

On the Results of Deliberation to Formulate a Mid- and Long-Term Strategy for
Cleaning Up the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant

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Atomic Energy Commission

The Tohoku District- off the Pacific Ocean Earthquake and subsequent tsunami on March 11, 2011 caused extensive damage to the reactor cores and reactor buildings of the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO). Considerable amount of radioactive material was released to the atmosphere from the damaged reactor cores, which contaminated vast areas, mainly in Fukushima prefecture. Numerous residents in the vicinity of the plant were forced to evacuate to avoid exposure to radiation, and are still unable to return to their hometowns, living in a very inconvenient and uncomfortable state. The Atomic Energy Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), as an agency responsible for planning, examining and determining government policies concerning the research, development and utilization of nuclear energy, takes this situation with utmost seriousness and regret and expresses its heartfelt sympathy to those affected by the accident. The Commission is strongly aware of the need to do its utmost to prevent the recurrence of similar accidents and clean up the accident site as promptly and steadily as possible.

On July 21, 2011, the Commission set up an advisory committee for formulating mid- and long-term strategies to clean up the Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP of TEPCO (hereinafter referred to as the "Advisory Committee"). This action was prompted by the understanding that a technology roadmap for mid- and long-term onsite activities needs to be developed and promoted by concerted efforts of TEPCO and the Government, which should be responsible for its effective implementation, promoting the development of technology solutions that help meet the goals for the cleanup.

The Commission today received a report titled "Results of Deliberation to Formulate a Mid- and Long-Term Strategy for Cleaning Up the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant" from the Advisory Committee. This report identifies the tasks to cleanup the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant, the technology R&D topics necessary to implement these tasks, and formulated a mid- and long-term technology roadmap by clarifying the relationships of these R&Ds to the tasks, by collecting information from the Cleanup Program performed at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant Unit 2 of

the United States after the meltdown accident including the removal of fuel debris, and presents its recommendations as to basics in the R&D management, framework of R&D promotion, and international cooperation.

Considering the exceptionally difficult tasks involved in the R&D activities, the report also calls for the government and TEPCO to establish a globally open system that is not bound by traditional thoughts so as to be able to fully and flexibly benefit from the knowledge and expertise of experts both at home and abroad, and to accomplish the goals of the technology roadmap, closely interfacing between the field tasks and R&D activities. In addition to the technology R&D topics, the report addresses pre-requisites to the successful implementation of the mid- and long-term strategies, such as ensuring manpower, funds, materials and resources, establishing an independent organization that audit the cleanup activities by listening opinions of the residents concerned, installing laboratory facilities required for field operations in the vicinity of the plant, archiving records and proactively disclosing information for transparency.

The Commission regards this report as adequate, and expects the relevant administrative agencies and TEPCO, as well as the nuclear industry and research institutions, to pay due attention to it in the planning and execution of mid- and long-term activities including technology R&D activities, and make utmost efforts to ensure their steady progress. To be concrete, TEPCO, the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy and the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency should work together, getting near to the completion of the roadmap towards restoration from the accident (Step 2) that has shown steady progress at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, to create and promote a mid- and long-term technology roadmap based on the recommendations in this report. The Commission will periodically confirm the progress by the relevant administrative agencies and organizations based on the contents of this report.

It is crucial for the Government and TEPCO to promptly and steadily implement the mid- and long-term cleanup strategy towards the decommissioning of the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant in order to accomplish the obligation to residents living around the plant, and restore the credibility of nuclear power programme in Japan and worldwide. The Commission strongly expects the related parties to bear this firmly in mind and devote themselves unceasingly to accomplishing the assigned tasks.