### **ALPS treated water**

(Measures for Decommissioning of

Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station)

*This material is provided in response to questions and concerns received to date regarding ALPS treated water.* 

December, 2020 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

<u>1.</u>	W	hy should treated water be discharged?	P1-
	i.	Why is discharge of ALPS treated water needed ?	P2
		(Ref.) Site Layout of Fukushima Daiichi	Р3
	ii.	What is "contaminated water" and "treated water" ?	P4
		(Ref.) Decrease in volume of treated water stored per day	P5
	iii.	Why are two options suggested by the expert committee feasible?	P6
		(Ref.) IAEA's findings on the handling options of the ALPS treated water	P7
		(Ref.) Basic approach for handling of ALPS treated water (TEPCO)	P8
		(Ref.) Simulation of diffusion (TEPCO's draft study report March 24, 2020)	P9
		(Ref.) Examination at expert committees (2013 to 2020)	P10
	iv.	Is it possible to store the treated water on the premises	
		or discharge it outside of the premises ?	P11
	<b>v.</b>	What are the steps toward handling of ALPS treated water ?	P12
		(Ref.)How has the GOJ been providing information to the international community?	P13
2.	Wha	at is treated water? Is its safety confirmed?	P14-
3.	lf it i	s disposed of, is there possibility of reputational damage?	P24-

### [Information Portal site] PP27-28

### 1-i. Why is discharge of ALPS treated water needed?

◇At FDNPS, water used for cooling fuel debris (contaminated water) has been treated, and the <u>treated water is stored in tanks on site.</u>

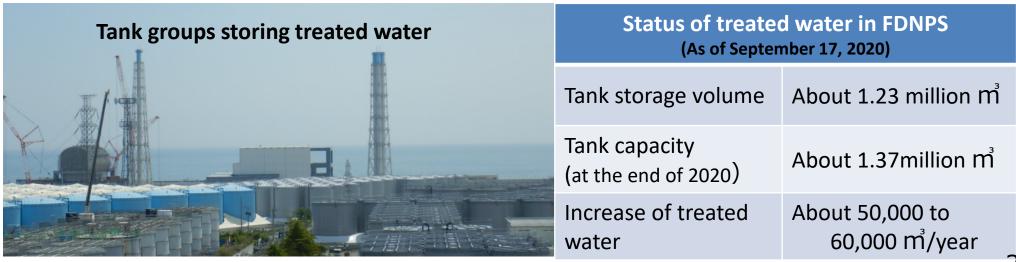
Storage tanks are predicted to reach full capacity around summer of 2022.

#### $\bigcirc$ Decommissioning of FDNPS is essential for reconstruction of Fukushima.

To secure reconstruction work such as retrieving fuel debris and storing waste temporarily, installation of additional tanks on the site cannot be continued at this rate.

 $\bigcirc$ Until the end of decommissioning, tanks are needed to be removed.

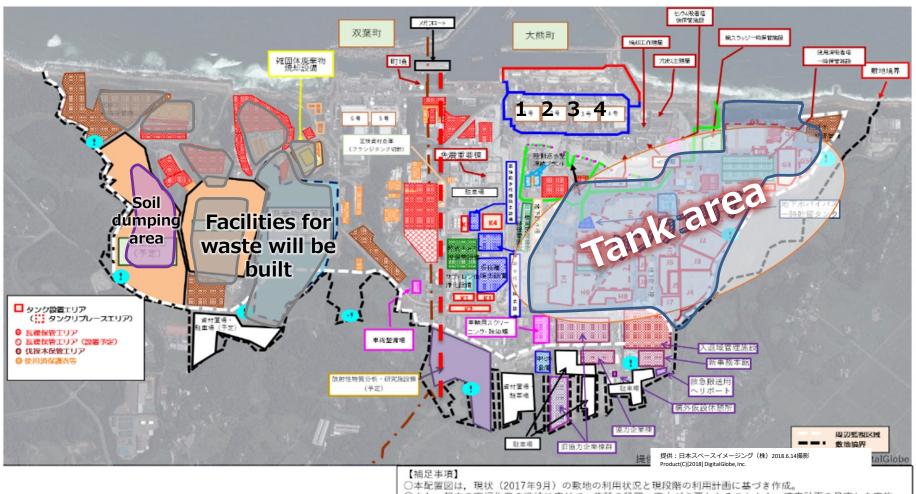
✓ Therefore, the issue on disposal of treated water cannot be left forever.



### (Ref.) Site Layout of Fukushima Daiichi

 $\diamondsuit$  Tanks as well as a variety of **facilities are needed to be built**.

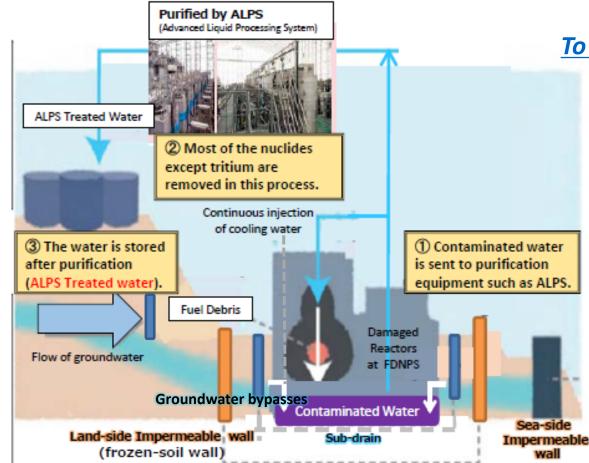
- $\checkmark~$  (e.g. ) temporary storage facilities for spent fuel and fuel debris
- ✓ analytical facilities for various samples



#### 1-ii. What is "contaminated water" and "treated water"?

 $\bigcirc$ The water for cooling fuel debris gets contaminated and stagnates in the buildings.

- The level of groundwater outside is controlled to be higher than that of water inside the buildings, to prevent the contaminated water from flowing out.
- As a result, groundwater keeps flowing into the buildings and contaminated water keeps generated in the buildings every day.



#### <u>To know more about "treated water",</u> please see PP12-13

- Sub-drains are wells located near the buildings, from which groundwater is pumped up to reduce the level of groundwater.
- <u>Frozen-soil walls</u> surround the buildings to redirect the groundwater's flow.

#### (Ref.) Decrease in volume of treated water stored per day

# OThe frequency of an additional tank installation has decreased to "once a week", compared to "every two days" around 2014.

✓ The volume of treated water stored in tanks par day has been decreased through countermeasures such as installation of frozen-soil walls and sub-drains (see the details in P3).



(Ref.) rate of contaminated water generation\*\* (par day)

\*\* rate of contaminated water generation has a correlation to that of treated water stored in tanks par day.

around 540m<sup>3</sup>/day (in May 2014, before measures were taken)  $\rightarrow$  around 180m<sup>3</sup>/day (in FY2019)

#### 1-iii. Why are two options suggested by the expert committee feasible?

#### $\bigcirc$ **<u>"1) Vapor release" and "2) discharge into the sea"</u> are suggested by the committee.**

- ✓ Both option 1) and 2) are recommended to be realistic, because of the precedents and track records for them.
- ✓ <u>"2) Discharge into the sea" can be implemented more reliably</u>, considering the ease of discharge facilities operation and proper monitoring methods.

# The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) acknowledged that the options suggested by expert committee is <u>"based on a sound scientific and technical basis</u> of analysis".

#### **Comparison of "vapor release" and "discharge into the sea"**

1) Vapor release	2) Discharge into the sea
<ul> <li>A precedent in case of accident at NPP overseas         <ul> <li>Vapor is also released from reactors in normal operations at the time of ventilation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Difficult to predict how the released vapor is diffused into the air and to establish proper monitoring method</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Precedents exist world-wide</li> <li>Relatively easy to predict how discharged water is diffused in the ocean and easy to examine proper monitoring method</li> </ul>

# (Ref.) What are the IAEA's findings on the disposal options of the ALPS treated water ?

#### Statements made by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi in February 2020:

"<u>The IAEA considers the disposal options (discharge into the sea and vapor</u> release) as technically feasible and in line with international practice."

"Once a decision is taken on the way forward, <u>the IAEA would be ready to assist</u> <u>in its implementation, for example in radiation monitoring</u>. It could help provide reassurance to the public – in Japan and elsewhere – that <u>any releases of water</u> <u>would be within international standards</u>."



#### IAEA Review Report on the ALPS Subcommittee Report etc. (2 April 2020)

- The two options selected (discharge into the sea and vapor release) are technically feasible and would allow the timeline objective to be achieved. (Acknowledgement 4)
- The IAEA Review Team also notes that the ALPS treated water will be further purified as necessary to meet the regulatory standards for discharge before dilution. (Acknowledgement 4)
- The IAEA Review Team is not aware of a solution currently available for the separation of tritium commensurate with the concentration and the volume of ALPS treated water. (Acknowledgement 3)
- The IAEA Review Team holds the view that a decision on the disposition path for the stored ALPS treated water must be taken urgently, considering safety aspects and engaging all stakeholders. (Advisory Point 1)



Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA

# <u>TEPCO published the "draft study responding to the 'subcommittee report on handling of ALPS treated water'" on March 24, 2020.</u>

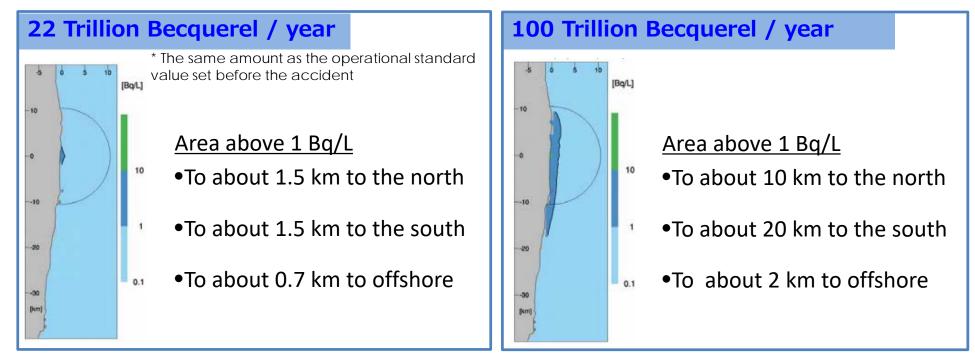
Regarding the two disposal methods (vapor release and discharge into the sea), which were classified as "practical options both of which have precedents in current practice" in the Subcommittee report, TEPCO has compiled the current conceptual study, so that it can serve as a reference for the general public and the parties concerned.

- The annual tritium release rate will be set by referencing those of the existing nuclear facilities and making effective use of the period of 30 to 40 years required for decommissioning, instead of releasing a large amount at once.
- The amount of radioactive materials other than tritium will be reduced as much as possible (implementation of secondary treatment).
- The tritium concentration will be lowered as much as possible.
- Disposal will be stopped immediately if an abnormality is detected.
- Monitoring will be enhanced by increase in sampling points and frequencies and the results will be published promptly.

#### Vapor release

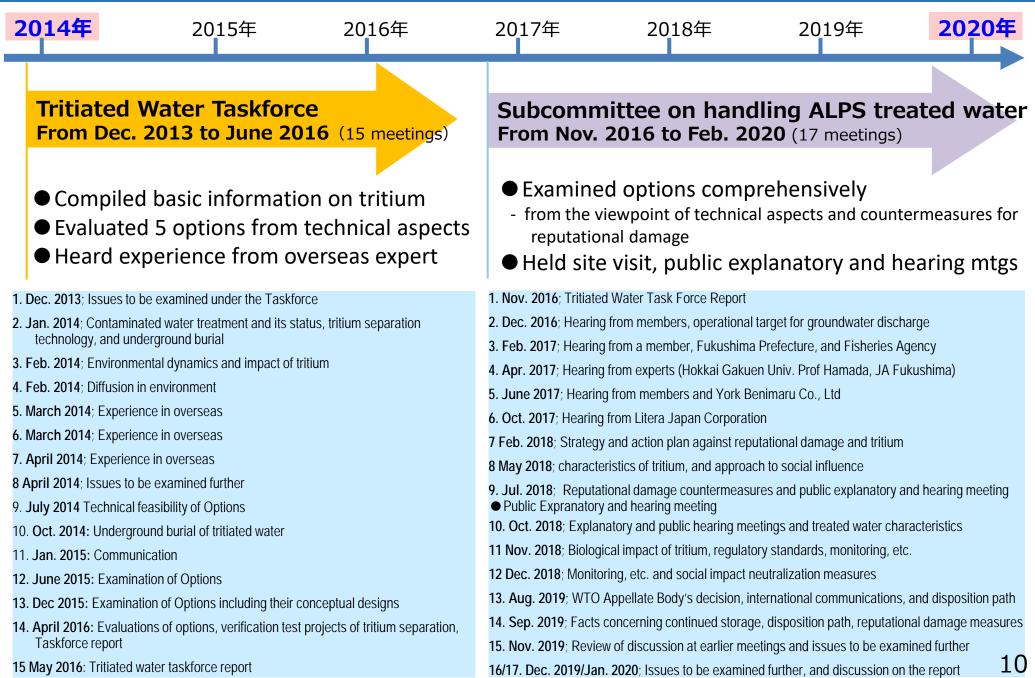
- There is no diffusion simulation model available for vapor.
  - i. Simple evaluation is difficult: It requires consideration of morphological changes in vapor due to weather conditions, advection caused by groundwater or rivers, re-release, and transpiration from plants
  - ii. Knowledge of continuous simulation is not available

#### Discharge into the sea



- Areas where the tritium concentration exceeds its background level (0,1 to 1 Becquerel/Litre) are limited around the Fukushima Daiichi NPS
- The level of tritium concentration around the NPS is far lower than that set by WHO drinking water guideline (10,000 Bq/L)

#### (Ref.) Examination at expert committees (2013 to 2020)



# 1-iv. Is it possible to store or discharge treated water outside of Fukushima Daiichi NPS (FDNPS)?

Oecommissioning of FDNPS is essential for reconstruction of Fukushima. Every day, <u>decommissioning measures are taken to reduce risks on the site</u>, <u>while preventing increase in risks at the surrounding areas.</u>

- ✓ Both to transfer the treated water to outside the site and to store the treated water in tanks outside the site are the activities which will increase risks outside the site.
- In addition, it is necessary to obtain understanding from related local governments and local residents, which takes a considerable amount of time.
- Regarding offshore release, to carry the treated water and discharge it from the marine vessel is prohibited by international treaty (London Convention).

#### Is it possible to store in intermediate storage facilities\*?

## The land for the intermediate storage facilities were provided by the landowners for the defined facilities' use only.

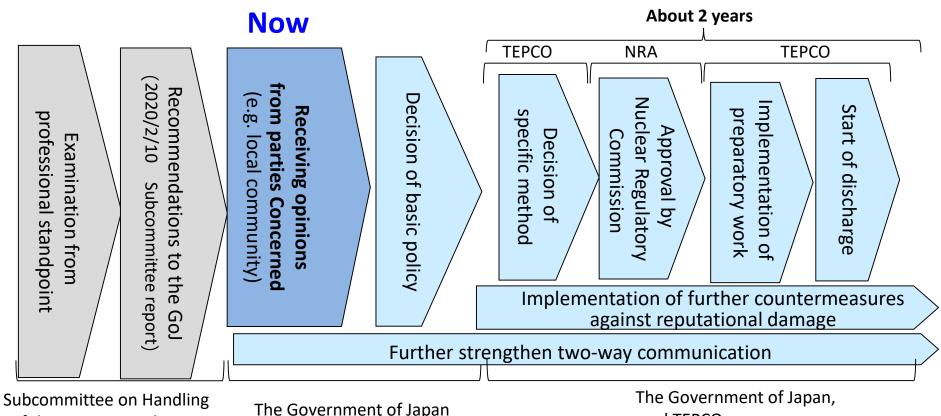
 $\bigcirc$ Therefore, it is difficult to use for other purposes.

\*Intermediate storage facilities are the facilities located at areas adjacent to the FDNPS, in order to temporarily store soil and others which have been collected by decontamination work in Fukushima, and which contain radioactive materials released from the FDNPS at the time of accident.

1-v. What are the steps toward the handling of treated water ?

Considering the opinions received, the GOJ will decide its basic policy including measures against possible reputational damage.

◇Based on the governmental basic policy, TEPCO will determine the specific method and will obtain an approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and then will start discharge.



of the ALPS treated water

and TEPCO

# (Ref.) How has the GOJ been providing information to the international community ?

- Briefing sessions for Diplomatic Missions in Tokyo have been held 107 times.
- <u>Technical briefings</u> on the occasions such as international conventions.
  - ✓ <u>At WTO/SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) committee</u> in November 2020 (online), monitoring results of Japanese foods, treated water management were presented.
  - ✓ <u>At IAEA General Conference</u> in Sept. 2020, a <u>side event by Japan</u> was held to provide <u>technical briefing on decontamination and treated water management</u>.
  - ✓ <u>At the briefing session and site tour for foreign press</u>, current situation of FDNPS including treated water management are presented by METI and TEPCO.
- <u>**Reports</u>** on the decommissioning progress and the surrounding environment. https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/fukushima/status-update</u>





Briefing sessions for Diplomatic Missions in Tokyo (Feb.2020)

1. Why should treated water be disposed of? P1

### **2. What is treated water? Is its safety confirmed?** P14-

i. What is "treated water"? P15 ii. What is tritium ? A: Characteristics, B: Can tritium be removed ? P16 (Ref.) Biological impact of tritium P17 <u>C: How much tritium is discharged in the environment ?</u> P18 iii. **Does the treated water contain radioactive materials other than tritium?** P19 iv. How much is the radiation impact of treated water release? P20 What regulatory standards are applicable to the discharge ? P21 V.

(Ref.)What is "regulatory standards for discharge" ? PP22-23

3. If it is disposed of, is there possibility of reputational damage? P24-

[Information Portal site] PP27-28

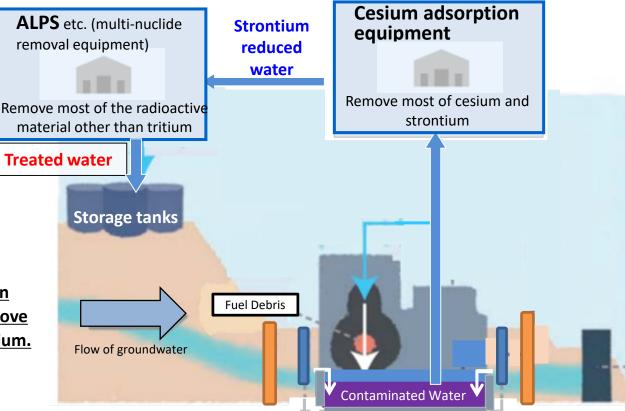
### 2-i. What is "treated water"?

#### $\bigcirc$ <u>"Contaminated water" and "treated water" are different.</u>

- "<u>Contaminated water"</u> contains a large amount of radioactive materials, and has been generated in buildings every day since the accident.
- "Treated water" is water in which most of radionuclides are removed by purification.
- $\bigcirc$ However, radioactive material <u>"tritium" cannot be removed by purification</u>, and <u>remains in the treated water</u>.



\* <u>The treated water will be re-purified in</u> <u>the case of discharge, to further remove</u> <u>radioactive materials other than tritium.</u> <u>(See page19)</u>



### 2-ii. What is tritium? 1) Characteristics

Tritium is a relative of hydrogen that <u>emits weak radiation</u>.
<u>Tritium exists naturally and is found in rain water, sea water, tap water and inside of human body</u> as a form of tritiated water.

Tritium is taken into the human body via drinking water and excreted from the body, and then circulates in nature as the water does.
It has not been confirmed to be accumulated in humans or specific organisms.

\* Tritium concentration for **tap water**: **1** Becquerel/L

\* Amount of Tritium in human body : tens of Becquerel

What is tritium? 2) Can tritium be removed?

It is very difficult to remove tritiated water from water, as it has the same properties.

Experts have concluded that there is no tritium separation technology that is immediately applicable to the treated water with low concentration and large volume.

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is "not aware of a solution currently available for the separation of tritium commensurate with the concentration and the volume of treated water".

### (Ref.) Biological impact of tritium

#### ◇Animal tests and epidemiologic research to date <u>have NOT shown "a far</u> greater biological impact from tritium than other radiation or nuclides.

Mouse carcinogenicity experiments showed that even when <u>mice continue to</u> <u>drink highly concentrated tritiated water</u> (0.14 bilion becquerels/L), <u>occurrence probability is about the same as that due to natural cancer</u> <u>occurrence.</u>

 $\bigcirc$ No examples of negative impact attributable to tritium have been commonly seen among nuclear facilities.

#### (Ref.) Impact on human health of compound including tritium

• Tritium ingested in human body is excreted by metabolism and will be reduced with time.

#### **⊘Tritiated water**

• Impact on human health is about <u>1/300 of that of Potassium 40</u> (\* Potassium-40 is a natural radionuclide abundant in foods such as vegetables and fruits.)

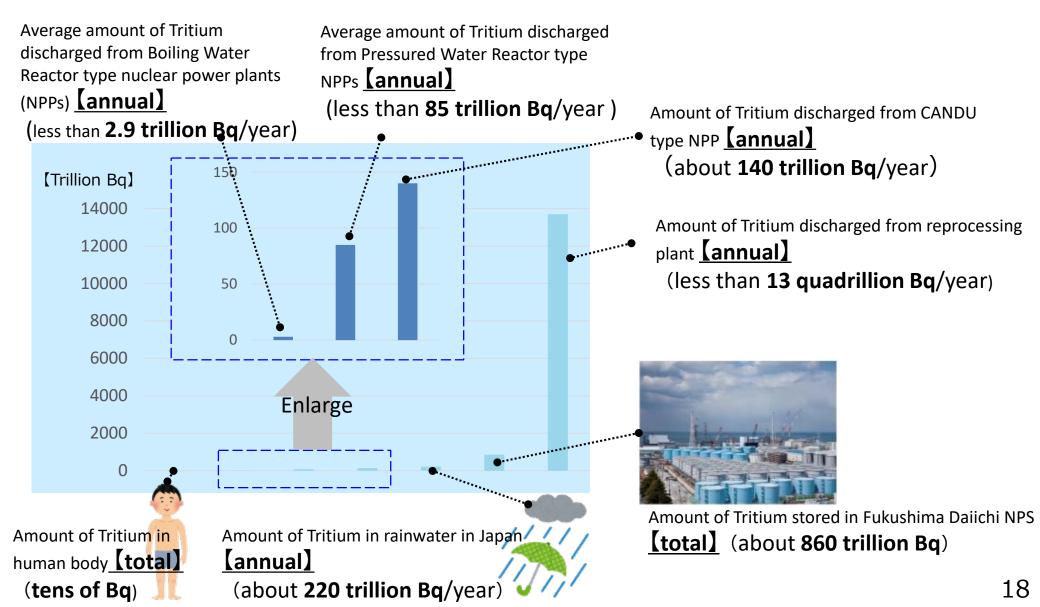
•Of the tritiated water that enters the body, <u>5% to 6% is converted into OBT</u> (Organically Bound Tritium)

#### **OBT (Organically Bound Tritium**

Impact on human health of the OBT is less than 1/300 of that of cesium 137

### (Ref.) How much tritium is discharged in the environment?

# $\geq$ Tritium is discharged from nuclear facilities in and outside Japan, in compliance with the regulatory standards of each country.



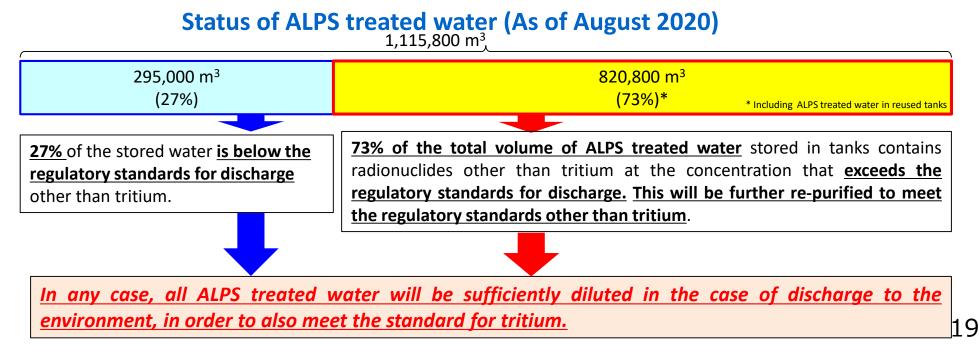
# 2-iii. Does the treated water contain radioactive materials other than tritium?

#### About 70 % of the treated water stored in tanks contains radionuclides other than tritium at the concentration which exceeds regulatory standards.

\* In early years, the ALPS treatment has been carried out by **prioritizing the volume of water treatment to quickly reduce** the radiation impact to outside the site. There were also cross filter permeate troubles and other troubles.

#### Since FY2020, <u>re-purification of the treated water will be commenced to meet</u> <u>the regulatory standards other than tritium</u>.

In the case of releasing it to the environment, the treated water will be sufficiently diluted also to meet the regulatory standard for tritium.

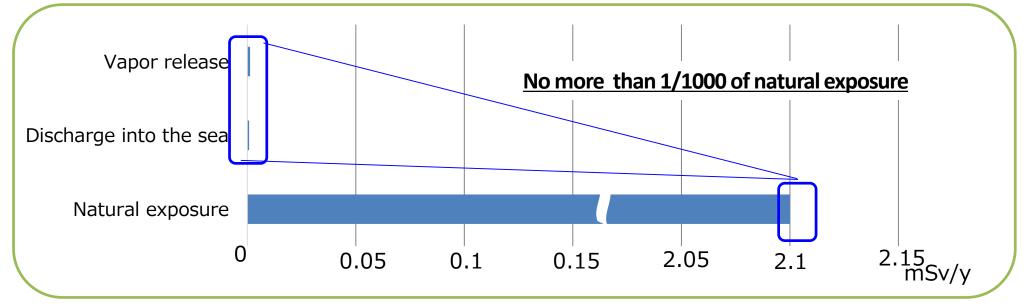


2-iv. How much is the radiation impact of treated water release?

# $\bigcirc$ The impact of the radiation to human health as a result of the discharge is <u>considerably small.</u>

Even if the entire amount of the ALPS treated water containing tritium and other radioactive material were to be disposed of in one year\*, the impact would be no more than 1/1000 of the exposure impact of natural radiation in Japan.

### **Comparison of radiation impacts from natural exposure and discharge of whole treated water in one year\***



- Based on a UNSCEAR-specified method.
- All volume of the ALPS treated water stored in tanks is discharged in one year, and similar amounts are discharged during following 100 years.
- The treated water contains 860 trillion Bq of tritium and the other radionuclides

# 2-v. What regulatory standards are applicable to the discharge from Fukushima Daiichi NPS (FDNPS) ?

Japan's regulatory standards for discharge is set in compliance with the international standards known as publications of International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), keeping additional public radiation dose <u>not</u> <u>exceeding 1mSv/year.</u>

The regulatory standards for tritium discharge stipulated in the ordinance of the Reactor Regulation Act is:

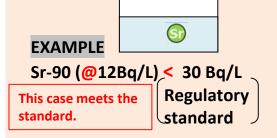
- ✓ Less than 60,000 Bq/L-water for tritium discharge into the sea; and
- ✓ Less than 5 Bq/L-air for tritium release to the atmosphere.

To know more about "regulatory standards for discharge", please see PP22 - 23

### [Ref.] What is "regulatory standards for discharge"? (1)

 Japan's regulatory standards for discharge is set in compliance with the international standards known as publications of International Commission for Radiological Protection (ICRP), keeping additional public radiation dose not exceeding 1mSv/year. (\*In the case of Fukushima Daiichi NPS, the dose should not exceed 1mSv/year.)

#### <Case 1> water which contains one kind of radionuclide



"The regulatory standards for discharge" is the limit of concentration\* applicable to the discharge of radioactive waste to the environment, which is stipulated in **the ordinance of the Reactor Regulation Act.** 

\* The concentration should be less than the stipulated limit (Bq/liter-water).

(Ref.) Regulatory standards for discharge in each major radionuclide in Japan (in the case of discharge into the sea)

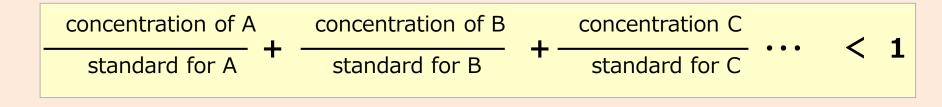
Nuclide	(Bq/Liter-water)	Nuclide	(Bq/Liter-water)
Tritium (H-3)	60,000	Ruthenium-106 (Ru-106)	100
Cesium-137 (Cs-137)	90	Strontium-90 (Sr-90)	30
Cesium-134 (Cs-134)	60	lodine-129 (I-129)	9
Cobalt-60 (Co-60)	200	Carbon-14 (C-14)	2000
Antimon-125 (Sb-125)	800	Technetium-99 (Tc-99)	1,000

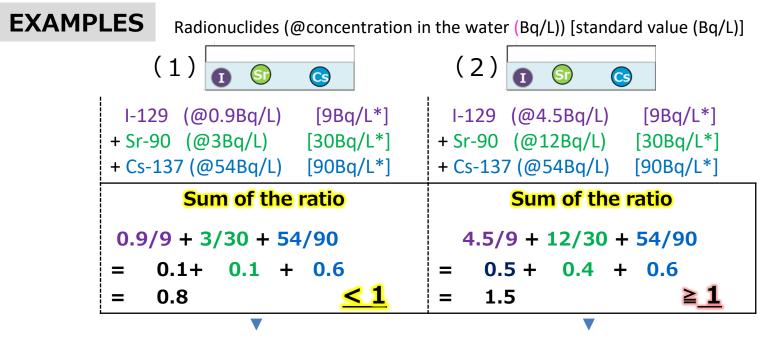
<Actual data> Actual radiation concentration measurements for each tank group
https://www4.tepco.co.jp/en/sp/decommission/progress/watertreatment/images/tankarea\_en.pdf

### [Ref.] What is "regulatory standards for discharge"? (2)

#### <Case 2> water which contains multiple kinds of radionuclides

If the radioactive waste contains multiple radionuclides, <u>the sum of the ratios of each</u> <u>radionuclide concentration to the regulatory standards for them should be less than 1</u> (please see the equation below).





This case meets the standard This case exceeds the standard

- 1. Why should treated water be disposed of? P1-
- 2. What is treated water? Is its safety confirmed? P14-

# 3. If it is disposed of, is there possibility of reputational damage? P24-

 What kind of countermeasures will be taken for possible reputational damage?
 P25

 (Ref.) Import measures on Japanese foods has been gradually lifted
 P26

[Information Portal site] P27-28

# 3. What kind of countermeasures will be taken for possible reputational damage?

## One safety of foods produced in Fukushima is confirmed by monitoring mainly before market distribution.

As the GOJ reaches out and as the fact is known by overseas government, import regulations have been eased and lifted.

When the GOJ decides its policy on treated water, <u>countermeasures for</u> <u>reputational damage will be strengthened, such as explaining scientific safety</u> <u>and developing sales channels.</u>

#### Monitoring results of foods from Fukushima

<Inspection period> Rice: 21<sup>st</sup> August,2018-31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019, Other than rice: 1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019

Type of food	Number of tests	Number of samples exceeding the standards	Ratio exceeding standard
Brown rice (produced in 2018)	All package	0	0.00%
Vegetables and fruits	386	0	0.00%
Livestock products	667	0	0.00%
Cultivated wild vegetables and mushrooms	188	0	0.00%
Seafood	859	0	0.00%
Inland water cultivated fish	14	0	0.00%
Wild vegetables and mushrooms	416	0	0.00%
Fish from river and lake	232	2*	0.86%

Source; History of Fukushima Reconstruction (ver. 26), amended by Reconstruction Agency %Sampled of the shipment restriction area

(Ref.) Import measures on Japanese foods has been gradually lifted

Of the <u>54 countries/regions which introduced import measures</u> on Japanese food after the accident, many have eased the measures and <u>38 have lifted the restriction</u>.

> Status on food import measures by countries and regions (As of December 2020)

Type of measures / Number of countries or regions			
	Lifted all measures		38
Introduced additional	Remaining measures	Test upon import	1
measures after the accident		Test certificate requirement (EU, Russia, etc.)	9
54	16	Partial import ban (China, Korea, US, etc.)	6

#### <Recent change in import measures>

Dec. 2020	United Arab Emirates	(Lifted all import measures)	
Dec. 2020	Lebanon	(Lifted all import measures)	
Nov. 2020	Egypt	(Lifted all import measures)	
Sep. 2020	Morocco	(Lifted all import measures)	
Jan-Feb, 2020	Indonesia	(Partially lifted test certificates)	etc.

### [Ref] Information Portal site (1) : Fukushima Daiichi NPS



12PC

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings

#### **Decommissioning and Contaminated Water Management** at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/dec ommissioning/index.html

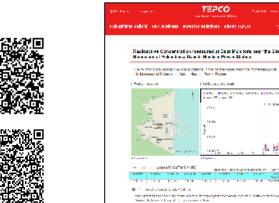
- Film, Fukushima Today 2019
  - Efforts to Decommission and Reconstruction https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v PeSp--Wuk
- Film, Fukushima Today
  - 8 years after the earthquake -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKjsSAz5Kws









**Treated Water Portal Site** 

http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/decommission/progress/watertreatment /index-e.html

### **Observation Data, Fukushima Daiichi NPS**

https://www7.tepco.co.jp/responsibility/decommissioning/1f newsr oom/data/index-e.html





#### 2-2. Information Portal site (2) : Fukushima Daiichi NPS

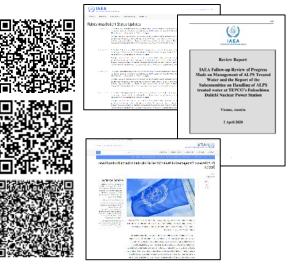


#### Fukushima Daiichi Status Updates <u>https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/fukushima/status-update</u>

#### IAEA Review mission reports (Press release )

\*IAEA Follow-up Review of Progress Made on Management of ALPS Treated Water and the Report of the Subcommittee on Handling of ALPS treated water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

https://www.meti.go.jp/English/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/pdf/4fu-report.pdf \*IAEA Reviews Management of Water Stored at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (April 2, 2020) https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-reviews-management-of-water-stored-atfukushima-daiichi-nuclear-power-station





#### Joint project, Workshop

\*Preparatory Study on Analysis of Fuel Debris (PreADES)

https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl\_25169/preparatory-study-on-analysis-of-fuel-debris-preades-project

\*International Symposium on Decommissioning, Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Food Safety: Rebuilding Post-Accident Confidence (March 26, 2019)

https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl\_27814/international-symposium-on-decommissioningreconstruction-rehabilitation-and-food-safety-rebuilding-post-accident-confidence



United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

 UNSCEAR 2016 REPORT
 Sources, effects and risks of ionizing radiation hhttps://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/publications/2016.html





