

Basic Policy on the Physical Protection System of
High-Level Radioactive Wastes (Vitrified HLWs) and Other Wastes

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Atomic Energy Commission

As the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) has judged that the contents of the report submitted by the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Security (ACNS) today, which is entitled "Basic Policy on the Physical Protection System of High-Level Radioactive Wastes (Vitrified HLWs) and Other Wastes", are appropriate, it adopts the policy indicated in this report as the basic policy for the physical protection of Vitrified HLWs and other wastes from now on. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) should rearrange relevant laws and regulations in accordance with the basic policy.

As suggested in the report, the AEC considers it appropriate to review the basic policy on the physical protection of radioactive materials, taking the recent international discussions and their fruits on this issue into consideration, and to revise the report of the AEC's Advisory Committee on Physical Protection released in 1980. The AEC instruct the ACNS to conduct the review.

(Reference)

Points of the Policy set forth in the Report of the AEC's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Security entitled "Basic Policy on the Physical Protection System of High-Level Radioactive Wastes (Vitrified HLWs) and Other Wastes"

1. With regard to the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities against sabotage, it is the basic policy to establish a protection system aimed at ensuring proper levels of physical protection, taking into consideration of the potential risks to the materials and facilities to be protected (by classifying potential risks of radioactive wastes and facilities into four categories and setting relevant levels of physical protection to each categories).
2. The Vitrified HLW and radioactive wastes containing a high concentration of transuranium elements (TRU wastes) as well as their processing facilities and transportation activities shall be subject to the regulations for physical protection against sabotage hereafter, though in the 1994 AEC Decision entitled "Physical Protection Measures for Vitrified HLWs", the *prudent management practices* (prudent management measures commonly implemented for dealing with radioactive waste; defined in IAEA INFCIRC/225) were considered as appropriate for the physical protection measures against the illegal transfer of Vitrified HLWs.
3. The *prudent management practices* shall be considered appropriate for the physical protection measures against the illegal transfer of TRU Wastes and their processing facilities and transportation as well as against the sabotage of TRU Wastes of a low concentration of radioactivity and their processing facilities and transportation.