

IAEA Missions Review Decommissioning Activities at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

On 11 March 2011 a massive earthquake and tsunami caused a major accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan, the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986. Fuel removal and post-accident stabilization and cleanup activities are ongoing at the plant, with the aim that active dismantling can proceed in due course.

In the five years since the accident, at the request of the Government of Japan, the IAEA sent more than ten expert missions to advise the country in various areas, including three on the safety and technological aspects of decommissioning and remediation.

The objective of the decommissioning peer review missions was to provide an independent assessment of the activities associated with the planning and implementation of decommissioning the plant.

The most recent mission, in February 2015, involved 15 international experts, who

provided an independent review of the decommissioning based on IAEA safety standards and other relevant good practices. The reports of these peer reviews are available on the IAEA website, at www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/fukushima

In August 2015, the IAEA published The Fukushima Daiichi Accident Report by the Director General, along with five technical volumes prepared by international experts, assessing the cause and consequences of the accident. The publication brings together lessons learned from the accident and provides a valuable resource to all countries that use, or plan to use, nuclear power. One volume deals with post-accident recovery, including decommissioning and environmental remediation.

The following photos document the last IAEA decommissioning mission in February 2015.



Water tanks holding contaminated water in front of the reactor buildings at Fukushima Daiichi.



The IAEA decommissioning team listens to an explanation about the function of a purification system that removes almost all radioactive elements from contaminated water.



An expert member of the IAEA mission team gets help to kit up for a tour of the site.



An expert member of the IAEA mission team peers into the emptied spent fuel pool.

IAEA decommissioning review team members walk past the Unit 4 structure.

The IAEA team looks at a purification system that removes almost all radioactive elements from contaminated water.



(Photos: S. Lööf/IAEA)