

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Current Status After the Nuclear Power Plant Accident

Communication from Japan

Addendum

The following communication, received on 4 September 2023, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Japan.

In this communication, Japan would like to provide updated information on its communication numbered G/SPS/GEN/1233/Rev.6, circulated on 22 June 2023. Japan would also like to express its regret concerning the WTO-notified emergency measure (G/SPS/N/CHN/1283) taken by China that suspends import of all aquatic products from Japan, despite the situation described below and the following explanation that Japan has consistently offered with respect to the safety of the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, including at the SPS Committee. The measure notified by China is totally unacceptable to Japan. Japan has been urging and continues to urge China to immediately repeal its measure.

1. On 24 August, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO) started the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, following the decision of the Government of Japan at the Ministerial Council on 22 August. The Government of Japan is fully committed to taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of the ALPS treated water discharge, including by implementing robust monitoring and making publicly available the results of the monitoring in a timely and transparent manner.
2. Since the start of the discharge, Japan has been conducting three types of monitoring: (i) monitoring of treated water in tanks, (ii) real-time monitoring, and (iii) sea area monitoring in a multilayered manner with the continued involvement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Japan is committed to taking appropriate measures, including suspension of the discharge, if any event occurs, such as detection, through the monitoring of the concentration levels, of radioactive materials exceeding the discharge suspension level.
3. As part of Japan's continued effort to ensure transparency, all monitoring results are made available on the websites of the Government of Japan and TEPCO as mentioned in (i) to (iii) below. These results clearly show that the tritium concentration level at various monitoring points in the sea area is substantially lower than the discharge standard. They

also demonstrate that the discharge is being conducted as planned and no unusual situation has taken place to date. In this respect, it should be noted that the IAEA concluded in July 2023, after two years of rigorous safety review, that “the discharge of the ALPS treated water, as currently planned by TEPCO, will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment” and that “activity concentrations in international waters will not be influenced by the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea and the transboundary impacts are therefore negligible.”

(i) Monitoring of treated water in tanks

TEPCO’s webpage below is to be updated before each batch of discharge takes place. This page now shows the result of the monitoring of the water that is currently being discharged.

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

(ii) Real-time monitoring

TEPCO’s webpages below show real-time data of tritium concentration after dilution, water flow rate, and gamma radiation level immediately before the discharge into the sea. These pages are updated every hour.

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

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/hd/decommission/data/alpsrtmonitoring/index-e.html>

The IAEA also makes these data publicly available on the following IAEA webpage.

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

(iii) Sea area monitoring

The Overarching Radiation-monitoring data Browsing System (ORBS) compiles the results of monitoring activities by different entities of Japan.

ORBS: https://www.monitororbs.jp/index_en.html

In addition, TEPCO and the Ministry of the Environment and Fisheries Agency publish their latest monitoring results, including concentration of tritium and other radionuclides in sea water and fishery products, on the following webpages respectively. These data are updated on a daily or weekly basis.

TEPCO:

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

Ministry of the Environment (MOE):

<https://shorisui-monitoring.env.go.jp/en/>

Fisheries Agency:

<https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/inspection/index.html#rapid>

4. The ALPS treated water is sufficiently purified until the concentration of radioactive materials other than tritium is below the regulatory standard and it is diluted by seawater before being discharged. Through the ALPS treatment, which has sufficient and stable purification capabilities, the concentration level of radioactive materials is rendered less than the regulatory standard. As for tritium, numerous operating nuclear facilities around the world, including nuclear reactors in China, discharge more tritium on an annual basis than the tritium contained in ALPS treated water from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS). For instance, the amount of tritium to be released annually from FDNPS is approximately 1/10 (one-tenth) of the amount of tritium released from Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant in China.
5. Under the SPS Agreement, it is required that all SPS measures be applied based on scientific principles. However, China adopted the measure to suspend import of all aquatic products from Japan notwithstanding the above-mentioned scientific information provided by Japan. Thus, China's implementation of the measure cannot be regarded as being based on scientific principles. This has become apparent especially after Japan's release of the monitoring results following the start of the discharge of ALPS treated water, as described above.
6. Japan remains ready to provide any further explanation required or to have science-based discussions to dispel any concerns or misunderstandings with regard to the safety of the ALPS treated water discharge, and to provide assurance that there is no need for any emergency measures such as the one taken by China. In addition, for the sake of a rules-based resolution, Japan made a request for discussion on emergency measures based on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, an international agreement binding Japan and China that applies to the current case.