

Topics Fukushima

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Laboratory-1 under construction (building seen in the center back is the Administration Building)

Current status of the Okuma Analysis and Research Center

Preparation of facility for analysis and research of radioactive materials and construction of Laboratory-1 progress

The Okuma Research and Analysis Center, JAEA is preparing the facility for analysis and research of radioactive materials next to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (1F), Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc. (TEPCO) in Okuma Town. The facility, comprising the Administration Building, Laboratory-1, and Laboratory-2, will be used for analyzing and studying the radioactive waste and fuel debris produced by the accident of 1F. The Administration Building has been used since March 2018.

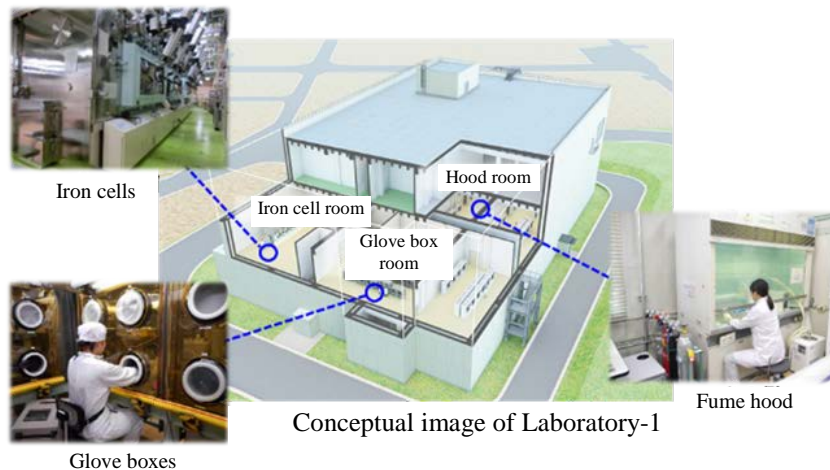


Plan for Okuma Analysis and Research Center (facility for analysis and research of radioactive materials)

The Laboratory-1 is a facility for analyzing low- to medium-level radioactive waste such as rubble produced in 1F, incinerated ash of trees, secondary waste produced by the disposal of contaminated water and dismantling waste. The construction of the Laboratory-1 began in May 2017, and its groundwork completed in February 2018. Now, the first floor and the interior equipment are under construction. As interior equipment, iron cells for shielding and containing radiation, glove boxes, and fume hoods will be used depending on the radiation dose level of the materials to be analyzed.

The decommissioning of 1F is different from those of the other nuclear power stations, because not only reactor components but also rubble, equipment inside the reactor building, trees, soil, and grass have been contaminated with radioactive materials spread by the accident, and these contaminated materials must be treated as radioactive waste. For this huge amount of radioactive waste, the methods for the waste disposal must be determined based on the analysis results of the types and amounts of radioactive nuclides. The Laboratory-1 will be used for obtaining data that will be required to decide the method of radioactive waste disposal.

Since the Laboratory-1 will be included in the 1F site after the completion of the construction, 1F samples can be analyzed without taking out from the 1F site, which is the main advantage of this new facility. It is expected to progress to its second floor construction by March 2019 and begin operation around March 2020.



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