

News

Weather agency ordered to reveal data on projected radiation spread

TOKYO (Kyodo) -- The government has ordered the Japan Meteorological Agency to promptly disclose its data on the projected spread of radioactive materials from the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, the government's top spokesman said Monday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said in a news conference that he had told the agency that it "should have made the data public" along with an adequate explanation.

According to Edano, the agency did not disclose the information because it was part of reference materials compiled in response to a request from the International Atomic Energy Agency, and it feared that releasing the data could cause the spread of radiation.

The agency conducted a simulation assuming the release of a certain level of radiation from the Fukushima plant to gauge how the materials would spread based on weather conditions at the plant, Edano said.

The projection showed the potential spread of radioactive materials per 100 square kilometers, the secretary said, adding that the IAEA had asked the agency for the projection so it could gauge the possible global impact.

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