



Contribution ID: 239

Type: **Wedge Participant**

Safeguards at Post Accident Facility - Case of Fukushima Dai-Ichi Site

Monday 5 November 2018 16:45 (5 minutes)

The accident at Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Station, triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent Tsunami in March 2011, had a major impact on safeguards at its site. JSGO and the IAEA, together with the Nuclear Material Control Center, Tokyo Electric Power Company and Japan Atomic Energy Agency, have been tackling the challenges posed by the accident, such as difficulty in accessing the nuclear material at the site.

From the day of the earthquake, JSGO and the IAEA started discussing how to deal with the challenges, and in May 2012, jointly formulated the Fukushima Task Force, in order to develop a holistic approach to safeguards implementation measures, to monitor the recovery of safeguards, to facilitate discussion of relevant issues, and to consider possible approaches to tackle longer-term safeguards challenges.

As a result of close collaboration, all the fuels stored in the Units 4, 5 and 6, the Common Spent Fuel Storage and the Cask Custody Building have been successfully re-verified. A special arrangement called Short Notice Operational Support Activities, and radiation monitor and surveillance cameras outside the reactors have been introduced to confirm non-diversion of inaccessible material at the site. Fuels in the spent fuel ponds in Units 1, 2 and 3 are supposed to be removed starting from 2018, and necessary safeguards measures will be applied accordingly.

The damaged core material in Units 1, 2 and 3 poses difficulties in longer-term. A special sub-group has been established under the Task Force to address the difficulties. Close coordination with the IAEA and technical support from competent institutions in Japan, are essential to cope with the difficulties.

This paper analyzes the discussion between Japan and the IAEA on safeguards implementation at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi after the accident, and summarizes main lessons learned for safeguards implementation at post accident facilities.

Which "Key Question" does your Abstract address?

NEW2.1

Topics

NEW2

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Session Classification: [TEC] Recent Examples of Innovation in Safeguards

Track Classification: Leveraging technological advancements for safeguards applications (TEC)