

Director General's Foreword



The accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in March 2011 and the subsequent operations at the plant have resulted in the accumulation of large amounts of water stored on the site. In April 2021, the Government of Japan published its policy on how it would manage this water. It decided to discharge it gradually into the sea after specific treatment.

Shortly after the decision was made, the Government of Japan requested that the IAEA undertake an independent safety review of Japan's implementation of its policy against the international safety standards.

I agreed with Japan that the IAEA would review the implementation of the Government's plans comprehensively before, during, and after any discharge of the ALPS-treated water.

That year, I established an IAEA Task Force. It is made up of top specialists from within the IAEA's Secretariat advised by internationally recognized outside experts from across the globe, including within the region.

By the nature of its statutory mandate and global reach, the IAEA is able to use the internationally agreed nuclear safety standards as an objective blueprint for assessing the safety of the planned discharges. These international standards are constantly updated, taking into account advances in science and technology and learnings from research and experience. They serve as the indispensable global reference for protecting people and the environment, thereby contributing greatly to a harmonized and high level of nuclear safety worldwide.

This comprehensive report makes the science of the treated water release clear for the international community and I believe answers the technical questions related to safety that have been raised.

Based on its comprehensive assessment, the IAEA has concluded that the approach and activities to the discharge of ALPS treated water taken by Japan are consistent with relevant international safety standards. Furthermore, the IAEA notes the controlled, gradual discharges of the treated water to the sea, as currently planned and assessed by TEPCO, would have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment.

These findings and this comprehensive report represent a significant milestone in the IAEA's review. Even so, our task is only just beginning.

The IAEA will continue its impartial, independent and objective safety review during the discharge phase, including by having a continuous on-site presence and by providing live online monitoring on our website. This will ensure the relevant international safety standards continue to be applied throughout the decades-long process laid out by the Government of Japan and TEPCO. By doing so, the IAEA will continue to provide transparency to the international community making it possible for all stakeholders to rely on verified fact and science to inform their understanding of this matter throughout the process.

Finally, I would like to emphasise that the release of the treated water stored at Fukushima Daiichi Power Station is a national decision by the Government of Japan and that this report is neither a recommendation nor an endorsement of that policy. However, I hope that all who have an interest in this decision will welcome the IAEA's independent and transparent review, and I give an assurance, as I said right at the start of this process, that the IAEA will be there before, during and after the discharge of ALPS treated water.

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