactors. Although the reactors did not explode, radioactive material from the damaged NPS was leaked into the atmosphere and spread over considerable areas by the air currents. The information about the radioactivity situation in Kamchatka was controversial. Because of this the author carried out regular monitoring of the radioactivity background during a hiking trip in Kamchatka in August of 2011. The obtained data are presented in this paper. It was concluded that the radioactivity background along the route of the trip was consistent, within the accuracy of the measurement methods, with normal values. For a more detailed study a thorough analysis of air, soil, food samples, etc. is required to identify presence of radionuclides that were contained in the atmospheric emissions from the damaged NPS in Japan.

Keywords: Kamchatka, radioactivity situation, NPS «Fukushima-1».