

Outline of the Act on Special Measures concerning the Handling of Environment Pollution by Radioactive Materials Discharged by the Nuclear Power Station Accident Associated with the Tohoku District – Off the Pacific Ocean Earthquake that Occurred on March 11, 2011

Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to promptly reduce the impact of environment pollution on human health and living environment caused by radioactive materials by instituting measures of the national government, local governments, the relevant nuclear operator etc.

Roles of Stakeholders

- The national government shall implement necessary measures in consideration of its social responsibilities associated with the promotional efforts thus far channeled into its nuclear energy policy.
- Local governments shall carry out their proper role in support of measures by the national government.
- The relevant nuclear operator shall implement necessary measures in good faith, while cooperating with the national and local governments to implement the measures they have adopted.

Institutions

Basic principles

The Minister of the Environment develops a draft of the basic principles regarding the handling of the environment pollution caused by radioactive materials, and requests a resolution at a Cabinet Meeting.

Standards

The Minister of the Environment shall set standards for the decontamination and disposal of waste, soil, etc., contaminated by radioactive materials.

Monitoring and measurement

The national government promptly prepares and implements a system of unified monitoring and measurement to figure out the situation of the environment pollution.

Disposal of wastes contaminated by radioactive materials

- (1) The Minister of the Environment designates areas where wastes may be contaminated by radioactive materials, to such a degree that special control is required.
- (2) The Minister of the Environment develops a plan regarding disposal, etc. of wastes in the area of (1).
- (3) The Minister of the Environment designates wastes which are located outside the area of (1) and whose state of contamination by radioactive materials exceeds a certain level.
- (4) Disposal of the wastes in the area of (1) and the waste designated as (3) (specified waste) is carried out by the national government on the basis of the standard.
- (5) As for the disposal of waste with low levels of contamination except those of (4), the regulation of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law is adapted.
- (6) The unauthorized dumping of waste designated under (4) shall be prohibited.

Measures for decontamination of soils, etc. (including vegetation, structures) contaminated by radioactive materials

- (1) The Minister of the Environment, giving due consideration to the degree of contamination, designates areas where it is necessary for the national governments to carry out measures for decontamination, etc.
- (2) The Minister of the Environment develops a plan to carry out these measures for decontamination, etc. in the area of (1), and the national government carries out the measures.
- (3) The Minister of the Environment designates areas (city, town, village etc.) other than (1) where states of contamination are expected not to conform to requirements.
- (4) As for zones recognized as not conforming to the requirements through an investigation on the state of contamination in the area of (3), the governor of the prefecture (*), develops plans designating matters regarding the measures for decontamination, etc.
- (5) Based on the plans of (4), the national government, the governor of the prefecture, the mayor of the municipality, etc. carry out measures for decontamination, etc.
- (6) The national government implements measures in place of the prefectural governor, or city, town or village when necessary.
- (7) The unauthorized dumping of contaminated soil shall be prohibited.
* Including the mayor of the municipality designated by Cabinet Order.

* The relevant nuclear operator shall take necessary measures on decontamination and disposal of on-site waste and soil as well as any rubble from reactor facilities that has been dispersed beyond the site.

Facilitation of the disposal of specified waste or the contaminated waste and soil, etc.

The national government shall take necessary measures aided by the relevant local government to properly promote measures on decontamination and disposal of waste and soil polluted by radioactive materials, including the establishment of necessary facilities.

Financial resources

- The national government shall take measures to finance the costs required for the promotion of measures to deal with contamination by radioactive materials.
- Measures taken pursuant to this Act shall be considered to be related to damage to be compensated under the Act on Compensation for Nuclear Damage, and are thus to be implemented at the expense of the relevant nuclear operator.
- Taking its social responsibility into account, the national government shall implement necessary measures to ensure that the relevant nuclear operator makes timely payments to cover the cost of measures taken by local governments etc. under this Act.

Review clauses

- In three years from the enforcement of this Act, the status of enforcement shall be reviewed and necessary measures shall be taken.
- The environmental laws concerning radioactive materials shall be reviewed.
- Necessary measures shall be considered on the nuclear reactors etc. of the concerned nuclear power station accident.