

The Japanese Government and TEPCO failed to take measures to deal with a large amount of groundwater flowing into the reactor buildings, resulting in a large amount of highly contaminated water touching the fuel debris. They are planning to discharge treated water from the ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System), stored in tanks on the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant site, into the Pacific Ocean for more than 30 years, starting in 2023.

There is no precedent in Japan or any other country for a "disposal method" such as "treating" a large amount of radioactively contaminated water generated from contact with molten fuel debris at a nuclear reactor after a severe accident. There is no previous experience in diluting such water with an even more enormous amount of seawater, then systematically releasing it into the ocean over several decades. This "treated water" is different in the source (touched by uranium fissions in the melted fuel rods), quantity, and quality from the liquid tritium-contaminated wastewater released from nuclear power plants in regular operation. [1] ALPS cannot remove the tritium in the "treated water," so the plan is to dilute the highly concentrated tritium with seawater by a factor of 580 to 2,300 before releasing it. It also contains more than 60 radionuclides, including carbon-14 [2], which likewise cannot be removed by ALPS, and cesium-137 and strontium-90, which ALPS cannot altogether remove.

The Government decided on this "basic policy" ("Basic Policy on the Disposal of ALPS Processed Water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant") for discharging this ALPS process water into the ocean on April 13, 2021, over the objections of many people including fishermen. The decision allows the Japanese Government and TEPCO to take no responsibility for the severe accident at the nuclear power plant and their failure to take countermeasures against contaminated water. Furthermore, it forces people to suffer additional radioactive contamination and exposure.

The London Convention/Protocol prohibits intentionally discharging radioactive water into the ocean. Such discharge also violates the human rights of people not only in Japan but also in many other countries that share the Pacific Ocean. The UN Special Rapporteurs have also expressed concern that this decision could threaten human health and the environment. [6]

The Government and TEPCO have given "three reasons" for discharging ALPS-treated water to the sea from the spring of 2023:

- 1) the tanks will be full next spring,
- 2) the site needs to be vacated for decommissioning work,
- 3) contaminated water will continue to be generated.

However, all of these reasons are false.

We have been organizing a devised signature campaign to demand the Japanese Government and TEPCO withdraw from their plan.

We need further support from our colleagues of Abolition 2000 from all over the world.

Katsumi Furitsu

Chernobyl-Hibakusha Support, Kansai (CHSK)