



PUBLIC HEALTH

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Washington State's Response to
Japanese Nuclear Disaster in Fukushima
March 10, 2011

Major Topics in Washington State

- Coordination with Other Agencies
- Contamination
- Environmental Findings
- Public Messages



Coordination

Some good

- PHL
- Regional Expertise
 - UW Physics, Atmospheric Sci., PNNL, Energy Northwest

Some not quite as good

- National Response Framework
- Incident Command vs. Emergency Planning for Power Plant accidents
- Radiological Data Sharing
- Conference Calls



Contamination

- Ground Deposition
- People returning from Japan
- Cargo Containers
- Food



Environmental Findings

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WA State Environmental Monitoring

- Monitoring capabilities initiated in 1961.
- Purpose of monitoring is to assure the public's health by making sure plants with potential to release radionuclides are operating safely and within federal and state standards
- Presently we analyze any media: food, air, drinking water, milk, soil, sediment, vegetation, etc. for low level radioactive contaminants.
- Samples analyzed at PHL in Shoreline
- Detection levels are usually a fraction of what is considered a health impact.

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Additional Monitoring

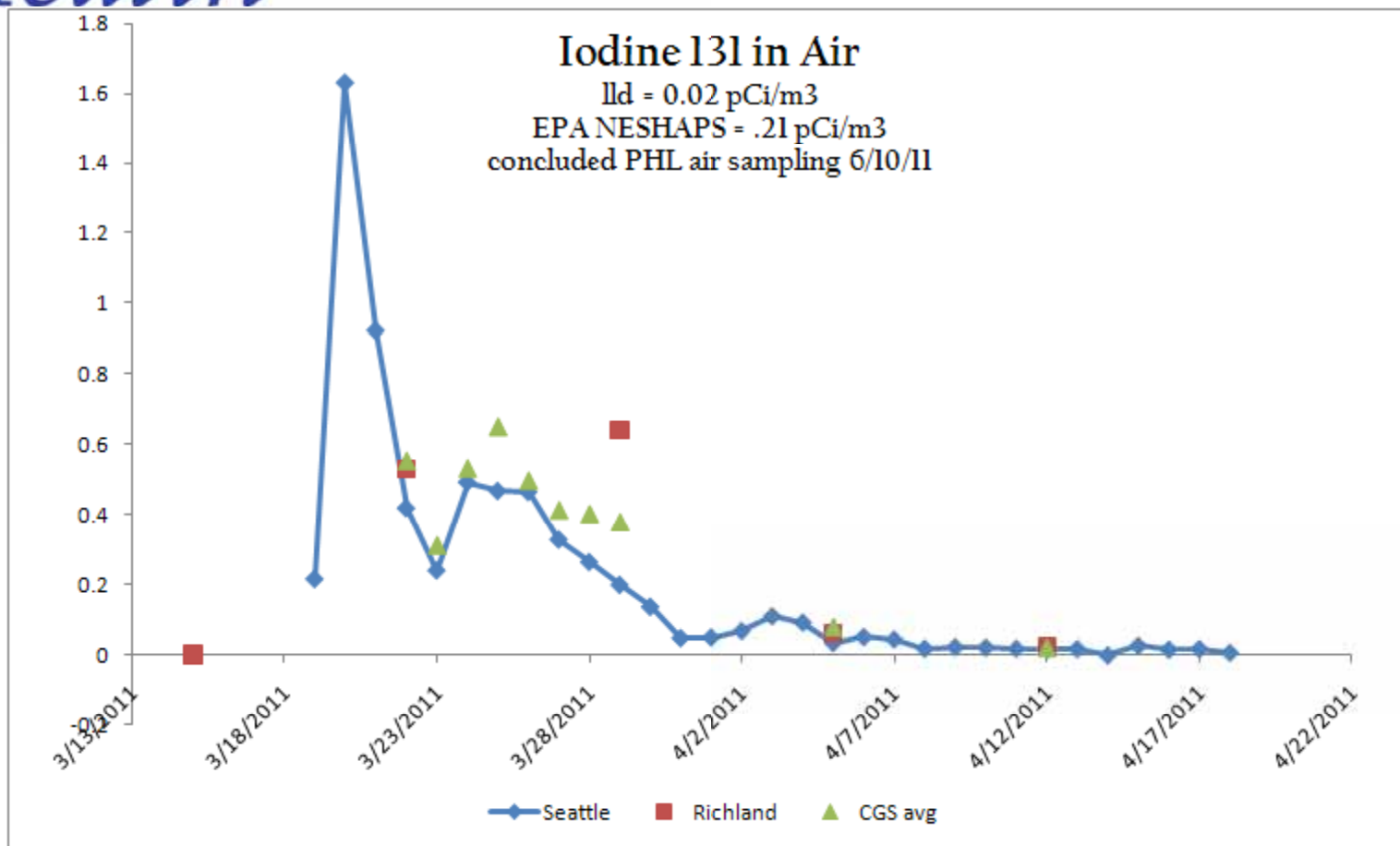


Air

Rainwater

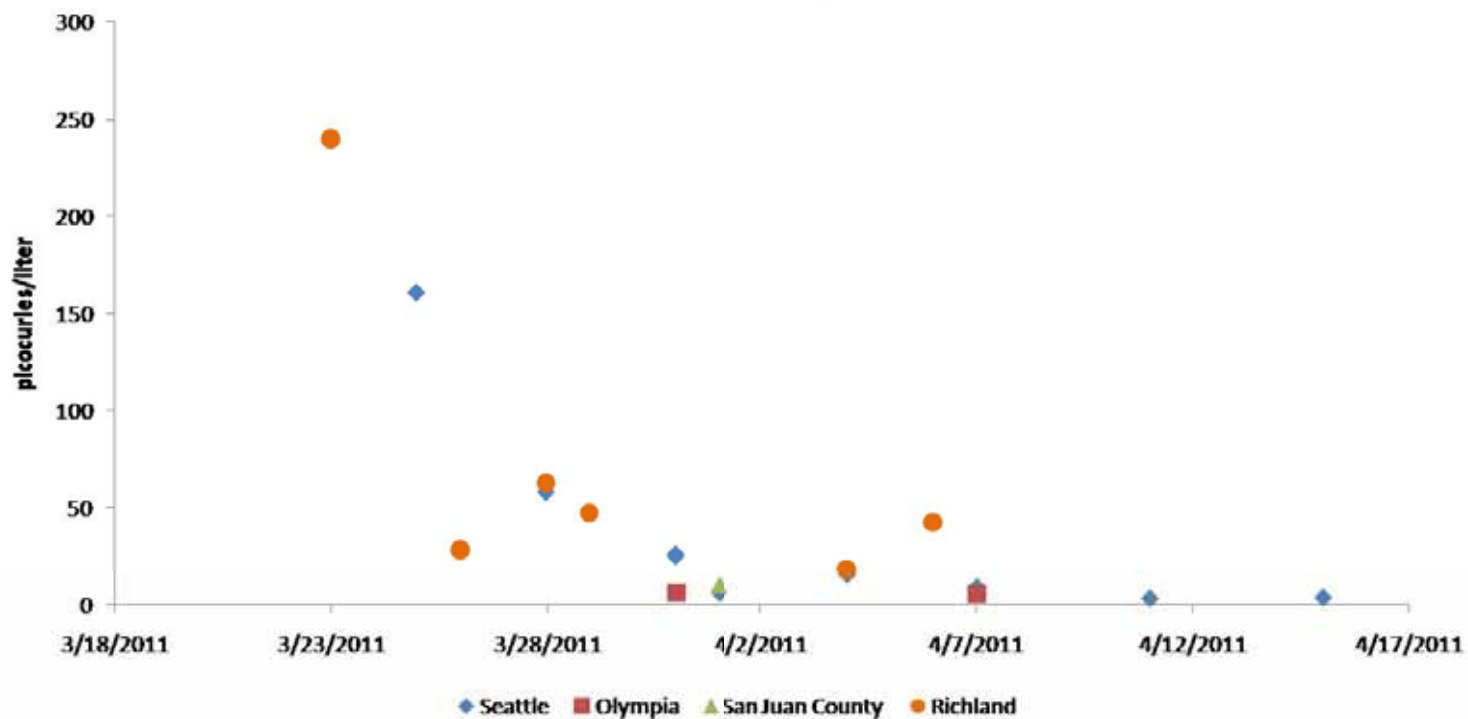
Milk

Deposition



Iodine 131 in Rainwater

EPA MCL = 3 pCi/L
DOH LLD = 0.5 - 2 pCi/L

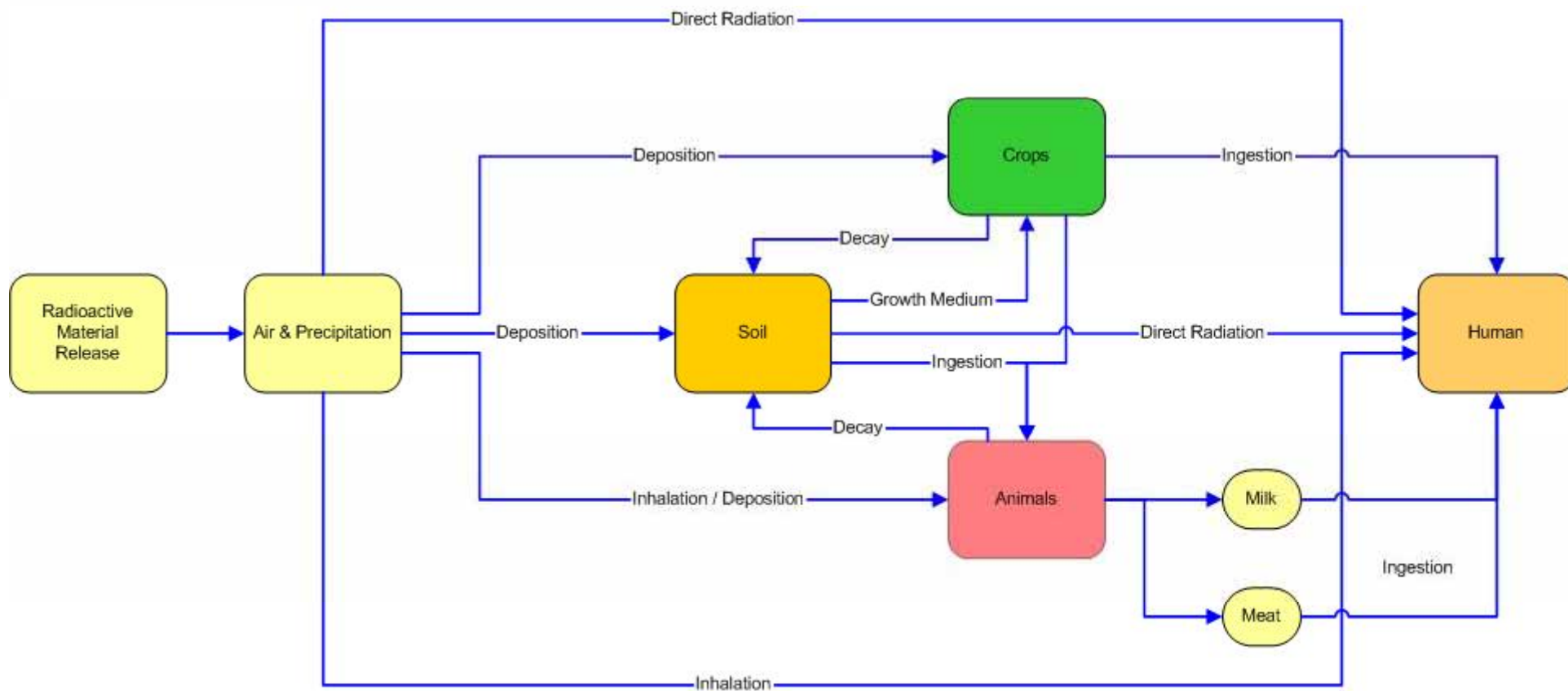




Milk



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Public Messaging

- Dose
 - I-131 in air, KI
- Airport Screening Protocols
- Confusion about allowable contamination
- Relieving stress through efforts by answering questions, web site FAQ, data presentations



Closing remarks

- We observed temporary elevation in I-131 in air, rainwater and milk. Levels were below a health concern but did cause heightened concern by the public
- WA DOH data showed there was no reason to enact any emergency restrictions on food or water.
- Monitoring specifically for Fukushima was curtailed when I-131 activity dropped below our ability to detect using low level counting techniques
- Fukushima incident is still continuing in Japan and we continue to monitor via our established monitoring program

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