

Japan Atomic Energy Commission's Opinion  
on the Plutonium Utilization Plans of Electric Power Companies

March 29, 2016

Japan Atomic Energy Commission

With regard to the utilization of plutonium, Japan has committed to the international community on the occasion of the third Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March 2014 that it will make efforts to minimize nuclear materials in order to contribute to strengthening global nuclear security, that it will firmly maintain the policy of “not possessing plutonium reserves for which the purpose of utilization is unspecified” and that it will pay due consideration to the balance between supply and demand of plutonium and ensure an appropriate management of it. Further to that, the Strategic Energy Plan which was approved by the Cabinet in April 2014 made clear domestically and internationally that Japan remains committed to the policy of “not possessing reserves of plutonium of which use is undetermined (unspecified).”

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission announced a decision of position in a paper entitled “Concerning the Basic Position on Japan’s Use of Plutonium” in August 2003 in which the Commission required, with a view to providing higher transparency about its peaceful use and as a means to clarify the purpose of its use, that electric power companies submit their plutonium use plan so that the Commission may confirm the appropriateness of the plan. Since the Commission has taken every opportunity to reaffirm the principle of “not possessing plutonium reserves for which the purpose of utilization is unspecified.”

Japan Atomic Energy Commission has just received an explanation from the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan as to the electric power companies’ position on formulating and submitting its plutonium use plan. The Commission realizes that under the current circumstance they are unable to update and submit the plutonium use plan. On the other hand, as plutonium utilization of Japan is a matter of very high concern domestically and internationally, it is the view of the Commission that efforts to increase transparency is even more important than before. The Commission expects that electric power companies, who are responsible for holding and utilizing plutonium, make further efforts to provide information in a timely manner and as concretely as possible so that they can gain further understanding and trust in and outside Japan.