

Chapter 2 Progress of Measures for Nuclear Disasters

Section 1: Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems

1-1 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness System under Non-Emergency Conditions

In the case of a nuclear emergency, the resultant damage would be immense and extensive, so the whole government must work together cohesively to develop and promote nuclear emergency response measures. Accordingly, the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Council has been established within the Cabinet Office to promote nuclear emergency preparedness measures by the government as a whole under non-emergency conditions. The main role of this Council is to verify based on the Nuclear Emergency Response Guidelines the concreteness and practicality of the emergency response plans drawn by each Local Nuclear Disaster Management Council, which is comprised of representatives of the Cabinet Office and other related ministries and agencies and local governments. The Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Council is chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Chief Cabinet Secretary, Minister of the Environment, Cabinet Office Minister of State for the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, and the Chairman of the NRA as Vice Chairpersons, and all Ministers of State and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management, and others, serving as Council Members (Fig. 1-1-1).

1-2 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness System in an Emergency

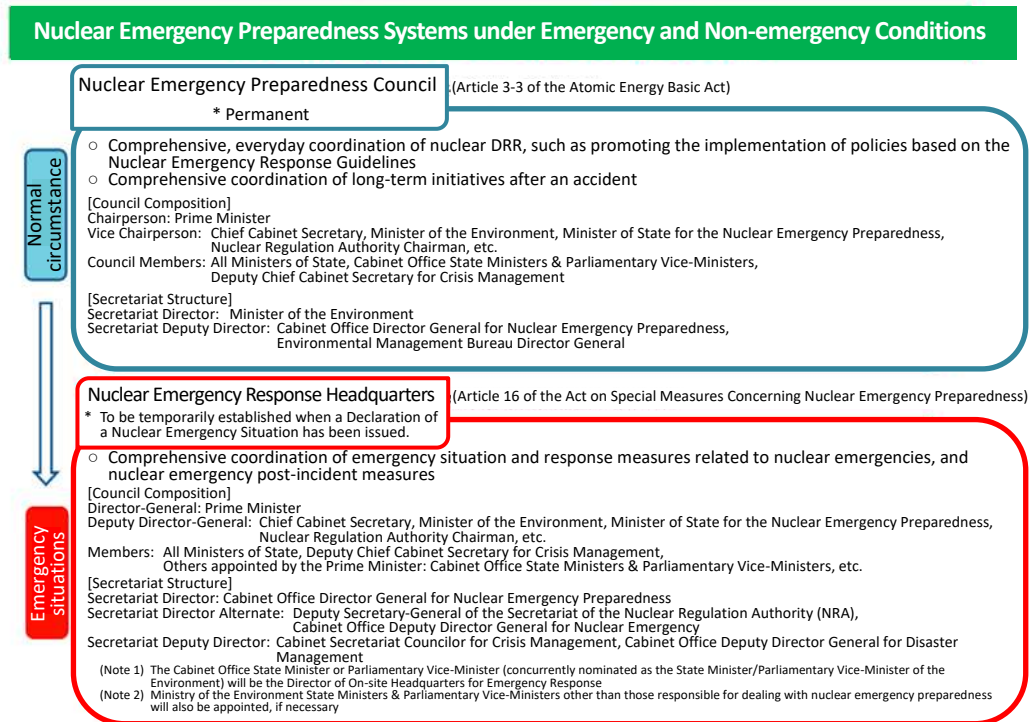
In the event of a nuclear emergency involving the release of a large quantity of radioactive material, a Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters will be established. The main role of this headquarters will be to ascertain the actual situation on the field and the extent of the damage and to take overall charge of coordinating related national government organizations and local government bodies to ensure that emergency response measures suited to the situation are implemented swiftly and accurately. The Prime Minister will serve as Director General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, with the Chief Cabinet Secretary, Minister of the Environment, Cabinet Office Minister of State for the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, and the Chairman of the NRA as deputy directors-general, and all Ministers of State and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management, among others, serving as regular members (Fig. 1-1-1).

In the Headquarters, the NRA holds primary responsibility for decisions on technical and specialized matters (urgent area), while matters relating to the procurement of equipment and supplies required to deal with the nuclear facilities and all matters associated with the response outside the facilities (off-site) are handled by the related ministries and agencies, based on the directions of the director-general (the Prime Minister). The organization headed by the Cabinet Office Director-General for Nuclear Disaster Management that was launched on October 14, 2014, will serve as the Secretariat of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters.

Moreover, the Basic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction was revised in July 2015 to enhance the system for dealing with a complex disaster. This revision put in place a cooperation framework that will, in the event of a complex disaster, enable the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters (which deals with natural disasters) and the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters (which deals with nuclear emergencies) to undertake integrated information gathering, decision-making, and direction and coordination (Figs. 1-2-1 and 1-2-2).

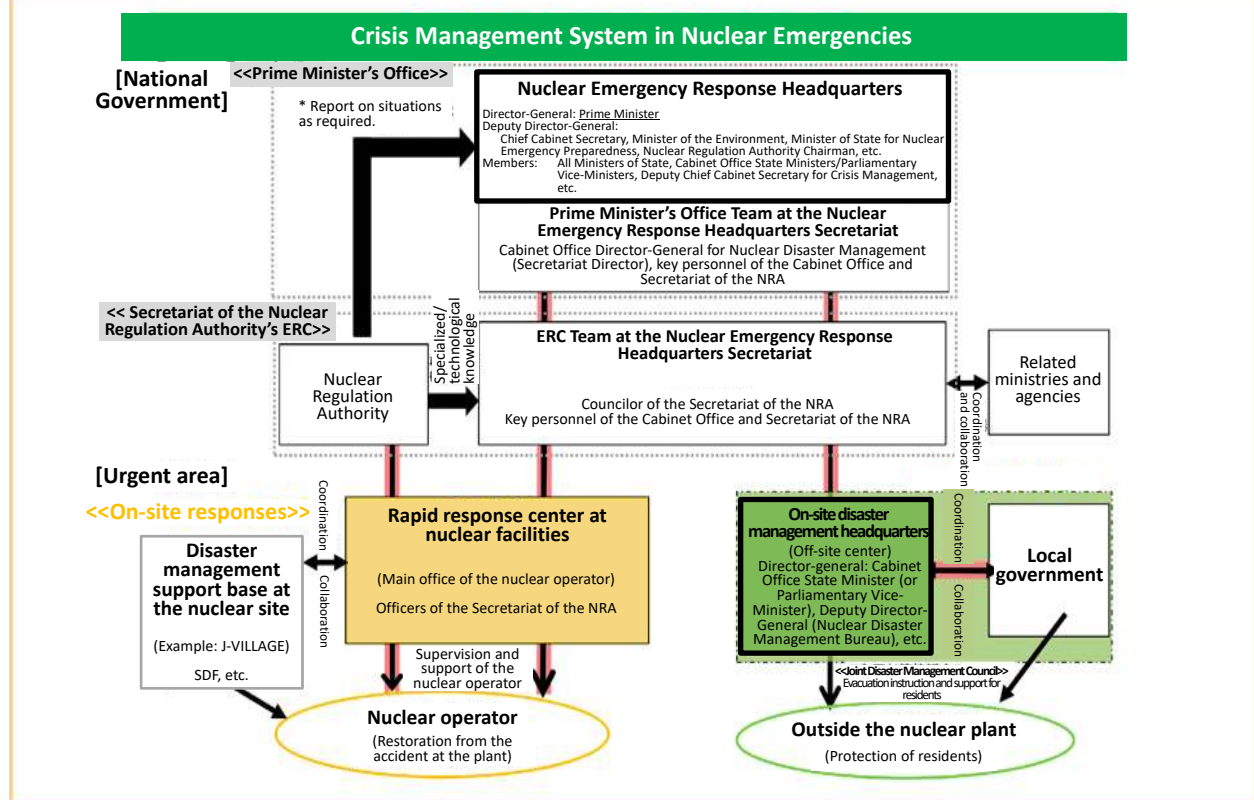
In addition, the 2019 Comprehensive Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise, which was held from November 8 to 10, 2019, was based on the scenario of a complex disaster involving a combination of a natural disaster and a nuclear disaster. The exercise included decision making concerning the evacuation of residents according to the development of the situation as well as field drills.

Fig. 1-1-1 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems under Emergency and Non-emergency Conditions



Source: Cabinet Office

Fig. 1-2-1 Crisis Management System in Nuclear Emergencies

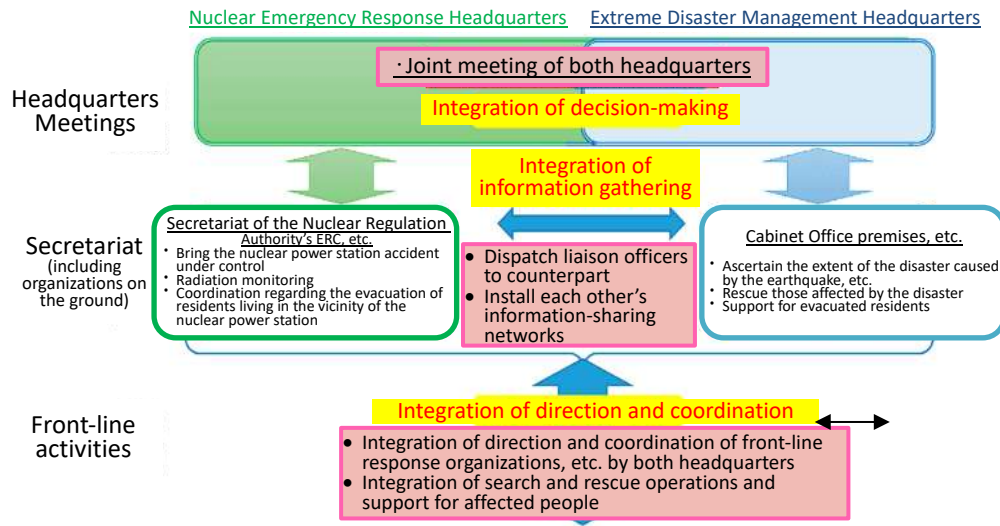


Source: Cabinet Office

Fig. 1-2-2

Illustration of Responses by Both Headquarters in the Event of a Major Complex

Illustration of Responses by Both Headquarters in the Event of a Major Complex Disaster



Source: Cabinet Office