

DOE Response to the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Accident

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Following a magnitude 9 earthquake and 14 meter tsunami on March 11, 2011, the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Japan suffered a major loss-of-coolant accident and large quantities of radioactive materials were released to the environment. Within 3 days of the earthquake, the White House directed the Department of Energy to deploy a team to Japan to provide radiological monitoring support to the Department of Defense, Department of State, and the Government of Japan. This team consisted of personnel and equipment from DOE-NNSA HQ, the Remote Sensing Laboratories in Las Vegas and Washington, DC, and several of the RAP Regions, including four team members from ANL.

This talk will give a brief overview of the accident and description of the DOE assets and capabilities called upon to respond. Some first-hand experiences of radiological monitoring in Japan will be discussed and some preliminary results will be presented.