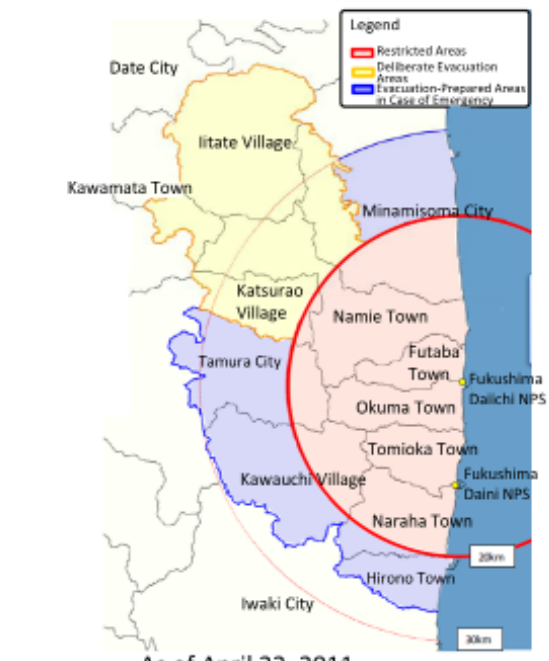
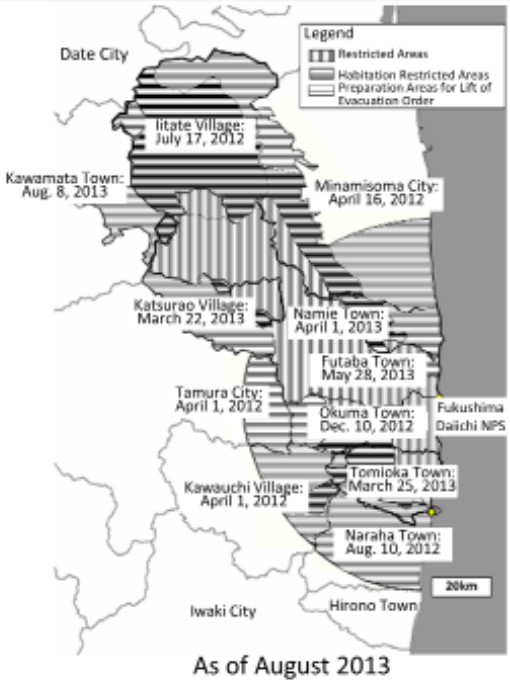
Activities in Areas under Evacuation Orders

Designation of Areas under Evacuation Orders



As of April 22, 2011
(when the designation of areas immediately after the accident was completed)



As of August 2013
(when the review of areas was completed)

* Dates in the parentheses are the dates on which the designation after the review was put into effect, respectively.

Prepared based on the 15th meeting of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters (May 17, 2011) and the 31st meeting of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters (August 7, 2013), etc.

Based on Article 15, paragraph (2) of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, a Declaration of a Nuclear Emergency Situation was issued at 19:03 on March 11, 2011. At 18:25 on the following day, evacuation orders were issued for the 20-km zone of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS.

On April 11, 2011, areas around the 20-km zone where annual cumulative doses would be highly likely to exceed 20 mSv after the accident were designated as Deliberate Evacuation Areas, taking into account the standard limits for radiological protection in emergency exposure situations, and areas within 20 km to 30 km were designated as Evacuation-Prepared Areas in Case of Emergency. Additionally on April 21, 2011, considering future risks due to the accident, areas within 20 km from the NPS were designated as Restricted Areas and access was prohibited in principle.

In June 2011 onward, spots where decontamination work would not be easy and annual cumulative doses would be highly likely to exceed 20 mSv were designated as specific spots recommended for evacuation, based on the results of the environmental monitoring by the national government and Fukushima Prefecture.

On December 16, 2011, the reactors reached a state of cold shutdown and it was confirmed that the discharge of radioactive materials was under control. Accordingly, on December 26, the designation of Restricted Areas was removed and it was proposed to review Areas under Evacuation Orders and to newly designate Restricted Areas, Habitation Restricted Areas and Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Orders. Upon reviewing Areas under Evacuation Orders, four problems common to all subjected areas were cited as problems to be addressed: (i) need to ensure safety and security of residents; (ii) need for decontamination and due consideration of children's radiation exposure; (iii) reconstruction of infrastructure and job creation; and (iv) compensation.

As requirements for lifting evaluation orders, the following were set: (i) it is certain that annual cumulative doses estimated based on ambient dose rates will become 20 mSv or lower; (ii) infrastructure (such as electricity, gas, water and sewer services, major transportation systems, and communication networks) and living-related services (such as medical services, nursing care, and postal services) indispensable for daily lives have been almost restored and decontamination work has progressed sufficiently centered on children's living environments; and (iii) consultations have been held sufficiently among the prefecture, municipalities and residents.

(Related to p.173 of Vol. 1, "ICRP Recommendations and Responses of the Japanese Government")

Included in this reference material on February 28, 2018
Updated on March 31, 2020

Activities in Areas under Evacuation Orders

Designation of Restricted Areas and Areas under Evacuation Orders and Removal Thereof

April 22, 2011, onward Area designation immediately after accident	April 2012, onward After confirming cold shutdown of the reactors
Restricted Areas(*1) Areas within 20 km in radius from the Nuclear Power Station (NPS); The relevant areas were designated as Areas under Evacuation Orders on March 12, 2011.	Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Order Areas where it is confirmed that annual cumulative doses will surely become 20 mSv or lower(*2)
Deliberate Evacuation Areas Areas 20 km or farther from the NPS where cumulative doses would be highly likely to exceed 20 mSv within one year after the accident	Habitation Restricted Areas Areas where annual cumulative doses would be highly likely to exceed 20 mSv(*2)
Evacuation-Prepared Areas in Case of Emergency Areas within 20 km to 30 km in radius from the NPS other than Deliberate Evacuation Areas; The relevant areas were designated as In-house Evacuation Areas on March 12, 2011.	Restricted Areas(*3) Areas where annual cumulative doses exceed 50 mSv(*2) at present and would be highly likely to remain above 20 mSv(*2) even after 6 years from the accident

Areas under Evacuation Orders:
Areas for which evacuation orders were issued based on Article 15, paragraph (3) of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness; Areas under Evacuation Orders and the 20-km zone of the Nuclear Power Station were rearranged and were newly designated as Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Order, Habitation Restricted Areas or Restricted Areas.

(*1) Areas where access is restricted pursuant to the provisions of Article 63, paragraph (1) of the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act as applied pursuant to Article 28, paragraph (2) of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, following the deemed replacement of terms
(*2) Based on the dose data obtained through the 4th airborne monitoring survey after correction as of March 31, 2012
(*3) The term "Areas where returning is difficult" was formerly used instead of "Restricted Areas" as a literal translation from Japanese.

Prepared based on the "Basic Idea on Review of the Restricted Areas and Areas under Evacuation Orders in Response to the Completion of Step 2 and Matters to be Discussed" (December 26, 2011; Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters)

Immediately after the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi NPS on March 11, 2011, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters issued evacuation orders in order to avoid risks to residents' lives and designated the areas within 20 km from the NPS as Areas under Evacuation Orders on March 12.

On April 22, for fear of any risks that residents might be exposed to a large amount of radiation at one time as a result of worsening of the situation, the Headquarters designated the relevant areas as Restricted Areas to prohibit access in principle, and also designated areas 20 km or farther from the NPS where cumulative doses would be highly likely to exceed 20 mSv within one year after the accident as Deliberate Evacuation Areas.

On December 16, the reactors reached a state of cold shutdown and the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters confirmed that the chaotic situation after the accident ended. Accordingly, on December 26, the basic idea on review of Restricted Areas and Areas under Evacuation Orders was presented. The Headquarters made preparations for the review while closely consulting with the prefecture, municipalities and residents and making adjustments, and at the same time endeavored to address problems common to all subjected areas.

On March 30, 2012, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters reviewed Restricted Areas and Areas under Evacuation Orders in accordance with radiation doses and problems unique to respective areas. By August 2013, the designation of Restricted Areas and Specific Spots Recommended for Evacuation was completely removed, and Areas under Evacuation Orders were newly designated as Preparation Areas for Lift of Evacuation Orders, Habitation Restricted Areas, or Restricted Areas.

(Related to p.173 of Vol. 1, "ICRP Recommendations and Responses of the Japanese Government")

Included in this reference material on February 28, 2018
Updated on March 31, 2020