

Promotion of the Approaches to the Disposal of Radioactive Waste
Generated in the Utilization of Radioisotopes and Research and Development Activities

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Atomic Energy Commission

Receiving the report from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on the progress of the discussion about a legal framework for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste generated in activities related with nuclear research and development and radiation and radioactivity utilization in various fields (hereinafter referred to as “radioactive waste from R&D institutes etc.”), the Atomic Energy Commission expresses its point of view on this issue as follows.

1. It is a reasonable approach to entrust the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) with the central role in the disposal of radioactive waste from R&D institutes generated by itself and other nuclear-related entities. This is because the JAEA is not only the main producer of this category of waste but also the organization responsible for carrying out governmental R&D activities related to the disposal of radioactive waste. By assigning this duty to the JAEA, it will be possible to put forward, initiatives aimed at the disposal of such waste, in a concrete fashion.
2. The government should stipulate that such disposal operations must be conducted in accordance with the principle of ensuring safety and with scientifically rational methods developed by way of the best use of the latest technological knowledge, in the basic policies it will establish for the conducting of operations related to the disposal of radioactive waste from R&D institutes etc. When granting approval to the operational plans drawn up by the JAEA in accordance with the basic policies or evaluating the JAEA’s performance in this field, the government is also required to pay attention so as to ensure that such operations are conducted steadily in line with the policies.
3. Since the radioactive waste subject to disposal in this operation is produced as a result of activities related with R&D for nuclear energy and radiation application that are beneficial to the general public, to host the disposal sites should lead to the improvement of the living standards of the inhabitants of the host communities and the invigoration of the communities themselves. From this viewpoint, the government and the JAEA, bearing in mind their individual roles, should consider measures that will contribute to the promotion of the host communities.