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Political Dimension of Radioactive Waste Disposal in Japan

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Government's Basic Policy for DGD

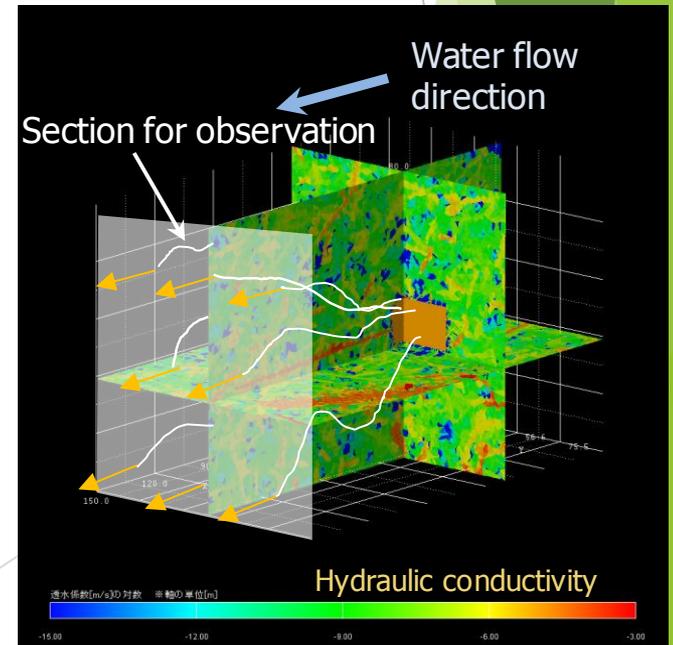
1. Steadily promote DGD of HLW as it is a responsibility of the current generation that has produced the waste to implement it, while securing the reversibility of policy and the retrievability of mined wastes and promoting the research and development of alternative technologies.
2. Communicate with the nation on the safety of DGD and the importance of both implementing DGD of HLW and showing the public's respect and gratitude to the municipalities that volunteer to participate in the process for the siting of a DGR (Deep Geological Repository) to help society solve the problem.
3. Provide the public with information about the suitability of their area for siting a DGR.
4. Support the initiative of various groups in municipalities to learn about DGD of HLW and enter into dialogue among them, providing information and financial support to do so, clarify business plan of DGD and measures to appreciate the municipalities that accept the site for DGR.

Inform the Public about the Suitability of Their Area for Siting a DGR

- In accordance with the revised basic policy, the Government decided to publish the result of nationwide scientific screening that categorizes all areas in Japan into three categories for siting a DGR, i.e., potentially more suitable, potentially suitable and potentially unsuitable areas.
- The criteria for the categorization have been under deliberation. The METI requested the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) to conduct an independent technical peer review on the suitability of this process and the criteria under preparation. The NEA review team has recently published its conclusion that the process is generally in accordance with international practices.
- The result of the categorization will be published within this year.

NUMO's Activities

- ◆ NUMO is preparing a peer-reviewed generic safety case report that gives us confidence that we will be able to make a full safety case for a DGR at an appropriately selected site in the Japanese archipelago.
- ◆ NUMO, in cooperation with the Government, has been holding public symposia and seminars in various cities of the country which consist of presentations and small group discussions for frank and open conversation on the importance and the safety of DGD with the public.
- ◆ We believe that NUMO's continuation of active exchange of opinions with diverse group of people as a competent, caring and faithful organization is essential in this endeavor.



Thank you for your kind attention!