

SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP

Tropical Timber Market Report

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90% of Japan's Fukushima forest now radiation free – logging to resume Fukushima prefecture is where destroyed nuclear power plant is on the coast.

Fukushima Prefecture Wood Cooperative Union analyzed present status of radiation dosage in Fukushima prefecture disclosed by the Nuclear Regulatory Agency and reached conclusion that 90% of forest area in the prefecture is now free of radiation. Log harvest activities in the prefecture have been recovering. Log auction markets and large sawmills cutting local logs install automatic radiation measuring sensor to confirm logs are safe.

This should reduce damages by harmful rumors and the prefecture tries to expand log harvest and generate demand. Presently log harvest in the prefecture is done based on the guideline, which allows log harvest if radiation dosage in the area is less than 0.5 micro Sievert. The prefecture checks surface radiation dosage of lumber once every three month at sawmills and result is prefectural lumber is safe for health and environment.

The Fukushima Prefecture Wood Cooperative Union has been confirming radiation free areas on the map, where log harvest is safe and the area has been steadily expanding so the Union advertises the fact and keeps asking to use prefectural logs to the markets. The Union marks the safe areas where aerial monitoring of radiation dosage is less than allowable level, which is made regularly by the Nuclear Regulatory Agency since the earthquake, which destroyed the Nuclear Power plant.

Actually measurement is done in more than 150,000 points and the forest area where radiation is less than 0.5 micro Sievert is now 90.7%. It was 88.9% in 2015.

Logging Crew off to Work





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