Interim Storage Facility

Outline of the Interim Storage Facility

- In Fukushima Prefecture, large quantities of contaminated soil and waste have been generated from decontamination works.
  * Estimated to be approx. 16 million to 22 million m³ (equivalent to approx. 13 to 18 times the volume of the Tokyo Dome)
- Currently, it is difficult to clarify methods of final disposal of the soil and waste.
- It is necessary to establish an Interim Storage Facility (ISF) in order to manage and store the soil and waste safely and intensively until final disposal.
  (Site Area: approx. 16 km²)
  - Removed soil and waste generated from decontamination works in Fukushima Prefecture and incineration ash with radioactivity concentrations exceeding 100,000 Bq/kg are stored.
  - The national government has legally specified its intention to take measures necessary for completing final disposal outside Fukushima Prefecture within 30 years after the commencement of interim storage (the Amended JESCO (Japan Environmental Storage & Safety Corporation) Act was promulgated in November 2014).

In Fukushima Prefecture, large quantities of contaminated soil and waste have been generated from decontamination works. The volume even after incineration of combustibles is estimated to be approx. 16 million to 22 million m³, which is equivalent to approx. 13 to 18 times the volume of the Tokyo Dome.

Currently, it is difficult to clarify methods of final disposal of the soil and waste, and it is indispensable to establish an ISF as a facility to manage and store the soil and waste safely and intensively until final disposal.

At the ISF, the following are to be stored:

(i) Removed soil and waste (e.g. fallen leaves and branches, etc.) generated from decontamination works which is currently stored in Temporary Storage Sites;

(ii) Incineration ash with radioactivity concentrations exceeding 100,000 Bq/kg.

Consent to accept the construction of the ISF was obtained from Fukushima Prefecture in September 2014 and from Okuma Town and Futaba Town in January 2015. The total area of the planned site is approx. 16 km², almost the same area as Shibuya Ward in Tokyo.

Included in this reference material on January 18, 2016
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The site necessary for the construction of the ISF is estimated to be approx. 1,600 ha and the number of relevant registered land owners is 2,360. By the end of December 2017, the contracts have been steadily increasing to approx. 801 ha (approx. 50.1% of the envisaged construction site) with 1,331 land owners (approx. 56.4% of the total). The national government considers it most important to obtain understanding on the construction of the ISF, not to mention building a relationship of trust with land owners, and is committed to continuing efforts while providing sufficient explanations to land owners.

Construction of the Reception/Separation Facilities and Soil Storage Facilities started in November 2016. The Reception/Separation Facilities receive the removed soil and waste which is transported from the Temporary Storage Sites in Fukushima Prefecture to the ISF. The soil and waste is unloaded from trucks, taken out from container bags and separated into combustibles and incombustibles. The Soil Storage Facilities store the soil and waste treated at the Reception/Separation Facilities safely in accordance with the radioactivity concentrations and other properties. Reception and separation of the removed soil and waste started in June 2017 and storage of the treated soil and waste started in October 2017. Construction of the facilities will be continued in order to further promote treatment and storage of the removed soil and waste.

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By the end of January 2018, an accumulative total of approx. 640,000 m³ of the removed soil and waste had been transported to the ISF. Approx. 1.8 million m³ of the removed soil and waste is planned to be transported in FY2018.

The operation of trucks used for transportation is managed on a real-time basis using GPS as follows.

(i) All loads are linked to respective trucks by the unit of container bags at the time of departure from loading sites and trucks are managed together with their loads.

(ii) Positional information of running trucks is ascertained using GPS devices loaded thereon and is recorded in the system. Recorded positional information is displayed on a map and the operation of trucks is monitored. Trucks are continuously monitored even after unloading the items at the ISF and returning back to loading sites with an empty load.

Included in this reference material on February 28, 2018
The Ministry of the Environment publicized the "Prospect for 5-year Ad-hoc Policy on Interim Storage Facility" on March 27, 2016.

The amount equivalent to the total amount of the soil and waste currently being stored on sites, such as schools or individuals' houses, will be transported to the ISF. Utmost efforts should be made to acquire the land for construction of the related facilities and it is targeted to transport an amount of the removed soil and waste equivalent to that currently being placed along the major roads to the ISF. By FY2020, it is forecast that transportation of approx. 5 million to 12.5 million m$^3$ of removed soil and waste will be achieved. From which Temporary Storage Site to start transport is up to each municipality.

The above figure also includes the actual volume transported in FY2015 and FY2016 and planned transportation volume for FY2017, as well as planned transportation volume for FY2018 and the target transportation volume for FY2019 indicated in the FY2018 Policies for the ISF Program. This prospect can be revised as needed in light of the progress of the ISF Program.

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