




HAS JAPAN HONORED ITS 1997 COMMITMENT TO THE IAEA CONCERNING
IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PLUTONIUM PROGRAM?

Comparison of 3 Japan Government/Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC) Decisions
Regarding the Use of Plutonium

Compiled by Citizens' Nuclear Information Center (CNIC), Green Action, and Greenpeace Japan

1997	2003	2006
Japanese government's December 1997 Letter to the IAEA	JAEC's 5 August 2003 Decision	JAEC's 24 January 2006 Decision
"Plutonium Utilization Plan of Japan" (INFCIRC/549/Add. 1 31 March 1998) Section 2, Enhancing the Transparency of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Program (English original)	"Basic Principles for the Utilization of Plutonium in Japan" (Provisional translation by JAEC commission) (Footnote)	"Appropriateness of the Purpose of Use Specified in the Plutonium Utilization Plans Announced by Electric Power Companies et al" (CNIC translation)
		
<p>The nuclear fuel cycle is promoted based on the principle that plutonium beyond the amount required to implement the program is not to be held, i.e. the principle of no surplus plutonium. Nuclear materials are also strictly managed, so as not to give rise to any international doubts concerning nuclear proliferation. Japan intends to ensure transparency of the plutonium utilization program through these efforts.</p> <p>Projections of plutonium supply and demand in Japan through 2010 have been published by the AEC, as appropriate, based on the progress of related programs, in order to demonstrate that the nuclear fuel cycle program follows</p>	<p>Japan has made an important pledge to the international community to utilize plutonium solely for peaceful purposes. However, in order to avoid doubts both at home and abroad about the utilization of such a sensitive substance, it is important that Japan should achieve enhanced transparency regarding the utilization of plutonium and thereby gain an improved understanding of the nation as well as the international community. To this end, AEC has laid down the principle of not holding surplus plutonium, i.e. for no specific purpose...</p> <p>With the commercial operation of the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant, a large</p>	<p>In August 2003 AEC promulgated the decision 'Basic Principles for the Utilization of Plutonium in Japan' ('Basic Principles'). This showed that Japan's concept is that in addition to publishing information on the status of plutonium management, in order to further enhance transparency, as a uniquely Japanese measure, companies must publish a plutonium utilization plan showing the purpose of use, before they can separate plutonium at the Rokkasho reprocessing plant.</p> <p>Until now, considering the experience accumulated in Japan and overseas, detailed decisions about the end use of plutonium recovered at reprocessing plants and the time of use may come</p>

the principle of no surplus plutonium.

amount of plutonium will be separated and recovered. Accordingly, AEC considers it necessary to define the purposes for which this plutonium will be used and thereby to achieve further transparency as to the anticipated utilization of the substance.

Electric power companies will be required to announce every year plans for the utilization of plutonium before separating plutonium, setting forth the names of owners of plutonium, the amount of plutonium in their possession, and the purposes for which plutonium will be used. **The uses of plutonium should specify the quantities of plutonium involved, the places where plutonium will be used, approximate time of start [of] using plutonium, and an approximate period of time required to use the material.** Moreover, in order to achieve enhanced transparency, electric power companies should provide details of the uses as the actual plans progress.

after the plutonium has been stored for quite a while. However, **regarding the recovery within Japan by civilian companies of the sensitive substance plutonium, even if companies have not yet reached the stage of producing detailed utilization plans,** since by each year clarifying the plutonium utilization plan, including the plan for the plutonium to be recovered the following year, **the most recently published utilization plans will step by step become more and more detailed,** AEC believes this to be appropriate from the point of view of maintaining a high level of transparency regarding utilization... We expect electric power companies, under appropriate risk management, in accordance with progress made, from the next fiscal year to make positive efforts to make their utilization plans more detailed. Further, where circumstances arise, as a result of the progress status of plu-thermal plans and the operational status of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant, which might affect utilization plans, we expect electric power companies to review the utilization plans announced this time, based on the 'Basic Principles.'

1997

2003

2006

(Emphasis ours.)

The English translation of the JAEC 5 August 2003 Decision was provided to Green Action by JAEC. It is a personal translation by or for then JAEC commissioner Endo. Green Action has been told by JAEC that it understands the translation was sent by commissioner Tetsuya Endo to the IAEA.