

May 24, 2011

Letters to the Editor
Globe and Mail
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Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my dismay about the about the absence of information in our Canadian media concerning the radiation that is drifting over North America and in particular the West Coast from the Fukushima disaster. Not only that, Health Canada has not posted any information about current radiation on its “Advisories, Warnings and Recalls” page for March and April although various media reported on March 18 that there were 9 monitoring stations being added in BC.

However, various independent sources have documented the wind drift and strength of radioactive particles being borne by water and wind from Japan to our coastline as well as the continuing dire situation at Fukushima. The news does not inspire hope for either the short term or long term.

As the biometrician and environmental epidemiologist Dr. Rosalie Bertell taught the world (No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth”) that ionizing radiation is harmful in any amount so Dr. Helen Caldicott has recently sounded the alarm about the effects of the radiation from damaged nuclear reactors. As Dr. Caldicott has written:

*“Internal radiation, by contrast, emanates from radioactive elements that enter the body by inhalation, ingestion, or skin absorption. Hazardous radioactive elements being released in the sea and air around Fukushima accumulate at each step of various food chains (for example, into algae, crustaceans, small fish, bigger fish, then humans; or soil, grass, cow's meat and milk, then humans). Entering the body, these elements - called internal emitters- migrate to specific organs such as the thyroid, liver, bone, and brain, continuously irradiating small volumes of cells with high doses of alpha, beta and/or gamma radiation, and over many years often induce cancer. Further, many remain radioactive in the environment for long periods [sometimes hundreds of thousands of years], posing danger for future generations.”

The public is being lulled into believing that all is well. However, the Japanese tragedy has the potential of overwhelming the health effects from Chernobyl. Shamefully, international regulators have pushed the allowable levels of radiation

upwards. How many millions and millions of people the world over will die from cancer and other acute and chronic diseases in the next 20 to 40 years—and the authorities will pretend that they don't know the cause? Plutonium, cesium 137, and radioactive iodine are the deadly nucleotides that threaten our health. The government has failed to warn and failed to protect its citizens. Fetuses, young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and immune compromised are particularly at risk.

I think the public needs to know the consequences of what is happening now and that likelihood that the disaster will not be resolved nor contained. Scientists and citizens from the global community need to come together to offer solutions to nuclear accidents and how to plan for all contingencies. The first step would be, I think, to halt all nuclear plant construction and operation but that is subject for another conversation.

Yours truly,

Nina Westaway

*Source for quote (An article by Dr. Illya Sandra Prelingieri at www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=24101)

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