

Fact Sheet

Overview of Approach and Concrete Actions

October 4, 2013

Tackling the issue of contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is an urgent priority for the Government of Japan. In line with Prime Minister Abe's recent pledges, the Government has assumed a proactive role in resolving the issue, providing JPY47 billion of funding for countermeasures and ensuring that accurate information is disseminated to the international community in a timely and effective manner.

Japan has adopted the highest level of standards for food and water quality, in line with international guidelines, and continues to implement stringent monitoring and distribution management to ensure the safety of food and water in Japan.

The Facts:

- On June 19, 2013, TEPCO announced that contaminated groundwater had been discovered at the Fukushima Daiichi NPS in the area between the turbine buildings and the sea port.
- Since that time, analysis has revealed that contaminated groundwater has been leaking into the power station port.
- Analysis indicates the main source of the contamination is water in cable trenches that connect with circulation pumps near the shore, which became contaminated in March 2011.
- On August 19, 2013, TEPCO announced that contaminated water also leaked from an above ground tank.
- Increased radioactivity has been observed within the port, in an area smaller than 0.3 km². 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 WHO's guidelines for drinking water.

The Response:

Remove the source of contamination

Isolate groundwater from contamination

Prevent further leakage of contaminated water

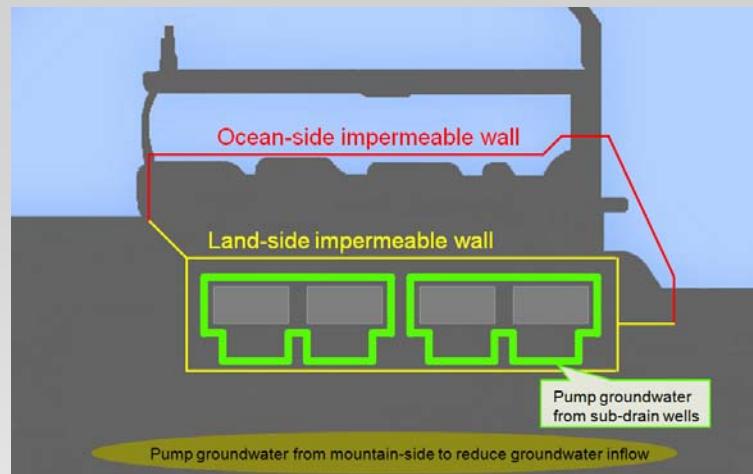
Basic policy:

In response, a dedicated Contaminated Water and Decommissioning Issues Team was established under the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters. Fundamental actions include:

- Establish a team to **gather knowledge and expertise** on a global basis on the challenges and potential technical responses. Proposals on countermeasures are welcomed.
- Adopt a preventive approach through **identification of further potential risks**, and implementation of countermeasures where necessary.
- Maintain an **on-site-focused stance**, to ensure early detection of any issues and enable countermeasures to be monitored and revised as necessary.
- **Reinforce communications efforts** to ensure timely dissemination of accurate information on the current status in multiple languages for the international community.

Countermeasures:

- Treat the soil to prevent contaminated groundwater leaking to the sea (by injecting sodium silicate, also known as liquid glass), and pave the land surface with asphalt to prevent rain water inflow.
- Pump contaminated water from the affected trenches, and isolate these areas from further water flow.
- Pump groundwater from the mountain-side area of the plant, to reduce the amount of ground water inflow to the area.
- Pump groundwater from sub-drain wells that exist around reactor buildings.
- Install impermeable walls on the ocean-side of the plant to prevent leakage into the port and sea.
- Install land side frozen-earth impermeable walls to isolate groundwater flow from the contaminated area.



Implementation Schedule:

