

Status of the Five Prefectures concerning Designated Waste

Miyagi Prefecture

[Municipal mayors' conference]

1st to 4th: Oct. 2012 to Nov. 2013

5th: Jan. 20, 2014

→ Three candidate sites for detailed survey were presented (Fukayamadake, Kurihara City; Shimohara, Taiwa-cho; Tashirodake, Kami Town).

7th (held by the prefecture): Aug. 4, 2014
→ The prefectural governor announced the acceptance of a detailed survey as a consensus of all municipal mayors.

Detailed surveys were commenced at the three candidate sites in August 2014. However, an on-site survey was not possible due to protests by Kami Town (also suspended in 2015).

Apr. 5, May 29, and Oct 13, 2015: Forum targeting prefectural residents

Oct. to Nov. 2015 (twice): Opinion exchange with Kami Town with the participation of experts

9th: Mar. 19, 2016

→ Results of the remeasurement for designated waste and approaches of the Ministry of the Environment were explained.

Apr. 15, 2016: The prefecture requested the suspension of an on-site survey until certain prefectural policy is decided.

11th (held by the prefecture): Nov. 3, 2016
→ Results of the measurement for waste other than designated waste were released. The prefecture presented its draft policy on disposal of waste with radioactivity concentrations not exceeding 8,000 Bq/kg (excluding designated waste).

12th (held by the prefecture): Dec. 27, 2016
→ Agreement on the prefectural disposal policy was not obtained from Kurihara City and Tome City, and it was decided to have discussions again.

13th (held by the prefecture): Jun. 18, 2017
→ The prefecture presented its new draft disposal policies such as to require each district to independently treat contaminated waste generated therein.

14th (held by the prefecture): Jul. 15, 2017

→ Agreement was reached on the draft disposal policy presented at the previous meeting.

Test incineration was completed in four districts, Ishinomaki, Sennan, Kurokawa and Osaki. →
Ishinomaki: Full-fledged incineration was completed;
Kurokawa: Completed with the application to farmland;
Sennan and Osaki: Full-fledged incineration is underway.

Tochigi Prefecture

[Municipal mayors' conference]

1st to 3rd: Apr. 2013 to Aug. 2013

4th: Dec. 24, 2013

→ Selection method was determined.

Jul. 30, 2014

→ One candidate site for detailed survey was presented (Terasahama, Shioya Town).

5th and 6th: Jul. 2014 to Nov. 2014

May 14, Jun. 22, and Sep. 13, 2015:

Forum targeting prefectural residents

Oct. 14, 2015:

Survey of the effects of the heavy rain in Terahimari, Shioya Town

Dec. 7, 2015:

The mayor of Shioya Town declared the surrender of the designation as a candidate site for detailed survey.

7th: May 23, 2016

→ Remeasurement for designated waste was decided.

8th: Oct. 17, 2016

→ Results of the remeasurement were released and future directions were presented.

Mar. 30, 2017: Results of the confirmation of intentions of people temporarily storing waste by themselves were presented.

Jul. 10, 2017: Meeting of mayors of municipalities concerning measures to ease burdens of farm households storing waste by themselves (i)

→ Draft of policy for measures to ease burdens of farm households storing waste by themselves (ii)

Nov. 26, 2018: Meeting of mayors of municipalities (ii)

→ Agreement was reached on efforts to muster opinions of municipalities, including those on remeasurement.

Mar. 19, 2019: Results of the remeasurement was released.

Jun. 26, 2020: Meeting of mayors of municipalities (iii)

→ Participants confirmed future directions.

Jun. 2, 2021: The Ministry of the Environment asked Nasushiobara City to cooperate in provisional centralized collection of waste (Oct. 22, 2021: Designated waste having been stored by individual farm households started to be transported in the city.)

Mar. 24, 2022: Nasu Town decided on the site for a provisional storage site

Efforts are to be made continuously to seek agreement on detailed surveys and make adjustments with the prefecture and municipalities storing waste regarding measures to ease the burden on farm households storing waste by themselves.

Chiba Prefecture

[Municipal mayors' conference]

1st to 3rd: Apr. 2013 to Jan. 2014

4th: Apr. 17, 2014

→ Selection method was determined.

Apr. 24, 2015

→ One candidate site for detailed survey was presented.

(Part of the premises of TEPCO's Chiba Thermal Power Station (Chuo Ward, Chiba City))

May 20 and Jun. 2, 2015:

Chiba City Assembly Plenary Meeting

Jun. 8 and Jun. 10, 2015:

Chiba City Assembly and the city mayor requested fresh discussions.

Jun. 29, Jul. 7, 13 and 20, and Aug. 7, 2015:

Explanations were given to community organization leaders and residents of Chiba City.

Dec. 14, 2015:

Response to the request for fresh discussions was made.

Jun. 28, 2016:

Chiba City requested for removal of the designation.

Jul. 22, 2016:

Designation was removed for designated waste in Chiba City.

Efforts are to be made continuously to seek agreement on detailed surveys.

Ibaraki Prefecture

[Municipal mayors' conference]

1st: Apr. 12, 2013

2nd: Jun. 27, 2013

3rd: Dec. 25, 2013

4th: Jan. 28, 2015

[Meeting of mayors of municipalities where waste is temporarily stored]

1st: Apr. 6, 2015

2nd: Feb. 4, 2016

→ The policy to continue on-site storage and promote staged disposal was determined.

Mar. 31, 2017:

Remeasurement for designated waste, etc. in the prefecture was conducted and the results were released.

Gunma Prefecture

[Municipal mayors' conference]

1st: Apr. 19, 2013

2nd: Jul. 1, 2013

3rd: Dec. 26, 2016

→ The policy to continue on-site storage and promote staged disposal was determined.

Prepared by the Ministry of the Environment

Prefectures other than Fukushima Prefecture which are in urgent need to secure Temporary Storage Sites for designated waste (Miyagi Prefecture, Tochigi Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Ibaraki Prefecture and Gunma Prefecture) are taking measures in accordance with the circumstances of respective prefectures, based on discussions at municipal mayors' conferences, while ascertaining the current status through the measurement of radioactivity concentrations.

Regarding candidate sites for detailed surveys, Miyagi, Tochigi and Chiba Prefectures followed selection methods determined through discussions at expert meetings and municipal mayors' conferences, and presented selected candidate sites in January 2014, July 2014 and April 2015, respectively. However, detailed surveys have not been conducted due to a failure to obtain understanding of relevant regions.

In the meantime, Miyagi Prefecture determined its policy that each municipality is to make efforts to dispose of contaminated waste with radioactivity concentrations not exceeding 8,000 Bq/kg under the initiative of the prefectural government, and the Ministry of the Environment is offering financial and technical support. As part of such efforts, test incineration was commenced sequentially in four districts (Ishinomaki, Kurokawa, Sennan and Osaki) from March 2018 and was completed by July 2019. As of the end of December 2021, waste disposal was completed in the Ishinomaki district and Kurokawa district, and full-fledged incineration was underway in the Sennan and Osaki districts.

In November 2018, the national government presented a provisional policy for volume reduction and centralized collection of designated waste by the unit of municipality, targeting Tochigi Prefecture and municipalities storing designated agricultural and forestry waste, with the aim of easing burdens of farm households that have been storing designated waste by themselves, while maintaining the basic policy to ultimately develop long-term management facilities. Agreement was reached on the provisional policy. Additionally, it was confirmed that the national government will compile its approach for the selection of provisional storage sites and make efforts to select relevant sites as promptly as possible in collaboration with Tochigi Prefecture and relevant municipalities. In June 2021, the Ministry of the Environment asked Nasushiobara City to cooperate in provisional centralized collection of designated waste having been stored by individual farm households. In October 2021, the work to transport designated waste from farm households to the provisional storage site was commenced in the city. In this manner, efforts are being made by relevant municipalities.

As for Chiba Prefecture, it is also making efforts to obtain understanding of local residents for the implementation of a detailed survey concerning long-term management facilities.

Ibaraki and Gunma Prefectures determined the policies to continue on-site storage and promote staged disposal respectively in February 2016 and December 2016. Based on the determined policies, both prefectures will repair or reinforce storage sites as necessary and will dispose of designated waste whose radioactivity concentrations have reduced to 8,000 Bq/kg or lower at existing disposal facilities in a staged manner.

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