Reducing the Impact on Surrounding Environment

With several measures in place, the impact on the surrounding environment has been greatly reduced. Improvements have also been made to the working conditions, e.g., workers can work wearing less protective gear.

The current condition of the power station is stable and the likelihood of a meltdown or accident is kept at the lowest possible level. Measures are in place to handle such incidents if they ever occur.

Current State of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS)

For more details, search for Improvements in Working Conditions


decommissioning

• With decontamination etc., workers can work wearing general work clothes instead of protective gear at 96% of the working site.
• The site currently receives many visitors and the need for protective gear has been greatly reduced.

Level of Radioactivity in Surrounding Sea Area

- Monitoring posts set up at the boundaries of the site record radiation levels constantly.
- The additional effective dose from the whole facility on the site is maintained to be less than the regulatory limit of 1mSv/year (measured at the site boundary).

Provision of warm food onsite

- Since Aug 2015, workers are able to enjoy warm food at the large scale resting area onsite.

Status of the Areas under Evacuation Order in Fukushima

- Dimension of areas under evacuation order is about 2.4% of the whole prefecture (about 0.09% of Japan’s total land area).
- People in 97.6% of the prefecture can live a normal life.

Source: Created by the Reconstruction Agency based on materials from Fukushima Prefecture and the Support Team for Residents Affected by Nuclear Incidents

Source: Fukushima Prefectural website

Changes in Air Dose Rate

The average air dose rate* within 80km from TEPCO Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Station decreased by about 78%** compared to levels in November 2011.

* Measured at 1m in height from the ground surface
** The target area is divided into 250-m grid meshes and the value is calculated from the ratio of the measurement results to the central point of each grid mesh. The rate of reduction may differ when other comparative methods are used.

The air dose rate in Fukushima city is now lower than 1/20 of what it was immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.

Current State of Air Dose Rates within Fukushima

The air dose rate of major cities in Fukushima Prefecture is about the same level as other major cities overseas.

Standards for Radioactive Contamination of Food

Japan has the world's strictest level of standards for managing radioactive contamination of food. Exceeding the standards are not allowed to be distributed.

The additional annual radiation dosage received when eating an average meal is about 1/1000 of 1 mSv.

Safety of Food in Fukushima Prefecture

Announcement of results of thorough monitoring of agriculture, forestry, and fishery products prior to shipment.

Very few foods have exceeded the standard limit (100 Bq/kg).

No rice has exceeded the standard limit since the 2015 harvest.

Necessary measures are in place to ensure that foods are not distributed in the market if found to have exceeded the standard limit.

Testing of all rice produced (August 26, 2019 to February 29, 2020)

The Fukushima Fisheries Cooperative Association has implemented an additional test independently concerning marine fishery products. Their standard (50 Bq/kg) is stricter than the national criteria (100 Bq/kg).

State of monitoring by Fukushima Prefecture of agricultural, forestry and fishery products

No food samples have exceeded the standard limit.

Based on information available to date, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division understands that the measures to monitor and respond to issues regarding the radionuclide contamination of food are appropriate, and that the food supply chain is controlled effectively by the relevant authorities.