

Section 2 Nuclear Emergency Measures at the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA)

Based on the lessons learned from the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS), it is extremely important to continue efforts to ensure trust in nuclear regulatory administration. In order to fulfill its mission to protect people and the environment through sound regulation of nuclear energy, the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) addresses various policy issues based on the following organizational principles: Independent decision-making, effective action, a transparent and open organization, ambition and responsibility, and responsiveness to emergencies.

2-1 Efforts Related to Nuclear Emergency Measures

The NRA has been working to improve the NRA EPR Guide to ensure that the criteria used in disaster management planning are always the most appropriate, including actively incorporating the latest international knowledge.

At the 21st FY2021 NRA Commission Meeting (July 21, 2021), the NRA decided a partial revision of the NRA EPR Guide. This revision clarified the applicable persons who must evacuate in the site area emergency phase, based on the actual situation of "emergency response in the region, including evacuation plans" compiled by Regional Nuclear Disaster Management Councils, and the status of facilities for sheltering where radiation protection measures have been taken.

Regarding medical structure in case of a nuclear emergency, the steady improvement of the medical care in case of a nuclear emergency is being promoted, including support for Advanced Radiation Emergency Medical Support Center, etc.

2-2 Efforts for Emergency Response

In FY2021, the NRA established a basic drill policy for emergency response and its detailed operation rules in order to maintain and improve the emergency response capabilities of emergency response personnel, and to ensure that emergency response personnel are steadily engaged in drills and training. Based on this, necessary management was conducted in the second half of FY 2021, including preparation of drills and training plans and evaluation of their implementation. The NRA also conducted drills in conjunction with the nuclear operators' disaster prevention drills in pursuit of smoother information sharing between the NRA Emergency Response Center (ERC) Plant Team and the nuclear operator's nuclear facility contingency response center to improve emergency response capabilities.

Also, regarding commercial power reactor facilities and nuclear fuel facilities, the result of evaluations for nuclear operators' disaster prevention drills conducted at each nuclear facility was reported at the FY 2021 the Debriefing Session of Emergency Drills by Nuclear Operators. In addition, based on the drill scenarios developed in FY 2019 and 2020, the drill scenario development working group established under the Debriefing Session of Emergency Drills by Nuclear Operators has conducted drills to improve the judgment capability of commanders together with 5 nuclear operators and 6 nuclear operators, respectively. Furthermore, based on the exercise scenarios prepared in FY 2020, drills were conducted with 9 nuclear operators to improve their on-site response capabilities. Based on the results of these drills, work has begun on a new scenario for drills in FY 2021.

2-3 Efforts Related to Emergency Monitoring

The NRA has established "emergency monitoring centers" in all regions where nuclear facilities are located in order to conduct effective emergency monitoring based on the NRA EPR Guide. For each regional emergency monitoring center, necessary materials and equipment are maintained and managed to ensure that they function reliably in the event of a nuclear disaster. Furthermore, the emergency monitoring system is being enhanced and strengthened through the placement of staff in charge of radiation monitoring at the NRA regional office. As for the "Radiation Monitoring Information Sharing and Publication System", it is designed to consolidate, share among persons concerned, and promptly publish the results of emergency monitoring in the event of a nuclear disaster. And the NRA publicizes monitoring information from ordinary times through the system so that it can contribute to the smooth communication of information to the public in the event of an emergency.

2-4 Accidents and breakdowns, etc.

The "Act on the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors" (Act No. 166 of 1957) requires nuclear operators, etc., and the "Act on the Regulation of Radioisotopes, etc." (Act No. 167 of 1957) requires licensed users to report accidents, breakdowns, etc. to the NRA. In FY 2021, we received 3 reports from nuclear operators based on the "Act on the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors" and 1 report from a licensed user based on the "Act on the Regulation of Radioisotopes, etc."