

**On the Revised Medium-Term Implementation Plan for Spent Nuclear Fuel
Reprocessing by the Nuclear Reprocessing and Decommissioning facilitation
Organization of Japan
— Views of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission —**

March 17, 2026
Japan Atomic Energy Commission
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

In response to the request dated March 6, 2026 (20260305, Document No. 5)¹ from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Japan Atomic Energy Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") hereby presents its views on the Revised Medium-Term Implementation Plan for Spent Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing (hereinafter referred to as "the Medium-Term Implementation Plan") submitted by the Nuclear Reprocessing and Decommissioning facilitation Organization of Japan (hereinafter referred to as "NuRO") for approval.

The Medium-Term Implementation Plan for which the Commission's view is requested was submitted by NuRO for approval to the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in March 2026, pursuant to the second sentence of Article 54, paragraph (1) of the Act on the Reprocessing and Decommissioning facilitation of Spent Fuel in Nuclear Power Plants. The plan is based on the provisional operation plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Operation Plan") for the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant (hereinafter referred to as "RRP") and the MOX Fuel Fabrication Plant (hereinafter referred to as "J-MOX") announced by Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited (hereinafter referred to as "JNFL") in January 2026, as well as on the plutonium utilization plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Utilization Plan") announced by electric power companies in February 2026.

The current Medium-Term Implementation Plan specifies the locations, periods, and quantities of spent fuel reprocessing and reprocessing-related fabrication over the three-year period from FY2026 to FY2028.

The locations specified are RRP and J-MOX, both owned by JNFL. These facilities, together with other relevant facilities, are subject to safeguards by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Regarding the periods and quantities of reprocessing at RRP, the Operation Plan prescribes the reprocessing of 70 tons of spent fuel and the recovery of 0.6 tons of plutonium in FY2027, and the reprocessing of 170 tons of spent fuel and the recovery of 1.4 tons of plutonium in FY2028. Regarding the periods and quantities of reprocessing-related fabrication at J-MOX, the Operation Plan prescribes zero tons of reprocessing-related fabrication for the period from FY2026 through FY2028.

¹ The Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry requested an opinion of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission as per the resolutions accompanying the Act for Partial Revision of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Fund Act.

On the other hand, the Utilization Plan of the electric power companies prescribes the use of 0.7 tons of plutonium contained in MOX fuel assemblies fabricated in France in FY2026, and additional 0.7 tons in FY2027, while no use is planned for FY2028.

According to the operators' explanation, it takes approximately four years for plutonium recovered at RRP to undergo fuel fabrication at J-MOX and to be delivered to power stations. During this period, and until the plutonium is irradiated and used in pluthermal² reactors, the the plutonium stockpile will temporarily increase. It is important, however, to demonstrate the prospect of a future decrease in the stockpile through the steady implementation of pluthermal operations.

Based on the foregoing, the Commission requests that, in granting approval of the current Medium-Term Implementation Plan, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry provide necessary and appropriate instructions to NuRO and other relevant operators with respect to the following points:

1. When JNFL proceeds with plutonium recovery through reprocessing, in accordance with the "Basic Principles on Japan's Utilization of Plutonium" (decided by the Atomic Energy Commission on July 31, 2018), a balance between demand and supply of plutonium has to be secured, the quantity of plutonium stockpile in the process from reprocessing to irradiation has to be kept to the minimum necessary, and the plutonium stockpile has to be reduced to a level necessary for proper operation of RRP and related facilities.
2. Given that RRP is planned to begin plutonium recovery in FY2027, the quantity of plutonium to be recovered in FY2027, as indicated in the Medium-Term Implementation Plan to be approved in FY2026, should be presented as the quantity consistent with the Utilization Plan. To this end, the Utilization Plan has to establish a planning period that enables JNFL's RRP and J-MOX to formulate an operational outlook, and has to distinguish each owner's quantities owned and to be utilized, which are stored overseas from those domestically stored.
3. Regarding electric power companies' plutonium stored both domestically and overseas, as well as their plutonium to be recovered through reprocessing, the approach to implementing MOX fuel fabrication has to be clarified and published together with the Utilization Plan.
4. Should it become necessary in the future to revise the Medium-Term Implementation Plan in response to actual progress in the plan, such revisions have to be made promptly.
5. To ensure the safe and steady operation of RRP and J-MOX, JNFL has to implement appropriate schedule and process management giving the highest priority to safety, and work on accumulation and succession of technical knowledge. In addition, electric power companies and other relevant operators have to provide sufficient technical and human resource support as necessary.

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² The term "pluthermal" stands for the use of MOX fuel assemblies containing plutonium in thermal reactors.