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Effort on Recycling of Removed Soil Arising from Off-site Decontamination Activities in Japan

Since shortly after the accident of the Fukushima Daiichi NPS in 2011, Japanese Government (mainly the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)) has made continuous effort on off-site remediation projects.

The whole-scale decontamination activities and the large-scale transportation activities to the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) have been completed by March 2022, except for the Restricted Areas.

As a result of the activities, a large volume of removed soil and waste have been generated, and more than 13 million m³ of removed soil and waste (the most part is removed soil) have been transported into the ISF.

The stored soil and waste are supposed to be transported from the ISF for final disposal outside Fukushima Prefecture by March 2045.

It is, however, regarded as unrealistic to find out the place for final disposal of all the stored soil, therefore the MOEJ has promoted recycling of removed soil to reduce the volume of the soil for final disposal in the future. The MOEJ has implemented a couple of demonstration projects using removed soil to ensure its safety from technological point of view, and also has implemented policies to earn trust and build public understanding. In this presentation, progress made and issues to be addressed will be presented, including the new framework between the IAEA and the MOEJ.

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