

Reporting on the Implementation Status Concerning Regulations for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

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Atomic Energy Commission

The 9-11 terrorist attacks in the United States gave rise to movements in the international community toward strengthening measures for physical protection of nuclear material. In light of such trends, Japan has partially revised the Act on the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Nuclear Reactors and taken other various measures aimed at enforcing appropriate physical protection regulations. This issue is also addressed in its policy plan, the “Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy,” which states that it is important for the government and operating entities to take appropriate action, aptly responding to such international movements, while continuing to improve and enhance the contents of the physical protection system. The policy plan also suggests that the government, upon introducing the confidentiality system regarding information on physical protection in the process of implementation of relevant measures, should make efforts to ensure strict and appropriate enforcement, while raising awareness of the purpose of the system and obtaining a third-party evaluation guaranteeing the validity of the scope of confidentiality from the perspective of public interest.

As progress has been made in the implementation of regulatory measures thus far, and in future, the peaceful use of plutonium is expected to make further progress in Japan, the Atomic Energy Commission will hear annual reports on the status of the implementation of regulations pertaining to the physical protection of nuclear material by the regulatory authorities, namely the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.