

**We oppose the full-scale operation of the  
Rokkashomura spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant!  
Call for action to protect nature, food and life**

June 2007

In the village called Rokkashomura in Aomori prefecture in north eastern Japan, the “Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant” is a chemical factory that will re-enrich spent nuclear fuel from Japan’s nuclear power plants. Plutonium and uranium will be separated from the spent nuclear fuel that has been used domestically. The actual commercial operation is supposed to start as early as November 2007.

We oppose this and demand that work at the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant will be discontinued.

The Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant will be able to process 800 tons of spent nuclear fuel annually at the time of actual commercial operation, the largest amount in the world for non-military use. During the process, radioactivity will be discharged into the atmosphere and to the surrounding waters. Radioactivity from the factory will be released from the chimney to the sky and from drainage tubes reaching 3 km out into the open sea. Radioactive materials to be released into the atmosphere include Krypton-85 (half-life 10.76 years), Tritium (half-life 12 years), Carbon-14 (half-life 5730 years), Iodine-129 (half-life 15.7 million years), Iodine-131 (half-life 8 days) etc. Radioactive materials to be released into the ocean include Tritium, Iodine-129, and Iodine-131 etc.

Furthermore, it will discharge as much radioactivity in one day of operation as a normal nuclear plant releases in one year. This enormous release of radioactivity is estimated to go on continuously during the 40 years of its commercial operation. The discharge will spread in the northeast direction, both in the air and into the sea, which means that everyone on the east coast of Japan will be exposed to direct threat and fear from radioactive pollution. It is estimated that radioactivity will be concentrated in plankton, fish, and plants etc. Used as food, this will then lead to increased amount of exposure for humans who eat contaminated food, as the levels will be accumulating from tens of thousands to millions in density. This has been seen in France and England, where marine pollution due to radioactivity from reprocessing plants is becoming a very big problem.

Radioactive contamination causes problem for the rich and plentiful natural environment, giving a serious impact on all living things. The fear and the threat will not just be an issue for humans living in the vicinity, but a huge problem that also involves the agricultural produce, livestock and marine products that our generation has been blessed with. We feel that this problematic heritage of radioactive pollution is not something we wish to leave for the future. Our wish is to be able to continue to eat safe domestic agricultural produce, livestock and marine products.

Along the coast of eastern Japan, already many groups have acted for example to write petitions and collect signatures. Legislation to regulate and limit the radioactive discharge into the sea has been enacted locally in the coastal areas, and requests have emerged from all around the country that the operation should be discontinued. As for us, we are strongly demanding that the radioactive pollution from the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant must be stopped.

For this purpose, we are making the following demands:

- 1) We express our views about the actual damage due to radioactive contamination, in order to avoid rumours to spread.
- 2) We declare that we will independently measure radioactive contamination in order to protect the natural environment and the farming industry from increased levels of pollution.
- 3) We declare that we will cooperate with farmers and food producers, by connecting consumers to the land.
- 4) We call for opposition to radioactive pollution from the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant, in order to protect the rich and plentiful natural environment, life and food, as well as the air and water.

### **National Network to Stop Radioactive Pollution from the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant**

#### **Contact Consumers Union of Japan**

**(Call for action signed by Consumers Union of Japan and other consumer organizations and cooperatives – more groups are invited to participate)**

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