The Nuclear Fuel Cycle



Statistics on Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities

(As of August 2000)

Businesses		Capacity	Remarks
Reprocessing		Maximum reprocessing capacity : 800 tons/year (under construction)	Nearly 900 tons of spent fuel are produced annually by domestic light water reactors.
Fabrication	Uranium enrichment	Separation capacity : 1,050 tSWU/year (Note 1) Ultimately this capacity will be expanded to 1,500 tSWU/year.	The separation work capacity of enriched uranium required by one million kW-class light water reactor is around 120 tSWU.
Disposal	Disposal of low- level radioactive waste by under- ground burial	Disposal capacity : Equivalent to 400,000 200-liter metal drums. Ultimately this capacity will be expanded to 3 million 200-liter metal drums.	As of the end of fiscal 1998, about 500,000 metal drums of low-level waste, produced by Japanese nuclear power plants, were stored.
	Management of high-level radioactive waste	Capacity to store high-level vitrified waste assemblies : 1,440 casks This capacity will be expanded depending on the volume of vitrified waste assemblies returned.	Vitrified waste assemblies to be stored in this facility will be returned from overseas reprocessing companies. (Note 2)

(Note 1) SWU (separation work unit): Workload required to enrich uranium

(Note 2) Waste to be returned from other countries include high-level radioactive waste and low-level radioactive waste. Negotiations are now under way on when and how much to return.

(Source) A pamphlet published by Japan Nuclear Fuel Industry Co., Ltd.