

Citizens' Commission on Nuclear Energy (CCNE)

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Urgent recommendations for bringing the Fukushima accident under control and establishing a system to cope with contaminated water leaks

Recommendations

1. There have been a series of troubles during the past attempts to handle the Fukushima Nuclear Accident, and highly radioactive water continues to leak. This situation clearly indicates that: the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is yet to be brought under control; the Japanese Government was wrong in previously declaring that it had the situation under control; the government has failed to establish a system that can responsibly and appropriately respond to the accident; and Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) lacks both will and capability to bring the situation under control and manage the contaminated water. The government should first acknowledge the fact that the accident is ongoing, and recognise the political responsibility it bears to manage the situation, including the problems of radioactive water. The government's full commitment to re-establish a system to manage the crisis is critical. TEPCO should follow the government's instruction and fulfil its obligations, such as disclosure of information.
2. A new entity should be established to urgently ensure responsive management of the contaminated water. This entity should have experts from relevant fields as its members, and adopt the Project Management Method. We call for a Program Management Office (PMO) with full authority to be set up, and for this PMO to be allocated capable project staff with sufficiently vast experience of working in task forces.
3. In implementing the countermeasures against water leakage, the most appropriate technologies should be chosen as needed. We propose building large water tanks; replacing the existing temporary Contaminated Water Treatment System with a more durable and permanent one; and establishing a system that prevents contaminated water from leaking into the ocean.
4. For the past two and a half years, TEPCO proved itself incapable of properly coping with the accident and implementing appropriate countermeasures against radioactive leaks. Legal liquidation procedures and/or corporate division will have to be considered. However, it is more pressing to separate an independent operating body that works to tackle the disaster, including the radioactive water management, from the overall corporation. In order fundamentally to review TEPCO's management structure and legal status, a "Special Investigation Committee" should be set up within the National Diet.