

Statement on Measures Responding to The Tokyo Electric Power Fukushima Daiichi and
Daini Nuclear Accident Caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake

April 5, 2011

Japan Atomic Energy Commission

We sincerely express our deep sympathy and condolences for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake that hit on March 11, 2011, and for those who have been forced to evacuate or advised to stay inside buildings as a result of the Fukushima Daiichi and Daini nuclear accident.

We are gravely concerned about this accident which can fundamentally undermine public trust in safety measures, not only in Japan but also in other countries.

The situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant continues to be unpredictable, and it requires continuous attention. Therefore, the first priority of the government is to put all our efforts, assembling all knowledge and wisdom of experts in and outside of Japan, to stabilize the situation as soon as possible. In addition, we must take all available measures to assure the safety of local residents who have been forced to evacuate and who have been advised to stay inside buildings that are protected from hazardous radiation from the plants. We also must take measures to support the well-being of those people. It is also very important to deliver quick and accurate information to the public and to the international community, in a way that the public can understand without difficulty. At the same time, it is necessary to take emergency safety measures for operating nuclear power plants and plants waiting to be started again, and to explain what we are doing to both local governments and the citizens living in the area, who are hosting nuclear power plants.

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission has been hosting a series of meetings since last year for the deliberation of new Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy. Given the current conditions described above, we have decided to suspend this process for the foreseeable future. It is our intention to take appropriate measures when all safety measures necessary are identified comprehensively, based on thorough investigation of the causes of the accident, as well as on the results of a nationwide public debate on overall energy policy.

In the meantime, the Japan Atomic Energy Commission continues to cooperate with those who are directly involved in emergency measures mentioned above, and to make necessary decisions on issues associated with the accident, regarding research, development, and utilization of atomic energy while listening to the opinions and proposals of the public.