

WM2013 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 4: Fukushima D&D (Part 1 of 4)

Co-Chairs: **Rick Dearholt**, *Rix LLC, Business Development & Management Consultant*
Angie Jones, *AMEC*

Panel Reporter: **Rick Dearholt**, *Rix LLC, Business Development & Management Consultant*

Panelists:

1. **Irena Mele**, *Section Head, Waste Technology Section, IAEA (Vienna)*
2. **John Mathieson**, *Head of International Relations, NDA (United Kingdom)*
3. **Steve Rima**, *Vice President, Radiological Services & Engineering, AMEC*
4. **Robert Kury**, *Vice President, Nuclear Liabilities D&D, CH2M HILL*

About 75 people attended this panel session which focused on the progress made in recovery efforts and D&D associated with the incident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP that effected the surrounding area. This is the first of four sessions discussing the status of cleanup efforts. Last year, Japan was the featured country at WM2012. These sessions will update the WM attendees on the year's accomplishments and future goals and challenges.

Summary of Presentations

Irena Mele provided an international perspective on the progress as it pertains to the IAEA interaction with Japan on the accident. She provided a briefing on the Action Plan dealing with Nuclear Safety as published by IAEA. She also discussed a meeting of International Experts, at the last IAEA meeting, which included lessons learned from the accident and also provided the framework for decommissioning and emergency response following accidents.

John Mathieson provided an update of where the interactions between the UK and Japan were. Especially where the interests of the UK in the successful cleanup of the plant was paramount to the continued relationship of the reprocessing of fuel.

Steve Rima provided information concerning the off site characterization and remediation progress to date, including a number of technology demonstration projects. One of the major issues facing Japan is the true definition of "clean" which remains a major obstacle. He further discussed the near term challenges associated with technologies to deploy and the public communication issues.

Robert Kury discussed the medium to long term road map for Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) clean up. It included 3 separate phases along with timelines for the completion of clean up. One major milestone he discussed was the remote decontamination of the internal portions of the reactor and the bid process that TEPCO is going through now.

WM2013 Conference Panel Report

Questions and Answers

In response to a question on if there was any consideration of using the Emergency Assistance Convention from the IAEA, Irena Mele responded that she was not the expert in this area and was not aware of any request from Japan for assistance.

Robert Kury was asked who were the firms associated with the “ATOX” bid and what were their contributions to the cleanup, in which his response was that he was not aware of any of their contributions.

Steve Rima was asked if there had been any other methods considered for the cleanup of Cs¹³⁷ in soils in which he responded that primarily they have looked at deep plowing of fields and contaminated soil sites but that there is not one answer that fits all situations. They continue to explore other ideas and remediation technologies.

A question concerning the siting of waste disposal areas and whether they were long term or interim came up, Robert Kury responded that at the present time there are only 3 interim storage sites and those are filling up quickly, there has been some discussion concerning a permanent waste disposal site but nothing has been done as of yet.