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Dose assessment on marine biota from existing and permissible discharges of NPP

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Doses to biota were estimated from the permissible discharges of the NPP, as well as from the current levels of technogenic radionuclides in marine environment using the radiation monitoring data.

Values of the permissible releases of 17 radionuclides were used as initial data for the dose assessment to biota of the Kopora Bay, cooling pond of the Leningrad NPP, as well as data of measurements of the radionuclides concentrations in marine water, the radionuclides distribution coefficients between water and bottom sediments, concentration factors of radionuclides in organisms.

The following groups of organisms were selected as the reference biota: sea birds, mollusks, algae and fish.

Dose rates for the pelagic fish species from the cooling pond of the Leningrad NPP is calculated to be 8,1·10⁻¹⁰–2,5·10⁻⁸ Gy/h,

bottom fish species 1,8·10⁻⁹—1,2·10⁻⁷ Gy/h,

sea birds 5,9·10⁻¹⁰—1,3·10⁻⁷ Gy/h,

mollusks 8,9·10⁻¹⁰–3,1·10⁻⁶ Gy/h,

marine algae 9,6·10⁻¹⁰—1,6·10⁻⁶ Gy/h.

According to calculations, the highest doses from the permissible discharges of ³H, ¹³⁴Cs, ¹³⁷Cs would be for the bottom fish, ¹³¹I – marine algae, and from permissible discharges of other radionuclides – mollusks.

Total dose rate to the pelagic fish species of the Leningrad NPP's cooling pond, calculated on the basis of the radiation monitoring data, is 1,1·10⁻⁸ Gy/h, bottom fish – 1,5·10⁻⁸ Gy/h.

The main contributor to these dose rates is ¹³⁷Cs (about 80 %), which is caused by contamination of the Baltic Sea ecosystem with this radionuclide after the Chernobyl accident.

Total dose rate to mollusks of the Leningrad NPP's cooling pond is estimated as 2,2·10⁻⁸ Gy/h, marine algae 1,0·10⁻⁸ Gy/h, sea birds 5,8·10⁻⁹ Gy/h.

The following formula for ecological risk was used for the radioecological safety assessment:

$$R_{j} = \frac{D_{j}}{SD}$$

where Dj – dose rate to j-th reference biota species, Gy/h; SD – reference safety level for exposure of biota, Gy/h. Dose rate SD=10⁻⁵ Gy/h was used as a screening value.

The conclusion was made that radiation exposure to biota of the Leningrad NPP's cooling pond at the normal operation of the NPP does not exceed the level of acceptable radiation risk and fits the criteria of the environmental safety.

Ecological risk for organisms from the Kopora Bay, calculated using the radiation monitoring data, does not exceed 3·10⁻³.

Thank you for your attention!