Lifting the Evacuation-Prepared Area in case of Emergency designation

September 30, 2011
Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters

1. On the basis of the “Basic Approach to Reassessing Evacuation Areas” (August 9, 2011) decided previously by the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, five local governments containing the Evacuation-Prepared Area in case of Emergency (Hirono Town, Naraha Town, Kawauchi Village, Tamura City and Minami-soma City) prepared restoration plans and submitted them to the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters.

2. In response to these plans, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters has had closer cooperation with Fukushima Prefecture and the local governments concerned through exchange of opinions with local mayors toward lifting the Evacuation-Prepared Area in Case of Emergency designation and restoration there.

3. In addition, the Nuclear Safety Commission replied that "there is no problem” with lifting the instruction of the Evacuation-Prepared Area in case of Emergency designation. Thus, we would like to instruct and announce the lifting of that designation today.

4. In cooperation with the Reconstruction Headquarters in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake as well as with ministries and agencies concerned, we will make our utmost effort to realize the restoration plans of the local governments above. At the same time, we will continuously take every possible measure including appropriate environment monitoring and decontamination in the applicable areas to prepare for the return of the residents.

(Reference)
“The Basic Approach to Reassessing Evacuation Areas (on August 9 by the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters)” (“Exploring the lifting of the instruction of the Evacuation-Prepared Area in Case of Emergency” (Extract))

1) We assessed the possibility of abnormal events such as hydrogen explosion and reactor core cooling failure in relation to the safety securing situations of the nuclear reactor facilities. The assessment result validated the lifting of the Evacuation-Prepared Area in case of Emergency designation, in terms of reactor safety. These assessment results were also reported to the Nuclear
Safety Commission.

2) In addition to regular monitoring, special monitoring has been implemented at schools and public facilities, and at the points in response to individual requests. The area was basically confirmed as safe in terms of air dose rate.

3) Area safety verification will continue in the future by such as monitoring in response to requests. Municipalities themselves are asked to take into account the wishes of the residents and started drafting “Restoration Plans” that responds to the unique realities of the area.

4) The idea is to lift all the Evacuation-Prepared Area in case of Emergency designations at the same time on a national level, once every municipality has carefully considered and finalized its Restoration Plan. The municipalities in Evacuation-Prepared Area in case of Emergency run the gamut from areas, and the actual homecoming timing is expected to vary widely from municipality to municipality. The national government will provide necessary support for homecoming, staying respectful of the individual municipality’s wishes.