Dear [Name]:

Thank you for your inquiry to the Health Physics Society (HPS) regarding the radiological consequences flowing from damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station following the March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami. HPS leadership followed the events closely, provided experts in relevant specialties to respond to media requests for information, and sponsored a news event at the National Press Club in March 2012 addressing the events and potential risks from radioactive releases. Presentations and video footage from that event are available at http://hps.org/media/. Also, HPS has a number of questions and answers relating to the radiological impact of the Fukushima Daiichi releases at our “Ask the Experts” site (http://hps.org/publicinformation/ate/). Simply type “Fukushima” in the Search box, and the relevant questions and answers will be displayed.

As to your specific question regarding an assessment of the exposures and health risks to U.S. citizens, many nationally and internationally recognized organizations¹ have undertaken such evaluations over the past 3 years, and to date HPS has not identified any information to indicate a threat to public health in the United States, or elsewhere in the world (with the exception of those areas identified by the Japanese authorities within their own country). In addition, there are a number of scholarly papers on the topic, which also indicate the concentration of contaminants and potential doses to humans do not pose a detectable threat to public health, and do not substantially contribute to the naturally-occurring and pre-March 2011 fallout concentrations already in the oceans.²

You may also be interested in reviewing the data available from the Oregon Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority (https://public.health.oregon.gov/Preparedness/Pages/04-2012JapanDebris.aspx). Their activities include air, water and sand monitoring along the Oregon


coast, and the site provides other useful references as well. The California Department of Public Health also has published monitoring results, which are available at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/Pubs/FukushimaEnvironmentalMonitoring.pdf.

In conclusion, the HPS has not identified any credible information that indicates a public health threat to U.S. citizens from the releases at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. We plan to continue to follow the scientific literature related to those releases. I hope you find our resources useful, and thank you again for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

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