

# **Events and highlights on the progress related to recovery operations at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station**

**October, 2016**

## **Section 1: Summary of updates from August through September 2016**

### **1. Decommissioning and Contaminated Water management**

Since the last report, there were progresses on the decommissioning and contaminated water management as below. For details please refer to section 2.

#### **(1) Land-side impermeable wall (Frozen soil wall)**

As of September 26, the underground temperature dropped to 0 degree or lower for 99% of the planned area on the sea side and 92% of the planned area on the mountain side respectively. This system of the impermeable wall will establish a frozen barrier under the ground to block groundwater inflow into the Unit 1-4 buildings, and thus will decrease the generation of contaminated water.

#### **(2) Starting dismantlement of the Unit 1 R/B cover wall panels**

Regarding the dismantling of the Unit 1 Reactor Building (R/B) cover, preparation for dismantling of wall panels, including the installation of sprinklers, was finished. Dismantling of wall panels (18 in total) started on September 13 and is scheduled to be completed in November.

No significant variation attributable to the work has been identified at the dust monitors installed on the workplace and near the site boundary. Measures to prevent erroneous alerts have been implemented for the dust monitors near the site boundary. The work is being conducted with safety first above all.

### **2. Monitoring results**

There were no significant changes in the monitoring results of air dose rate, dust, soil, seawater, sediment and marine biota during the period from August to September 2016. For details please refer to section 3.

### **3. Off-site decontamination**

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is carrying out decontamination works. For details please refer to section 4.

### **4. Food products**

Monitorings and inspections of radioactive materials in food are continuously conducted, and restrictions of food distribution and removal of these restrictions are taken based on monitoring results. Restrictions of several agricultural products were lifted during the period from August to September 2016.

According to the monitoring results of fishery products in Fukushima, from August to September 2016, the excess ratio\* was 0 % (total: 1379 samples). In the other prefectures, the excess ratio was 0.08 % (total: 1281 samples). For details please refer to section 5.

\*excess ratio: (Number of samples containing more than 100 Bq/kg) / (Total number of samples)

## **5. Radiation protection of worker**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has provided guidance on the prevention of radiation hazards to workers engaged in the decommissioning works at Fukushima Daiichi NPS or decontamination and related works; as well, the Ministry has taken relevant and necessary measures such as provision of long-term healthcare for emergency workers. For details please refer to section 6.

## **Section 2: Decommissioning and contaminated water management at Fukushima Daiichi NPS**

### **2.1: Basic strategies**

- (1) Basic Policy for the Contaminated Water Issue at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi NPS (September 3, 2013)

(Summary)

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20130903\\_01a.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20130903_01a.pdf)

- (2) Preventive and Multi-layered Measures for Decommissioning and Contaminated Water Management (December 20, 2013)

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20131226\\_001.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20131226_001.pdf)

- (3) Mid-and-Long-Term Roadmap towards the Decommissioning of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (revised on June 12, 2015)

(Summary)

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20150725\\_01a.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20150725_01a.pdf)

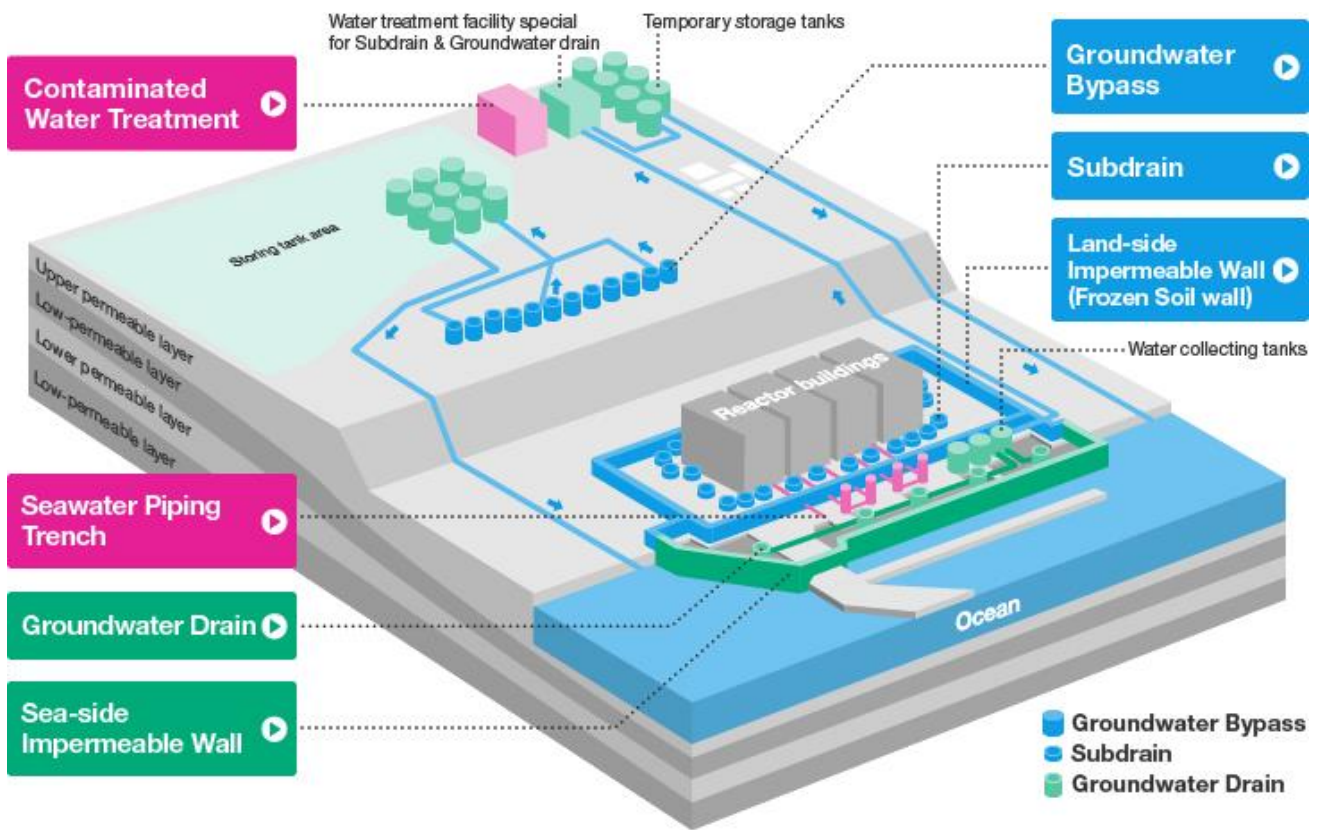
(Full text)

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20150725\\_01b.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20150725_01b.pdf)

### **2.2: Measures for decommissioning and contaminated water management**

- (1) Major initiatives for water management

The preventive and multi-layered measures against contaminated water issue are implemented based on the three principles; "Remove sources of contamination", "Isolate water from contamination" and "Prevent leakage of contaminated water".



Source: TEPCO

(a) Objective

The groundwater bypass function is to isolate water from contamination by pumping it and reducing its inflow into the reactor buildings.

(b) Mechanism

Clean groundwater is pumped from the wells installed on the mountain-side area of the reactor buildings and then discharged into the port area after passing water quality inspections.

(c) Recent situations

Up until September 27, 2016, 218,912 m<sup>3</sup> of groundwater had been released to the ocean. The pumped-up groundwater was temporarily stored in tanks, purified and released after TEPCO and a third-party organization had confirmed that the quality met the operational targets. The pumps are inspected and cleaned as necessary to operate appropriately.

The result of sea area monitoring shows that the radiation level of seawater outside the port area remains low enough compared to the density limit specified by the Reactor Regulation and significant change in the radioactivity has not been observed.

TEPCO's website related to groundwater bypass:

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommision/planaction/groundwater/index-e.html>

Detailed analysis results regarding the water quality of the groundwater pumped up by sub-drain and purified at Fukushima Daiichi NPS (published by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI))

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160804\\_01b.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160804_01b.pdf)

(August 4 2016)

( ii ) Subdrain and groundwater drain systems

(a) Objective

The subdrain system function is to isolate clean groundwater from contamination by pumping it and preventing its inflow into the reactor buildings, and thus reducing generation of contaminated water.

The groundwater drain system function is to prevent leakage of contaminated groundwater by pumping it before flowing into the port.

(b) Mechanism

Groundwater that contains slight radioactivity is pumped from the wells installed in the vicinity of the reactor buildings (called subdrain) and the wells installed in the bank protection area (called groundwater drain) and then treated through special purification equipment to meet the stringent operational targets set by TEPCO. The purified groundwater is discharged into the port area after passing water quality inspections.

(c) Recent situations

The operation of the subdrain and groundwater drain systems started in September 2015. The effects of the subdrain system are measured by two markers: the water level of the subdrain, and the difference between the water level of the subdrain and that of the reactor buildings. At the point when the former was lowered to T.P. 3.5 meters or when the latter decreased to less than 2 meters, the amount of the water flowing into the reactor buildings was decreased to the level of approx. 150 - 200 m<sup>3</sup> per day.

\*T.P.: Tokyo Peil (Mean Sea Level of Tokyo Bay)

Up until September 27, 2016, a total of 196,099 m<sup>3</sup> had been drained after TEPCO and a third-party organization had confirmed that the quality met the operational targets. The result of sea area monitoring confirms that the radiation level of seawater outside the port area remains low enough compared to the density limit specified by the Reactor Regulation, and no significant change in the radioactivity level has been observed.

TEPCO's website related to the subdrain and the groundwater drain systems:

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommision/planaction/sub-drain/index-e.html>

Detailed analysis results regarding the water quality of the groundwater pumped up by sub-drain and purified at Fukushima Daiichi NPS (published by METI)

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160804\\_01b.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160804_01b.pdf)

(August 4 2016)

( iii ) Land-side impermeable wall (Frozen soil wall)

(a) Objective

The installation of the land-side impermeable wall aims to isolate clean groundwater from contamination. This will be achieved by surrounding the reactor buildings with an in-ground frozen barrier and blocking groundwater from flowing into the buildings.

(b) Mechanism

An approximately 1,500 meters long wall, composed of frozen pipes driven into the ground, surrounds the Unit 1-4 reactor buildings. The barrier will be formed around the buildings to block groundwater inflow by supplying chilled brine (a freezing material) through the pipes and freezing the soil.

(c) Recent situations

As of September 26, the underground temperature dropped to 0 degree or lower for 99% of the planned area on the sea side and 92% of the planned area on the mountain side respectively.

The groundwater level of the upstream side of the walls exceeds that of the downstream side. The difference has expanded and then became stable. The effect of the land side impermeable walls (on part of the sea side) will be evaluated by checking the inflow-outflow balance of groundwater between the land-side and the sea-side impermeable wall.

TEPCO's website related to the land-side impermeable wall:

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommision/planaction/landwardwall/index-e.html>

(iv) Sea-side impermeable wall

(a) Objective

The installation of the sea-side impermeable wall aims to prevent leakage of contaminated water into the ocean. This was achieved by installing a wall to block groundwater from flowing into the port area, and thus protecting the marine environment against pollution.

(b) Mechanism

A wall, approximately 780 meters long and composed of 594 steel pipes with a diameter of 1.1 meters and a length of 30 meters, was installed around the bank protection area near the reactor buildings. The groundwater flowing from the site is blocked by the wall and pumped by the subdrain and the groundwater drain systems. Consequently, the wall prevents groundwater from flowing into the port area and also reduces the risk of contaminated water flowing into the ocean in case of any leakage.

(c) Situations

In October 2015, the sea-side impermeable wall construction was completed. It has been confirmed that the radiation level of seawater inside the port area substantially decreased. In addition to the operation of the subdrain and the groundwater drain systems, the completion of the wall marks major progress in water management at Fukushima Daiichi NPS.

TEPCO's website related to the sea-side impermeable wall:

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommision/planaction/seasidewall/index-e.html>

(v) Purification treatment of contaminated water

(a) Objective

The purification treatment of contaminated water aims to remove sources of contamination.

(b) Mechanism

Contaminated water that accumulated at the site of Fukushima Daiichi NPS is treated at multiple facilities including Multi-nuclide Removal Facility (Advanced Liquid Processing System = ALPS). In this process, after the concentration of caesium and strontium in the contaminated water is reduced, ALPS removes most of the radioactive materials except tritium.

(c) Recent situations

In May 2015, TEPCO announced that it has completed the purification treatment of highly contaminated water in the storage tanks. As of September 2016, nearly 3,300 tons of contaminated water remains at the bottom of the tanks, which will be removed as the tanks are being dismantled. As a result, the radiological contamination risk due to leakage of contaminated water has been significantly reduced.

Regarding the contaminated water with low radioactive concentration, which includes tritium, experts are still investigating the most appropriate and safe approaches to dispose of it.

TEPCO's website related to purification treatment of contaminated water:

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommission/planaction/alps/index-e.html>

(2) Fuel removal from the reactor buildings

( i ) Basic information

At the time of the accident in March 2011, nuclear power plant operators of Unit 1, 2 and 3 were unable to maintain cooling the reactor cores due to power loss. Amongst other this, this resulted in generation of a huge amount of hydrogen gas from the melted fuel. The pressure in the containment buildings continued to increase from accumulation of hydrogen that eventually caused hydrogen explosions in Unit 1, 3 and 4, causing structural damage. However, since November 2011, the nuclear power plant operators have been maintaining these units in a stable condition with no significant release of radioactive material to the environment.

The most important tasks in the decommissioning process are the fuel removal from the spent fuel pools and removal of fuel debris (melted and solidified fuel) from the Primary Containment Vessels (PCV). Currently, various measures are being implemented in order to progress toward these goals, including removal of rubble accumulating in the buildings and investigation of the condition inside the PCV by using state-of-the-art technologies.

( ii ) Unit 1

In July 2015, TEPCO started dismantlement of the building cover of the reactor building as a step to start fuel removal from the spent fuel pool. In October of the same year, the removal of roof panels was completed without any significant change in radiation dose rate around the reactor building. The removal work of the roof panels proceeded carefully and anti-scattering measures were implemented to reduce spread of contamination. Dismantling of wall panels (18 in total) started on September 13 and is scheduled to be completed in November. No significant variation attributable to this work has been identified at the dust monitors installed on the workplace and near the boundary of the site.

Before removing fuel debris, investigation of the condition inside the PCV commenced. From February to September 2015, TEPCO investigated the inside of the PCV by using the “muon”, a kind of cosmic rays, and studied the condition of fuel debris inside. In addition, in April 2015, TEPCO sent robots into the PCV to investigate and collect important information such as radiation level and temperature and also took images from inside. Based on the results of these investigations, studies are now in progress to consider the best approach to remove the fuel debris.



Removal of wall panels



Robot for investigation



Image inside PCV

### (iii) Unit 2

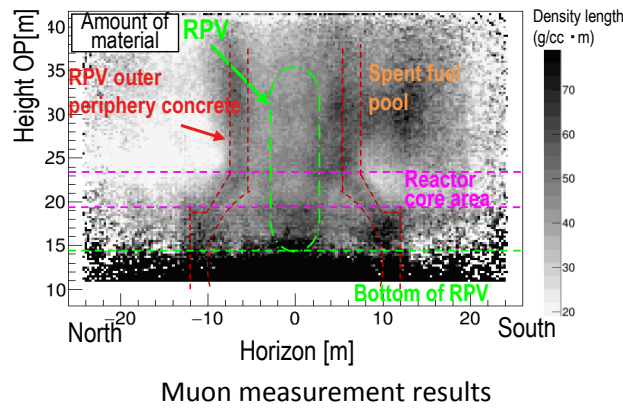
As for Unit 2, a hydrogen explosion did not occur and therefore the building escaped from being damaged. However, TEPCO concluded that it would be better to dismantle the upper part of the reactor building to facilitate the fuel removal from the spent fuel pool. The dismantling work is scheduled for spring 2017. Currently, TEPCO is proceeding with preparation work, such as removal of rubble around the reactor building and building scaffolding.

Another important preparation work is to find out the situation inside the building, around the PCV. Investigation of the inside of the building is being carried out by using robots to confirm conditions. The next step is to study the inside of the PCV, however, the robots with required technology for the investigation are still under development.

An investigation to capture the location of fuel debris inside the Unit 2 was conducted from March 22 to July 22. This operation applied the muon transmission method of which effectiveness was demonstrated in its appliance for locating the debris inside Unit 1. These operations used a small device developed through the "Development of Technology to Detect Fuel Debris inside the Reactor" project funded by a government subsidy.

The result of the investigation indicates that high-density material which are considered as fuel debris are at the bottom of the RPV (Reactor Pressure Vessel) as well as the lower part and outer periphery of the reactor core. It is assumed that most of the fuel debris existed at the bottom of the RPV.





( iv ) Unit 3

In August 2015, TEPCO completed removal of the Fuel Handling Machine (FHM) rubble from the spent fuel pool. By the end of November, all rubble remaining in the pool was removed. In the next step, an equipment to cover the upper part of the building as well as a crane will be installed to start removing spent fuel from the pool.

Concurrent with the above activities, investigation of the current condition inside the PCV is underway. In October 2015, robots were sent into the PCV and successfully collected useful information. The images taken by the robots confirmed that the main structure and walls inside the PCV had not been damaged. The next step is to analyse the collected data to study how to remove fuel debris from the PCV.



Installing shields on the operating floor

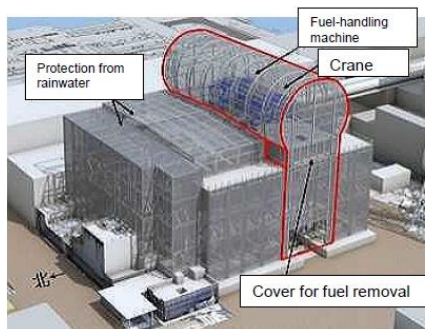


Image of the cover for fuel removal at Unit 3



Image inside PCV

( v ) Unit 4

In spite of a hydrogen explosion, the fuel assemblies of Unit 4 were not damaged, as the plant was in cold shutdown status and all the fuel had been stored in the spent fuel pool before the accident. The fuel assemblies in the pool were taken out and transferred to the common pool located within the station site. This fuel removal operation started on November 2013 and was safely completed in December 2014. Fully utilizing this successful experience, the fuel assemblies remaining in the spent fuel pools of Units 1, 2 and 3 will be removed.





Equipment for fuel removal



Storage of removed fuel

(vi) Unit 5 and 6

These reactors were not operating at the time of the accident, but the fuel remained in the reactor. In addition, unlike the case of Units 1, 2 and 3, the reactors of Unit 5 and 6 did not encounter power loss and the reactor cores were successfully cooled off.

Given that the conditions of the buildings and the equipment for storing the fuel are stable and risks of causing any problem in the decommissioning process are estimated to be low compared to the other Units, the fuel assemblies of Units 5 and 6 are safely stored in the spent fuel pool in each building for the time being. The following step will be to carefully remove fuel from the spent fuel pools without impact on fuel removal from Units 1, 2 and 3.

Besides these efforts, various measures are ongoing at Fukushima Daiichi NPS. For more detailed information, please refer to the monthly “Progress Status Report” of METI below.

The Progress Status Report as of September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160929\\_e.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160929_e.pdf)

The Progress Status Report as of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160825\\_e.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/20160825_e.pdf)

### 2.3: Organizations related to decommissioning and contaminated water management

#### (1) Fukushima Daiichi Decontamination & Decommissioning (D&D) Engineering Company

In April 2014, TEPCO established a company for the purpose of clarifying the responsibilities and authorities inside the company, and streamlining the process of decision making regarding decommissioning and contaminated water management at Fukushima Daiichi NPS.

In addition, the company invited nuclear specialists from outside TEPCO, such as high rank nuclear executives of manufacturers, in order to collect and share expertise and technology of manufacturers.

This company is playing an important role on the frontline of decommissioning and contaminated water management.

TEPCO’s website related to Fukushima Daiichi D&D Engineering Company:

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommision/team/index-e.html>

#### (2) Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF)

In August 2014, Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Fund, originally established in 2011 to support the compensation for nuclear damage resulted from the Fukushima Daiichi NPS accident, was reorganized into Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF).

The NDF's mission is to support decommissioning activities at Fukushima Daiichi NPS. For example, it formulates decommissioning strategies and develops plans for the research and development (R&D) program on technology necessary for decommissioning.

The NDF and METI co-organized an international forum, in April 2016, on the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi NPS. The forum was attended by as many as 641 people from 15 countries (including Japan). Main subjects were "Communications with Local Communities" and "World-leading Technical Session regarding Decommissioning." "Decommissioning Technology Exhibition" was also held with participation of 37 institutions (16 from overseas).

NDF's booklet:

[http://www.ndf.go.jp/soshiki/pamph\\_e.pdf](http://www.ndf.go.jp/soshiki/pamph_e.pdf)

The 1st International Forum on the Decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi NPS:

[http://ndf-forum.com/index\\_en.html](http://ndf-forum.com/index_en.html)

### (3) International Research Institute for Nuclear Decommissioning (IRID)

In August 2013, IRID was established by 18 corporations and organizations related to R&D of technology for the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi NPS. In accordance with the Mid-and-long-term Roadmap written by the Japanese government, IRID is conducting R&D on removal of fuel from the spent fuel pools, removal of fuel debris from the PCVs and disposal of radioactive wastes, and gathering domestic and international expertise. Currently, methods developed by IRID are being applied to investigations into Unit 1-3 reactor buildings, such as various kinds of robots and the muon cosmic ray.

IRID's website:

<http://irid.or.jp/en/>

### (4) Collaborative Laboratories for Advanced Decommissioning Science (CLADS)

In April 2015, Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) established the CLADS, based on the Acceleration Plan of Reactor Decommissioning R&D for Fukushima Daiichi NPS, written by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). This institution is aimed at being an international hub for R&D on decommissioning, and promoting cooperation in R&D and human resource development (HRD) among government, industry and academia.

JAEA will construct the International Collaborative Research Facility in Fukushima in March 2017, as a central facility of CLADS where educational and research institutions at home and abroad work together to conduct R&D on decommissioning. Furthermore, as its R&D bases in Fukushima, JAEA built the Naraha Remote Technology Development Center in October 2015. A ceremony to commemorate the completion of the test building was held in March 2016, and full-scale operation started from this April. In addition, the Okuma Analysis and Research Center will be launched from spring 2017. CLADS is expected to collaborate on research activities with these centers.

JAEA's website related to the CLADS:

<http://fukushima.jaea.go.jp/english/index.html>

## 2.4: Related information

- Measures for Mid-term Risk Reduction at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS (Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA)) (March 31, 2016)  
<http://www.nsr.go.jp/data/000148374.pdf>

## Section 3: Monitoring results

### 3.1: Onsite monitoring results reported by TEPCO

#### 3.1.1 Radionuclide releases to the atmosphere

##### (1) Outline of the item

On-going monitoring of the air at the site of Fukushima Daiichi NPS has detected no significant increase in radiation levels.

##### (2) Noteworthy change in data during the period from August to September 2016

The monitoring result is ND (ND indicates that the measurement result is below the detection limit). In this regard, no announcement has been made by TEPCO for this item.

##### (3) Monitoring result data

The monitoring results in the air at the site of the NPS are available in the following webpage (Please see the calendar titled "Air on the premises of Power Station"). This monitoring result is updated every day on this site.

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/index-e.html>

#### 3.1.2 Radionuclide releases to the sea (including groundwater monitoring results)

##### (1) General outline of the item

Results of radioactive nuclide analysis are published for the samples of groundwater at the east side of the Unit 1-4 turbine buildings and seawater at the port in order to monitor the source and the extent of the radioactive materials in the groundwater, and to determine whether the materials included in groundwater affect the sea.

Increase of the radioactivity level observed within the port, in an area smaller than 0.3 km<sup>2</sup>. However, ongoing monitoring in the surrounding ocean area has detected no significant increase in radiation levels outside the port or in the open sea, and has shown that radiation levels in these areas remain within the standards of the World Health Organizations guidelines for drinking water.

##### (2) TEPCO's report on radionuclide releases to the sea

TEPCO issued a report which includes progress and status of the ground improvement by sodium silicate. This report is available online:

[http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/handouts/2015/images/handouts\\_150109\\_02-e.pdf](http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/handouts/2015/images/handouts_150109_02-e.pdf)

In addition, the historical data of radioactive concentration in the groundwater sampled at the Unit 1-4 bank protection are available online with the csv format. The data from north of Unit 1, between intakes of Units 1 and 2, between intakes of Units 2 and 3, and between intakes of Units 3 and 4 are available at the following sites respectively.

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2014/images/2tb-east-newest02-e.csv>

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2014/images/2tb-east-newest03-e.csv>

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2014/images/2tb-east-newest04-e.csv>

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2014/images/2tb-east-newest05-e.csv>

### (3) Related information

Analyses regarding radionuclide releases are conducted in different parts of the sea (outside of the port, inside of the port, and inside of the Unit 1-4 water intake channel). Results of these analyses and analysis results of groundwater are as follows (the information is automatically updated daily).

- Analysis Results of Seawater (Outside of the Port)  
[http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/seawater\\_map-e.pdf](http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/seawater_map-e.pdf)
- Analysis Results of Seawater (Inside of the Port)  
[http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/intake\\_canal\\_map-e.pdf](http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/intake_canal_map-e.pdf)
- Analysis Results of Seawater (Inside of Unit 1-4 Water Intake Channel)  
[http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/2tb-east\\_map-e.pdf](http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/2tb-east_map-e.pdf)
- Analysis Results of Groundwater (Unit 1-4 Bank Protection)  
[http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/tb-east\\_map-e.pdf](http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/smp/2016/images/tb-east_map-e.pdf)

## 3.2: Offsite monitoring results

1. Monitoring results of air dose rates obtained within the 20 km zone around Fukushima Daiichi NPS

### (1) Outline of the item

The monitoring of air dose rates within the 20 km zone around Fukushima Daiichi NPS has been conducted. The air dose rates within the 20 km zone are

gradually declined with the lapse of time since May 2011 (soon after the accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPS on March 11, 2011).

(2) Noteworthy updates in the past months

As described in (1) above, the air dose rates within the 20 km zone around the NPS have been on a decreasing trend, and the monitored air dose rates were stable from August 2016 to September 2016. Based on these results, any further announcement was not made on this item (e.g., a significant rise of air dose rates within the 20 km zone) during this period; therefore the frequency of the implementation of monitoring by survey meter was changed to annual.

(3) Monitoring results

The following URL leads to the monitoring results of air dose rates in Fukushima prefecture including the 20 km zone around Fukushima Daiichi NPS:

<http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/map/ja/> ( in Japanese)

[http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/contents/12000/11435/24/206\\_20160916.pdf](http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/contents/12000/11435/24/206_20160916.pdf)

2. Monitoring results of dust in air and soil within the 20 km zone around Fukushima Daiichi NPS

(1) Dust

The monitoring results of dust obtained from August 2016 to September 2016 show that the concentrations of dust were either ND (ND indicates that the measurement result is below the detection limit) or very low. Based on the results, any further announcement was not made on this item (e.g., a significant rise of the activity concentrations obtained from dust samples) during this period.

The following URL leads to the monitoring results (dated August 10, 2016) of dust:

[http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/contents/12000/11359/24/223\\_20160818.pdf](http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/contents/12000/11359/24/223_20160818.pdf)

(2) Soil

Radiation monitoring of soil is conducted as appropriate. The most recent monitoring of soil was conducted in January 2016. The following URL leads to the monitoring results (dated January 22, 2016) of soil:

[http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/contents/11000/10720/24/495\\_20160122.pdf](http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/contents/11000/10720/24/495_20160122.pdf)

(3) Previous monitoring results

The following URL provides the previous monitoring results (from April 2011 to the present) of dust in air:

<http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/list/240/list-1.html>

3. Converted values and measured values of environmental radiation dose rate at 1m height from the ground surface in 46 prefectures in total other than Fukushima Prefecture

(1) Outline

The air dose rates measured using the monitoring stations located in other prefectures have mostly returned to the equal level of the air dose rates before the accident.

(2) Updates from August 2016 to September 2016

The converted and measured values were relatively stable from August 2016 to September 2016. Based on the results, any further announcement was not made on this item (e.g., a significant rise of the converted and measured values) during this period.

(3) Monitoring results

The following URL leads to the estimated and measured values, and new monitoring results are uploaded nearly every day:

<http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/list/192/list-1.html>

### **3.3: Sea area monitoring results of seawater, sediment and biota**

(1) Outline

Sea area monitoring results in the area around Fukushima Daiichi NPS have indicates that the radioactivity levels obtained from the outside of the port or in the open sea have been relatively stable.

(2) Updates during the period from August 2016 to September 2016

The sea area monitoring results from August 2016 to September 2016 were relatively stable as described in (1) above. Based on the results, any further announcement was not made on this item (e.g., a significant rise of sea area monitoring results) during this period.

(3) Related information

Sea area monitoring is classified to be conducted in 5 areas (Area 1: Sea area close to TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS, Area 2: Coastal area, Area 3: Off-shore area, Area 4: Outer sea area, and Area 5: Tokyo bay area), and this information is available under the "Monitoring of Sea Water", section of the NRA webpage entitled "Readings of Sea Area Monitoring". This webpage also includes monitoring results of sediment under the "Monitoring of Marine Soil" section, and it is also classified into 4 areas (Area 1: Sea area close to TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS, Area 2: Coastal area, Area 3: Off-shore area, Area 4: Tokyo bay area). The NRA has been providing report on sea area monitoring results. The "Readings of Sea Area Monitoring" webpage covers various issues and the webpage's information is periodically updated several times a week. The following URL lead to the webpage and report on sea area monitoring:

- Readings of Sea Area Monitoring  
<http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/list/205/list-1.html>
- Sea Area Monitoring (Monthly Report)  
<http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/en/list/295/list-1.html>
- F1 issues (NRA is providing monitoring results weekly to the IAEA which are openly shared with the public)



<http://www.nsr.go.jp/english/f1issues/index.html>

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/fukushima/status-update>

## **Section 4: Off-site Decontamination**

### **4.1: Outline**

Off-site decontamination is in operation since the accident of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPS. Currently, target areas of decontamination are categorized as below.

#### **4.1.1 Special Decontamination Area (SDA)**

National Government is responsible for development of plans and implementation of measures for decontamination of SDA. SDA consists of the previous “restricted areas” located within a 20 km radius from the NPS and the previous “deliberate evacuation areas” which are beyond 20km radius from the NPS and where the additional annual effective dose for individuals was anticipated to exceed 20 mSv in the first year after the accident.

#### **4.1.2 Intensive Contamination Survey Area (ICSA)**

ICSA is the area where the air dose rate is over 0.23 uSv/h (equivalent to over 1 mSv/y of additional dose under a certain condition). At first, 104 municipalities in 8 prefectures were designated as ICSA. Decontamination for the area is implemented by each municipality with financial and technical supports by the national government.

### **4.2: Current status**

#### **4.2.1 SDA**

- Development of decontamination plans for all 11 municipalities were completed.
- Decontamination work for 7 municipalities (Tamura-city, Kawauchi-village, Naraha-town, Okuma-town, Katsurao-village, Kawamata-town and Futaba-town at the end of March 2016) has been completed in accordance with the decontamination plans.

#### **4.2.2 ICSA within Fukushima Pref. as of the end of July 2016 (Outside of Fukushima Pref. as of the end of June 2016)**

- Approximately 90% (almost all in other prefectures) of planned decontamination projects for public facilities have been completed.
- Approximately 90% (almost all in other prefectures) of planned decontamination projects for residential houses have been completed.

### **4.3: Related information**

Since July 2015, a consultant meeting summarized “the strategy for volume reduction and recycling technology development” and “roadmap” in this April.

Main contents are as follows:

- For recycling of soil, MOE should promote the classification of decontamination soil. And purified materials should be also increased as much as possible.

- MOE should share information with the public to build national consensus for recycling.

Evacuation orders were lifted in Katsurao village on June 12, a part of Kawauchi village (former “Areas in which residents are not permitted to live”) on June 14 and in Minamisoma city on July 12.

The following URL leads to the web page of MOE’s, which posts updated information related to Environmental Remediation

- Measures for Decontamination of Radioactive Materials Discharged by the accident at the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi NPS.

<http://josen.env.go.jp/en/>

## **Section 5: Food products**

### **5.1: Summary of testing**

Food samples are routinely monitored to ensure that they are safe for all members of the public.

During the month of August 2016, 29,937 samples were taken and analysed. Among these samples, 19 samples were found to be above the limits (caesium-134+caesium-137: 100 Becquerel/kg). This represents 0.06 percent of all samples.

During the month of September 2016, 22,438 samples were taken and analysed. Among these samples, 20 samples were found to be above the limits (caesium-134+caesium-137: 100 Becquerel/kg). This represents 0.09 percent of all samples.

Restrictions are imposed on the distribution of food products, if the level of radioactive contaminants of the food product exceeds the limit (caesium-134+caesium-137: 100 Becquerel/kg). Restrictions are to be removed, when the level of radioactive contaminants of the food product is monitored to be constantly below the limit for a certain period of time. Therefore, the products on which the distribution restrictions are newly imposed are the products whose radioactive contaminant level exceeded the limit in the past month. By the same logic, the products whose restrictions are newly removed are the products whose radioactive contaminant level has been lower than the limit for a certain period of time.

### **5.2: Results of monitoring food products**

(1) The current situation and protective measures

The fact sheet uploaded in the link below is the summary of the current situation and the measures taken by the Government of Japan:

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/dl/food-130926\\_1.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/dl/food-130926_1.pdf)

(2) Noteworthy updates in the past months (during the period from August 2016 to September 2016 )

The lists of food products whose status regarding the restriction was changed are as follows.

- (i) Products whose distribution was newly restricted in August 2016
  - none
- (ii) Products whose restrictions were removed in August 2016
  - Fat greenling, Red tongue sole, Brown hakeling, Ocellate spot skate and Marbled flounder captured in part of Fukushima offshore
- (iii) Products whose distribution was newly restricted in September 2016
  - Wild mushroom produced in Murata-machi, Miyagi prefecture
- (iv) Products whose restrictions were removed in September 2016
  - Bamboo shoot produced in Ibaraki-machi, Ibaraki prefecture
  - Bamboo shoot produced in Abiko-shi, Chiba prefecture

(3) Monitoring results data

See the link below (new monitoring results are added once a week):

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index\\_food\\_radioactive.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index_food_radioactive.html)

(4) Information focused on the safety of the fishery products

The information that is provided above in (1)-(3) cover fishery products, but in addition to this information, further detailed information is available on the Fisheries Agency's website

<http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/inspection/index.html>

(i) Summary of monitoring on fishery products

The first half of the website consists of summary of monitoring on fishery products. For further information and to see the actions taken to ensure the safety of fishery products, please refer to the fact sheet uploaded in the site. This fact sheet is available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Korean.

(ii) "Report on the Monitoring of Radionuclides in Fishery Products" was updated by the Fisheries Agency of Japan

Since the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS, the Government of Japan and local authorities have cooperated closely with relevant bodies to secure the safety of fishery products. With an aim to promote accurate understanding on the safety of Japanese fisheries products at home and abroad, the data and information accumulated in the inspection of the last three years was evaluated comprehensively in the previous Report, which was published in May 2014.

In April 2015, the Fisheries Agency of Japan released updated Report, which reflects latest data and recent research results. It shows that, after four years from the accident, the level of radioactive Cs in fishery products has declined substantially.

The Report is available at the following URLs:

- Japanese version, full Report  
[http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/housyanou/pdf/report\\_zenbun.pdf](http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/housyanou/pdf/report_zenbun.pdf)
- Japanese version, summary  
[http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/housyanou/pdf/report\\_gaiyou\\_a.pdf](http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/housyanou/pdf/report_gaiyou_a.pdf)
- English translation, full report

[http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/inspection/pdf/report\\_on\\_the\\_monitoring\\_of\\_radionuclides\\_in\\_fishery\\_products.pdf](http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/inspection/pdf/report_on_the_monitoring_of_radionuclides_in_fishery_products.pdf)

- English translation, summary  
[http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/inspection/pdf/summary\\_report\\_1\\_1.pdf](http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/inspection/pdf/summary_report_1_1.pdf)
- (iii) Monitoring results data  
The second half of the website consists of various monitoring results on radioactivity measured in fishery products.

## Section 6: Radiation Protection of Workers

Information pertaining to radiation protection of workers involving TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPP Accident is updated on the following website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW):

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/index.html>

### 6.1: TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPP

The status on the exposure dose, health care management and radiation protection of the workers at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPP are as follows.

#### (1) Status of Radiation Exposure

Exposure doses of the workers at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPP are reported to the MHLW once a month. The latest monthly report is available on the following webpage:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/irpw/index.html>

#### (2) Radiation Protection

Information on radiation protection of workers including measures to be taken and evaluation of committed effective dose of workers at the affected plant:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/index.html>

Results of supervision and instruction activities for employers of decommissioning and decontamination workers at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (in 2015) (Updated on April 13, 2016)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/rp\\_160413.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/rp_160413.pdf)

Results of supervision and instruction activities for employers of workers engaged in decommissioning of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (from 11 March 2011 to 30 September 2015) (Updated on November 20, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/rp\\_151120.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/rp_151120.pdf)

#### (3) Long-term Health Care

Updated Information on long-term health care of emergency workers including health examination and guidelines;

“Policies for Epidemiological Studies Targeting Emergency Workers at the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Have Been Compiled.” is available on the following webpage. (Updated on June 4, 2014)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/lhc/pr\\_140604.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/lhc/pr_140604.html)

#### (4) Good Practices in Radiation Exposure Controls

Good Practices in Radiation Exposure Control at the Fukushima Daiichi NPP (Fiscal Year of 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/gre/gre\\_151111.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/gre/gre_151111.html)

#### (5) Other Related Topics

Updated other related information on the workers at TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi NPP:

Start of a weekly on-site consultation desk to address health matters of decommissioning workers, etc. (Updated on June 24, 2016)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/ort/ort\\_160624.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/ort/ort_160624.html)

Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Demands Thorough Implementation of Occupational Accident Prevention Measures (Updated on January 23, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/pr/pr\\_150123.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/pr/pr_150123.html)

## **6.2: Decontamination/Remediation**

The status on radiation protection of the workers engaged in decontamination and remediation of contaminated materials derived from Fukushima Daiichi NPP Accident is as follows.

#### (1) Decontamination/Remediation

Updated Information on decontamination and remediation including guidelines and results of labour inspection:

Results of supervision and instruction activities for employers of decommissioning and decontamination workers at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (in 2015) (Updated on April 13, 2016)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/rp/rp\\_160413.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/rp/rp_160413.pdf)

Promotion of General Measures toward Improvement of Level of Compliance with Laws and Ordinances for Decontamination Works, etc (Fukushima Prefectural Labour Bureau Notification No. 1030-2) (Updated on October 30, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/dr/dr\\_151030.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/dr/dr_151030.pdf)

Results of supervision and instruction activities for employers of decontamination workers (from Jan. to June 2015) (Updated on October 9, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/dr/dr\\_151009.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/dr/dr_151009.pdf)

Results of supervision/instructions to employers of decontamination workers (July - December 2014) (Updated on March 5, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/dr/dr\\_150305.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/dr/dr_150305.html)

## (2) Waste Disposal

Information on waste disposal work including guidelines:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/index.html>

## (3) Other Related Topics

Other related information on waste disposal work:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/index.html>

### **6.3: Related Information**

#### (1) Press Releases

Press releases from the MHLW on radiation protection of workers are updated on the following webpage.

Dose distribution of workers engaged in decontamination and related works, etc. per quarter [Flash report] [From July 2014 to June 2015] (by Radiation Effects Association) (Updated on October 15, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/ort/ort\\_151015.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/ort/ort_151015.pdf)

Measures to prevent radiation hazards for emergency workers at nuclear facilities were formulated- Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards and related regulations were partially revised to be applied from 1 April 2016 - (Updated on August 31, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/pr\\_150831.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/pr_150831.html)

Measures for occupational safety and health management will be enhanced at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant - A guideline was formulated - (Updated on August 26, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/pr\\_150826.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepc/rp/pr_150826.html)

Producing and Offering Graphic Presentations of Dose Statistical Data Based on the Information Registered with the System of Registration and Management of Radiation



Exposure Doses for Decontamination and Related Works (2014) (by Radiation Effects Association) (Updated on July 14, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/ort/pr\\_150714.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/dr/ort/pr_150714.html)

Quarterly Radiation Exposure Dose Distribution of Workers for Decontamination and Related Works, etc. (Preliminary Figures) [From April 2014 to March 2015] (by Radiation Effects Association) (Updated on July 14, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ors/oi/pr\\_150714\\_a01.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ors/oi/pr_150714_a01.pdf)

A recommendation received from the Labor Policy Council confirming the validity of the “Outline of the Draft Ministerial Ordinance for Partial Revision of the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards” (Updated on June 18, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorp/pr\\_150618.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorp/pr_150618.html)

Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Demands Thorough Implementation of Occupational Accident Prevention Measures (Updated on January 23, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/pr/pr\\_150123.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/pr/pr_150123.html)

## (2) Guidelines/Notifications

Guidelines and notifications from the MHLW on radiation protection of workers are available on the following webpage.

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/index.html>

Guideline on Revision of Part of the Guidelines on Safety and Health Education for Those Who Are Currently Engaged in Dangerous or Harmful Operations (Labour Standards Bureau Notification No. 0831-6) (Updated on August 31, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorprp/pr\\_150831\\_attachment09.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorprp/pr_150831_attachment09.pdf)

Formulation of the Guideline: “Guidelines on Maintaining and Improving Health of Emergency Workers at Nuclear Facilities, etc.” (Labour Standards Bureau Notification No. 0831-10) (Updated on August 31, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorprp/pr\\_150831\\_attachment10.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorprp/pr_150831_attachment10.pdf)

Formulation of the “Guidelines on occupational safety and health management at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant” (Updated on August 26, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorprp/pr\\_150826\\_attachment03.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepcorprp/pr_150826_attachment03.pdf)

## Regulations/Legislations

Regulations and legislations of the MHLW on radiation protection of workers are available on the following webpage.

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/index.html>

Opinions on the Draft Ministerial Ordinance to Revise Part of the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards (Updated on August 31, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/rl/pr\\_150831.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/rl/pr_150831.pdf)

Enforcement of the Ministerial Ordinance for Partial Revision of the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards and Other Related Regulations (Labour Standards Bureau Notification No. 0831-13) (Updated on August 31, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/rp/pr\\_150831\\_attachment11.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/tepco/rp/pr_150831_attachment11.pdf)

### (3) Governmental reports

Governmental reports issued by the MHLW are available on the following webpage.

Result of review at the "review meeting on occupational/non-occupational ionizing radiation disease" and approval as occupational disease/injury (Updated on August 19, 2016)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/gr/gr\\_160819.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/gr/gr_160819.pdf)

Responses and Actions Taken by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan on Radiation Protection at Works Relating to the Accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant 3rd Edition (Fiscal Year of 2015) (Updated on January 31, 2016)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/gr/gr\\_160131.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/gr/gr_160131.pdf)

Result of review at the "review meeting on occupational /non-occupational ionizing radiation disease" and approval as occupational disease/injury (Updated on October 20, 2015)

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/employ-labour/labour-standards/dl/151111-01.pdf>

A Report Has Been Compiled on Methods etc. for Providing Health care and Exposure Dose Control during Emergency Works in Nuclear Facilities. (Updated on May 1, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/pr/pr\\_150520.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/pr/pr_150520.html)

Response and Action Taken by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan on Radiation Protection at Works Relating to TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident. (Updated on March 31, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/gr/pr\\_150331\\_a01.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/gr/pr_150331_a01.pdf)

### (4) Leaflets/Brochures

Leaflets and brochures published by the MHLW on radiation protection of workers are available on the following webpage.

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/index.html>

More thorough implementation of ensuring working conditions and controlling radiation exposure, etc. of workers engaged in decontamination and related works. (Updated on April, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/lb/lb\\_1504.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/lb/lb_1504.pdf)

Engaging in decontamination and related works by young people below the age of 18 (minors) is prohibited. (Updated on February, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/lb/lb\\_1502.pdf](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ri/lb/lb_1502.pdf)

(5) Other Institutions

Statistics on Radiation Exposure Doses of Decontamination Workers and Other Items Have Been Announced. (Updated on April 15, 2015)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ors/oi/pr\\_150415.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ors/oi/pr_150415.html)

The launch of the organization for systematic control of radiation exposure doses, etc. for decontamination and related works (Updated on November 15, 2013)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ors/oi/pr\\_131115.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/workers/ors/oi/pr_131115.html)

## **Section 7: Other issues on recovery operations**

### **7.1: Public communication**

#### **1. Provision of updates to the IAEA**

The Government of Japan has actively been strengthening its communication process to ensure timely dissemination of accurate information on the current status of activities onsite in multiple languages for the international community. Japan provided updates in August on 2, September on 5 and 16, 2016. All of the updates provided to the IAEA are available on this webpage:

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/fukushima/status-update>

#### **2. Lifting of evacuation orders**

Current condition of evacuation order areas of Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant (as of July 2016)

In Katsurao-village, the order of *Habitation Restricted Areas* and *Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Order* were removed on June 12<sup>th</sup>. In Kawauchi-village, the order of *Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Order* was removed on June 14<sup>th</sup>. In Minamisouma-city, the order of *Habitation Restricted Areas* and the order of *Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Order* were removed on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Regarding Iitate-village, the order of *Habitation Restricted Areas* and *Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Order* were decided, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, to be lifted on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.

As preparation for return of residents, long-term stay in the villages has also started in July 2016. In these city and villages, it was confirmed that annual cumulative dose, the total radiation dose which residents in the city and villages would receive per year, was surely below 20mSv, and also the reconstruction of infrastructure necessary for people's daily life and decontamination were steadily advancing. In the wake of consultation with these city and villages and adequate explanation to the residents through briefing sessions and by other means, the above-mentioned lift of the evacuation order were determined.

Classification of evacuation orders:

(1) Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Order

Entry into the area is permitted. Overnight stay in the area is generally prohibited. Business activities are permitted except those to be provided for residents living inside the area.

(2) Habitation Restricted Areas

Entry into the area is permitted.

Overnight stay in the area is prohibited in principle. Business activities are permitted but limited in some cases.

(3) Areas where Returning is Difficult

Entry into the area is prohibited in principle, and staying in this area is also prohibited.

3. Relevant activities in disseminating information to the public

(1) Press Conference

Recovery operations at the Fukushima Daiichi NPS including contaminated water issues are one of the major issues which the Government of Japan has been focusing on. Since progress has been made frequently, there are updates arising on a daily basis. To explain the updates to the public, the Government of Japan disseminates the relevant information through press conferences. The Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry are the main briefers of the press conference, but other ministers or press secretaries may also be the briefer, depending on the subject.

(2) Information delivery to media

The government has been providing relevant information for both the domestic and the foreign press including that stationed in Tokyo and for other media, using various means such as press conferences, press briefings, press tours and press releases. For example, the Fisheries Agency has conducted a media tour to a radioactivity monitoring site for fishery products (Marine Ecology Research Institute) in order to facilitate better understanding for monitoring on fishery products.

(3) Providing information to foreign nations through diplomatic channels

Whenever there is a significant update, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sends out a notification with relevant information to all foreign missions stationed in Tokyo. The same information is conveyed to all Japanese embassies, consulate generals, and

missions. As necessary, the information would be shared with foreign nations and relevant organizations through these diplomatic channels.

In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds briefing sessions on Fukushima Daiichi NPS issues for the foreign missions stationed in Tokyo, when there is a significant update. The information on the last briefing session is shown in the link below.

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/inec/page22e\\_000751.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/inec/page22e_000751.html)

Furthermore, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has produced a short video clip on the current situation in Fukushima, in collaboration with the Support Team for Residents Affected by Nuclear Incidents under the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters under the Cabinet Office. This video was shared through many Japanese embassies and ministerial-level bilateral conversations, etc.

The video is available in the following link:

<http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/index.html>

#### (4) Measures taken by TEPCO

TEPCO has thus far been providing briefings on the status of Fukushima Daiichi NPS. In June and October 2014, in order to supplement such briefings, it has arranged for field observation tours of Fukushima Daiichi NPS for diplomatic officials and employees of embassies to Japan.

These briefings have been conducted with the aim of facilitating a correct understanding through the expeditious communication of accurate information outside of Japan, as well as maintaining TEPCO's accountability as the main party responsible for the accident.

The purpose of the field tours is to enable participants to observe the actual circumstances as they are at the power station by viewing and touring the actual site, in conjunction with the briefings at diplomatic missions. Moreover, TEPCO expects to utilize the network of diplomatic officials to build a new relationship, and provide a connection with TEPCO which had not been open before conducting these tours.

#### (5) Disseminating information to Japanese populations

In general, the information is shared with Japanese populations through the channels shown above in (1)-(2). In addition to these efforts, the Government of Japan has improved public communication by enriching the content of relevant ministries' webpage and by hosting a local briefing session on a case by case basis. METI regularly informs the progress of the decommissioning activities and contaminated water countermeasures to Fukushima prefecture and 13 local municipalities surrounding the site through video conference and direct visits.

### 4. Risk Communication

#### (1) Policy package regarding radioactive risk communication aiming for evacuees returning their home

In order to address in detail each person's concern and apprehension, in February 2014, the Government of Japan adopted a policy package regarding radioactive risk communication aiming for evacuees returning to their homes

This package includes following measures:

- (i) Reinforce the ongoing risk communication approaches to further address the individual's concern and apprehension

Up until now, the Government of Japan provided relevant information to the public regarding the impact of radiation on one's health through various measures such as hosting a lecture session or seminar by inviting radiation experts to the evacuation site or supplying a range of publication magazines to affected people.

In addition to these measures, it is necessary to provide open communication for people to freely ask any questions. The Government will address this issue by recognizing that the people's perception on the impact of radiation on one's health varies from person to person.

The Government of Japan will reinforce its risk communication approaches by taking finely textured measures to alleviate individual's concern in evacuation order municipalities.

- (a) Providing information in an accurate and straightforward manner
- (b) Reinforcing risk communication approaches to small groups of people (man to man or in an intimate setting)
- (c) Capacity building of experts in local areas
- (d) Enriching risk communication services being delivered by therapists who closely support the local regions

(ii) Continuous delivery of risk communication service to other areas in Fukushima and expanding to the national audience

Regarding the measures (such as holding meetings to explain radioactive substances in food, providing telephone counseling service to respond to inquiries from people with health anxiety due to radiation, etc.) for risk communication which intend to cover Fukushima prefecture as well as rest of other prefectures in Japan, the Government will feedback the on-site challenges, improve the content and delivery of the measures to more effective ones and would make continuous effort.

## (2) Practical measures for evacuees to return their homes by NRA

NRA formulated practical measures of radiation protection for the evacuees, who will return their homes, from scientific and technological points of view in cooperation with other governmental organizations. The practical measures stay on addressing the difficulties which the evacuees have been facing. It is expected that the practical measures will be helpful for the evacuees to make decisions whether they return their homes or not.

The detail of these measures taken by NRA is available in the following link:

<https://www.nsr.go.jp/data/000067234.pdf>

## 7.2: Websites for your reference

Further information on each section above is available at the following websites:

- The Prime Minister's Office

<http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/waterissues.html>

- The Food Safety Commission (FSC)

[http://www.fsc.go.jp/english/emerg/radiological\\_index\\_e1.html](http://www.fsc.go.jp/english/emerg/radiological_index_e1.html)

- The Reconstruction Agency (RA)



<http://www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/>

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/incidents/index.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/incidents/index.html)

- The Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare (MHLW)

[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index\\_food\\_policies.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index_food_policies.html)

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

[http://www.maff.go.jp/e/quake/press\\_110312-1.html](http://www.maff.go.jp/e/quake/press_110312-1.html)

- The Fisheries Agency (FA)

<http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/index.html>

- The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

<http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/index.html>

- The Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

<http://iosen.env.go.jp/en/>

- The Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA)

<http://www.nsr.go.jp/english/>

- The Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)

<http://www.jaea.go.jp/english/index.html>

- Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/index-e.html>

- Fukushima Daiichi Decontamination & Decommissioning Engineering Company

[http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/press/corp-com/release/2014/1235009\\_5892.html](http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/press/corp-com/release/2014/1235009_5892.html)

- Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF)

[http://www.ndf.go.jp/soshiki/pamph\\_e.pdf](http://www.ndf.go.jp/soshiki/pamph_e.pdf)

- International Research Institute for Nuclear Decommissioning (IRID)

<http://irid.or.jp/en/>

- The Collaborative Laboratories for Advanced Decommissioning Science (CLADS)

<http://fukushima.jaea.go.jp/english/topics/pdf/topics-fukushima066e.pdf>

## **IAEA assessment on aspects presented in the October 2016 report ‘Events and highlights on the progress related to recovery operations at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station’**

### **Decommissioning and contaminated water management**

Japan reported further progress in the freezing of the land-side impermeable wall (Frozen Soil Wall) from August to September 2016. The underground temperature dropped to 0 °C or lower for 99% of the planned area on the sea side and 92% of the planned area on the mountain side as of 26 September. The effect of this measure will be evaluated by Japan by checking the inflow-outflow balance of groundwater between the land-side and the sea-side impermeable walls.

It was also reported that dismantling of wall panels of the Unit 1 reactor building cover started on 13 September and is scheduled to be completed in November 2016. This is an activity related to the start of fuel removal from the spent fuel pool of Unit 1.

It was further reported that the sub-drain and groundwater drain systems, since its start of operation in September 2015, contributed to decreasing the amount of the water flowing into the reactor buildings to the level of approx. 150–200 m<sup>3</sup> per day compared to approximately 300 m<sup>3</sup> per day before its start. A total of 196 099 m<sup>3</sup> had been drained from the sub-drain and groundwater drain systems as of 27 September 2016 to be treated and released into the sea. The result of sea area monitoring confirms that the radiation level of seawater outside the port area remains low enough compared to the density limit specified by the Reactor Regulation, and no significant change in the radioactivity level has been observed.

*The IAEA acknowledges further progress towards the full operation of the Frozen Soil Wall and the results achieved by the operation of the sub-drain and groundwater drain systems. The IAEA notes the importance of the monitoring of changes of earth temperature and groundwater levels for assessing the effect of the overall countermeasures against the groundwater issues.*

*The progress made in preparing for the removal of fuel from the spent fuel pool of Unit 1 has been noted, including the measures that have been implemented to reduce the potential for the spread of contamination during the fuel removal activities<sup>1</sup>.*

### **Sea area monitoring results**

Sea area monitoring data continue to be published regularly by the NRA. According to the NRA, the results of such monitoring show that radioactivity levels in the marine environment (seawater, sediment and biota) in the areas around Fukushima Daiichi NPS have not been adversely affected by decommissioning and contaminated water management activities onsite. In particular, according to the NRA, the discharges of treated and monitored groundwater have had no detectable effect on the levels of radioactivity measured during the past two months in the marine environment in these areas. The results of hourly seawater radioactivity measurements at the port entrance of Fukushima Daiichi NPS, reported by TEPCO, confirm that levels have been relatively stable over time.

*No significant changes were observed in the monitoring results for seawater, sediment and marine biota during the period from August 2016 until the end of September 2016. The levels measured by Japan in the marine environment are low and relatively stable. For the purpose of public reassurance, the IAEA encourages continuation of sea area monitoring, particularly considering the ongoing authorized discharges of treated and monitored groundwater into the ocean.*

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<sup>1</sup> Such activities have been documented by TEPCO on its website: [http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/press/corp-com/release/2016/1323201\\_7763.html](http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/press/corp-com/release/2016/1323201_7763.html)

*The IAEA considers that the extensive data quality assurance programme helps to ensure that stakeholders can be confident of the accuracy and quality of the sea area monitoring data. The IAEA continues to assist the Government of Japan in ensuring that the regularly updated Sea Area Monitoring Plan is comprehensive, credible and transparent. A proficiency test and two inter-laboratory comparison exercises are organized annually to test the sampling and analytical performance of the Japanese laboratories for the analysis of radioactivity concentration in seawater, sediment and marine organisms. The results of the fifth inter-laboratory comparison exercise study are currently being analysed while a sixth inter-laboratory comparison exercise study is being planned. A third proficiency test started in September 2016, which includes the analysis of radioactivity concentration in seawater.*

*Experts from the IAEA [will visit Japan from 14 to 18 November 2016](https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/mediaadvisories/sixth-iaea-mission-to-collect-marine-samples-from-coastal-waters-off-fukushima-prefecture) to collect water and fish samples from coastal waters off Fukushima Prefecture to support the quality assurance of radioactivity data collection and analysis by the responsible authorities in Japan (<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/mediaadvisories/sixth-iaea-mission-to-collect-marine-samples-from-coastal-waters-off-fukushima-prefecture>).*

### **Food Products**

*As reported by the authorities in Japan, a comprehensive surveillance system is in place for the monitoring of food, including seafood. Also reported by authorities in Japan, national regulatory limits for radionuclides of caesium are in place and food production areas in which food is found to be above these limits are subject to restrictions in order to prevent such food from entering into the food supply chain.*

*There have been no significant changes since the last report. Based on the information provided by the Japanese authorities, the situation with regard to the safety of food, fishery and agricultural production continues to remain stable. Measurements of caesium radionuclide levels in foodstuffs, together with appropriate regulatory action and the publication of monitoring results, are helping to maintain confidence in the safety of the food supply. Food restrictions continue to be revised and updated as necessary in line with the results of food sampling and monitoring. This indicates the continued vigilance of the authorities in Japan and their commitment to protecting consumers and trade.*

*Based on the information that has been made available, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division understands that the measures taken to monitor and respond to issues regarding radionuclide contamination of food are appropriate, and that the food supply chain is controlled effectively by the relevant authorities.*