

# Greenwire

## 8. **RADIATION: Plume detected over East Coast and as far as Iceland** (03/22/2011)

Trace amounts of radiation from the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan have reached the East Coast of the United States, European officials said yesterday.

Health experts say that the radioactive plume is so diluted by now there will be no health consequences in the United States. The plume has been drifting eastward from Japan and over the United States since the near-meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Atomic and atmospheric experts say that the plume will eventually spread over most northern regions on the planet. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization has tracked the movements of the plume through more than 60 stations that check the air for spikes in radiation.

On Friday, European officials said that the plume had been detected in Sacramento but that the traces of iodine-131 and cesium-137, both byproducts of nuclear reactors, were millions of times lower than levels that could cause dangerous human health effects (William Broad, [New York Times](#), March 21).

Trace amounts of radioactive particles have also been detected in Iceland, diplomatic officials said today. As in the East Coast, the traces of iodine isotopes were well below the concentration that can harm humans.

"They measure extremely small amounts," one Vienna-based diplomat said. "It has nothing to do with any health risks."

This is the first European country to detect radiation from the plume (Fredrik Dahl, [Reuters](#), March 22). -- AP

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