

Fukushima Prefecture's Announcement that Highly Radioactive Nuclides Had Been Detected in Sewage Sludge

Tokyo, May 2, 2011—Fukushima Prefecture disclosed on May 1 that highly radioactive nuclides have been detected in sludge from sewage treated at the Kenchu Sewage Plant, a sewage treatment plant in Koriyama City, Fukushima Prefecture. In conjunction with the prefecture's announcement, Taiheiyo Cement Corporation wishes to assure customers and consumers of the following that:

1. Taiheiyo Cement Corporation has not used sludge as one of the alternative materials for cement from the Kenchu Sewage Plant.
2. Taiheiyo Cement Corporation uses sludge supplied by Kenhoku Sewage Plant in Kunimi-Cho, Fukushima Prefecture, at our plants in Kumagaya City, Saitama Prefecture and Hidaka City, Saitama Prefecture. Fukushima Prefecture has informed us that although the Kenhoku Sewage Plant does not treat sewage containing rainwater, making it highly unlikely that its sludge could be contaminated with radioactive substances, the center is testing and analyzing its output for the presence of radioactivity as a precautionary measure. We have suspended receiving of sewage sludge deliveries from the Kenhoku Sewage Plant until test results have been made public.
3. Taiheiyo Cement Corporation's export cement is shipped from the Oita Plant in Tsukumi City, Oita Prefecture, and the Kamiiso Plant in Hokuto City, Hokkaido. These facilities do not use sewage sludge at risk of contamination from the damaged Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.