

Guidelines for Waste (Tentative Translation)

Guidelines for Treatment of Waste
Contaminated with Radioactive Materials Discharged by the Accident

March 2013, 2nd Edition

Introduction

The environment was polluted by radioactive materials emitted by the nuclear power station accident in connection with the Tohoku District - Off the Pacific Ocean Earthquake, which occurred on March 11, 2011 and it is an urgent task to reduce the impact of pollution on human health and the living environment as soon as possible. Under such circumstances, the “Act on Special Measures concerning the Handling of Environment Pollution by Radioactive Materials Discharged by the Nuclear Power Station Accident Associated with the Tohoku District - Off the Pacific Ocean Earthquake that Occurred on March 11, 2011” (Act No. 110 of 2011, hereinafter referred to as the “Act”) was adopted and enacted in August 2011 by lawmaker initiated legislation and promulgated.

This Act regulates the treatment and decontamination of polluted waste in order to promptly reduce the impact on human health and the living environments by environmental pollution due to radioactive materials discharged by the accident. Waste polluted by radioactive materials caused by accidents has been classified as specified waste, designated waste, specified municipal solid waste, specified industrial waste, etc. and the requirements, treatment responsibilities, treatment methods etc. have been defined. This Act will take full effect from Jan 2012 onwards after related government ordinances and bulletins have been enacted.

For that purpose, the Ministry of the Environment established the Guidelines for Waste (First Edition) in Dec 2011 to provide a concrete and simple explanation of the Act and related government ordinances as well as concrete methods on the investigation, storage, collection, transport and disposal of waste polluted by radioactive materials caused by accidents, to parties such as waste generators and parties who conduct waste treatment, including municipalities, etc.

After the publication of the first edition of the guidelines, various efforts for the treatment of polluted waste were initiated and new insight has been gained. In addition, due to the promulgation and revision of related ordinances and bulletins based on the Act, the current guidelines have been revised to incorporate these changes and to make the drawings and figures easier to understand by as much as possible, leading to the publication of the Second Edition of the Guidelines for Waste on this occasion.

Although the guidelines consisted of five parts when the first edition was enacted, an additional section on “Guidelines for Specified Waste” has been added in the second edition. Like the guidelines in the first edition, the contents have been organized and laid out in a manner that is easy to use for relevant parties which differ for each waste classification.

The treatment of waste polluted by radioactive materials caused by accidents is a pressing issue and thus we hope these guidelines will help to promote the smooth and correct treatment of this waste.