

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

19 February 2008  
Atomic Energy Commission

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) has judged that the contents of the report, attached here to, submitted by the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Security under AEC, which is entitled “Basic Policy on the Physical Protection of High-Level Radioactive Wastes (Vitrified HLWs) and Other Wastes - Level of Physical Protection for Vitrified HLWs and Other Wastes during Transport -,” is appropriate, and therefore decides that the AEC’s basic policy on the future physical protection of Vitrified HLWs and Other Wastes is now the combination of the one given in this report with that adopted by AEC on 28 August 2007. 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 take necessary measures including the rearrangement of the relevant laws and regulations in accordance with this decision..

(Attachment)  
19 February 2008

Dr. Shunsuke KONDO  
Chairman  
Atomic Energy Commission

Kaoru NAITO  
Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Security

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The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Security submitted to the Atomic Energy Commission a report on the basic policy for physical protection of Vitrified HLWs and Other Wastes on 22 August 2007. This time I report the result of the Committee's deliberation on the level of physical protection for Vitrified HLWs and Other Wastes that should be ensured against sabotage during transport, as the Committee has concluded the deliberation of it, to which the Committee promised to put in effort in the report.

(Attached Paper)

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With regard to the level of physical protection that should be ensured against sabotage for Vitrified HLWs and Other Wastes during transport, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Security concluded in its report dated 22 August 2007 that the level should be either level C or higher than Level C: Level C means that an act of sabotage should be prevented with an appropriate degree of assurance and that it was appropriate to decide which level to choose as soon as possible, considering the discussions on this issue at meetings of the international and domestic organizations concerned.

It has recently transpired that the level of physical protection for vitrified HLW in international transport to Japan is no higher than Level C. Therefore the Committee decides that the level should be Level C. .

Furthermore, in light of the required level of physical protection, it is appropriate to adopt the prescriptive approach in which specific security measures is to be provided by regulations in the course of designing the requirement for physical protection systems.

As for the level of physical protection that should be ensured against sabotage during transport of highly-radioactive long half-life and low heat generation rate radioactive waste, we will decide it in the near future, considering developments stemming from discussions on design specifications for its container and other relevant matters.