

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the Agency

1. On 18 September 2023, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to convey Japan's position with regard to the discharge of ALPS treated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station(FDNPS).

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Japan requests the Secretariat to circulate this Note as an Information Circular (INFCIRC) to all Member States.

In July, the IAEA issued a Comprehensive Report on the results of its review over the past 2 years on the safety of ALPS treated water. The report concluded that the approach to the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, and the associated activities by TEPCO, the NRA, and the Government of Japan, are consistent with relevant international safety standards and that the discharge of the ALPS treated water, as currently planned by TEPCO, will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment. It should be noted that Japan has never limited the scope of the IAEA Task Force's mandate, nor can it do so. In addition, the discharge of the treated water into the sea was selected as the most appropriate method, as it follows the method adopted at nuclear power plants around the world and its monitoring can be conducted most accurately.

On August 24, 2023, Japan started the discharge of the ALPS treated water into the sea, while taking all possible measures to ensure its safety. Since the start of the discharge, it has been confirmed that the concentration of nuclides, including tritium, contained in the sea water and marine products is far below the regulatory standards, indicating that the discharge is safe, and according to plan.

Japan is implementing three types of monitoring in a multilayered manner with the involvement of the IAEA. For example, the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO) has been checking all ALPS treated water and analyzing radionuclides contained in it before dilution. In addition, TEPCO has been confirming the concentration of tritium in the ALPS treated water after the dilution. If some event occurs, such as detection of radioactive concentration that exceeds the standard, appropriate measures will be taken including decisions not to discharge or the suspension of the discharge. Furthermore, since the discharge began, the monitoring results by the Government of Japan and TEPCO have been made public in a timely manner both domestically and internationally.

【IAEA】

<https://www.iaea.org/topics/response/fukushima-daiichi-nuclear-accident/fukushima-daiichi-alps-treated-water-discharge/tepc-data>

【Government of Japan】

https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/inec/alps_navi06.html

【TEPCO】

<https://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommission/progress/watertreatment/index-e.html>

Additionally, under the framework of the IAEA review of ALPS treated water, the IAEA and several third country analytical laboratories, selected by the IAEA, have conducted interlaboratory comparisons of source monitoring to measure and evaluate radionuclides in the treated water, and environmental monitoring to confirm the status of radioactive materials in the environment. The IAEA's latest interlaboratory comparison includes analytical laboratories of France, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States from the IAEA's Analytical Laboratories for the Measurement of Environmental Radioactivity (ALMERA). Thus, the assessment by the IAEA is both international and objective, with the participation of third countries, and there is a robust system in place to ensure the safety.

On September 8th, the IAEA published the results of its first independent sampling and analysis of seawater near FDNPS since the discharges of ALPS treated water, which confirms that the tritium levels are below Japan's operational limit.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-conducts-its-first-seawater-sampling-after-japans-discharge-of-alps-treated-water-finds-tritium-level-below-limit>

Japan has been taking measures strictly abiding by relevant international law while giving due consideration to international practice and will continue doing so. Japan will never allow any discharge that would adversely affect human health or the environment, and will continue to make every effort to ensure a safe discharge, with the continued involvement of the IAEA, including its reviews.

Japan will continue to provide all relevant data and explanations based on scientific evidence in a timely and transparent manner to the public both domestically and internationally and will continue efforts to gain further understanding from the international community regarding the handling of ALPS treated water.

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



18 September 2023
Vienna
Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency