TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN:

Petition to freeze the operation of the Rokkasho Nuclear Reprocessing Plant in order to stop the radioactive contamination of the ocean and air:

The Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant began active test operations in March 2006. Ever since, the plant has emitted radiation into the ocean and air. If full-scale operations begin as planned during 2009, the annual emission of radiation will be “180 times more than that of a conventional nuclear power plant" (according to a statement made in March 2009 by the head of the Japanese government’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in response to Diet-member questioning).

There are already 240 cubic meters of high-level radioactive liquid waste accumulated at the plant. The high-level radioactive liquid waste is extremely toxic, containing 23.4MCi(Cesium-137) of radiation. Hydrogen gas build up in the waste must be constantly removed, and the waste must be cooled constantly or it would reach boiling point and could explode, resulting in catastrophe.

In January 2009, 150 liters of high-level radioactive liquid waste spilled inside the plant. The spillage was left unnoticed for 2 weeks. In April, the Nuclear Safety Commission, aware of the gravity of this situation, directed Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. to investigate the cause of the five areas that are in violation of safety regulations, and, to take preventative measures.

In May 2008, several geomorphologists reported the existence of an active fault directly under the plant and warned that the fault could cause a M8-class earthquake. If such an earthquake were to occur, it could trigger an irrevocable accident with leakage of coolant water from the spent nuclear waste pools, power outage resulting in suspension of cooling, and, leakage of high-level radioactive liquid waste into the environment.

In light of the serious issues surrounding this plant, we demand the following in order that we may continue to live in peace on this land.

1. **Freeze the operation of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant.**
2. **Following the principle of prevention, take all measures in order that high-level radioactive liquid waste will not be released into the environment even under a worst-case scenario.**

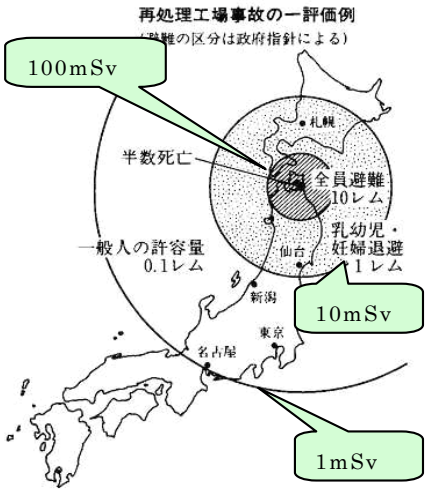
Name	Address

Please send all completed petitions to the following organization:

Iwate no Kai (Fumio Nagata) 6-36-8 Yamagishi, Morioka, Iwate, 020-0004 JAPAN

Deadline for petition submission: November 30, 2009. The petition will to be submitted to the Japanese government in December. Anyone who agrees with the content of this petition is eligible to sign. Personal information given in this petition will not be used for any other purpose.

[Supporting information]



（高木仁三郎『下北半島六ヶ所村核燃料サイクル施設批判』1991年、七つ森書館刊より）

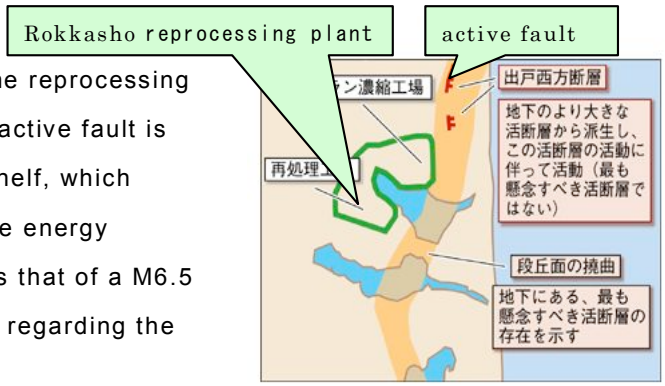
• High-level radioactive liquid waste leakage can cause a catastrophic accident

The diagram on the right is an evaluation of the consequences of an accident in which a tank containing 100 cubic meters of high-level radioactive liquid waste is damaged and 1% (1 cubic meter) of the waste leaks to the outside environment. The entire prefecture of Aomori falls under the designated evacuation zone.

• Active fault directly below the plant—

Possibilityof a M8 class earthquake:

In May of 2008, professor Mitsuhisa Watanabe of Toyo University reported that there is a flexure structure caused by a reverse fault (see diagram to the right: difference 30m to 40m), and that an active fault is present directly below the reprocessing plant. Professor Watanabe further states that this active fault is connects to the outer rim fault of the continental shelf, which could cause a M8-class earthquake if it moves. The energy released from an M8-class earthquake is 180 times that of a M6.5 earthquake, revealing that there is a serious issue regarding the earthquake resistance of the plant.



• Examples of high-level radioactive liquid waste accidents overseas:

Example 1: High-level radioactive liquid waste reached boiling point and nearly exploded (La Hague Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant, France)

In April of 1980, a fire broke out in the power room of the La Hague Nuclear Reprocessing Plant, leading to the loss of power. High-level radioactive liquid waste could not be cooled and nearly reached boiling point. The plant requested a power supply car to be sent out from the city of Caen, 100km away, and power was finally supplied after thirteen hours. It is said that had the loss of power continued any longer, the liquid waste would have reached boiling point, leading to a hydrogen explosion, thus causing a catastrophic accident with the inevitable consequence of widespread radioactive contamination of the Northern Hemisphere.

Example 2: **Nuclear disaster in the Urals (Mayak Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant, former Soviet Union)** In September of 1957, a failure in the cooling system for the high-level radioactive liquid waste tank caused a rise in tank temperature, which lead to an explosion. Massive amounts of radioactive materials were released into the air. An area 9km wide and 105km long to the northeast of the plant was contaminated. 340,000 people were exposed to radiation and 10,000 people evacuated from the affected areas.

Example 3: Accidental release of high-level radioactive liquid waste into the ocean (Sellafield Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant, UK)

In November 1983, high-level radioactive nuclear waste was mistakenly placed in a tank that releases liquid into the ocean. While the liquid waste still present in the tank was recovered, liquid waste left in the pipes was released into the ocean together with wastewater. Forty kilometers of the shoreline nearby were closed off for nine months following the accident, and seaweed can no longer be harvested in the area.