

June 7, 2017

Oarai Research and Development Center, JAEA

Radioactive contamination at JAEA's Plutonium Fuel Research Facility (PFRF) at Oarai Research and Development Center

Below is the situation after the press release issued yesterday of radioactive contamination at PFRF that occurred Tuesday June 6, 2017.

1. Measures taken at PFRF

The storage container is now covered, and the hood where the container is placed is closed with shutters. The situation of the hood is continuously monitored with a camera, and 24-hour monitoring is conducted with ventilation duct monitors and monitoring posts. It is confirmed that there is no abnormality such as another dispersal of radioactive materials and no impact on outside.

Situation of the contamination in Room No. 108 of PFRF, to which entrance is restricted at present, is currently being investigated. Subsequently, investigation of causes for the incident will be carried out, in addition to the decontamination and clearing of nuclear fuel materials in the hood.

2. Measures taken for the exposed workers

As a result of the exposure measurement of all the workers with the lung monitor conducted at Nuclear Fuel Cycle Engineering Laboratories, at maximum 2.2×10^4 Bq and 2.2×10^2 Bq were confirmed regarding Pu-239 and Am-241 respectively.

With the cooperation of the National Institute of Radiological Science (NIRS) of the National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology, which functions as the Advanced Radiation Emergency Medical Care Support Center, chelating agent (Ca-DTPA) was administered at the discretion of the industrial doctor aiming to reduce the internal exposure dose by prompting egestion of radioactive materials from the body. The five workers are transported to the NIRS today (June 7), and the JAEA will proceed with investigation in cooperation with the NIRS. The internal exposure dose will be confirmed by analyzing Pu, Am, etc. that are included in the samples of stool and urine collected from the workers.