

# The Current Status and the Future of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Business in JNFL

~Efforts for Safe and Stable Operation~

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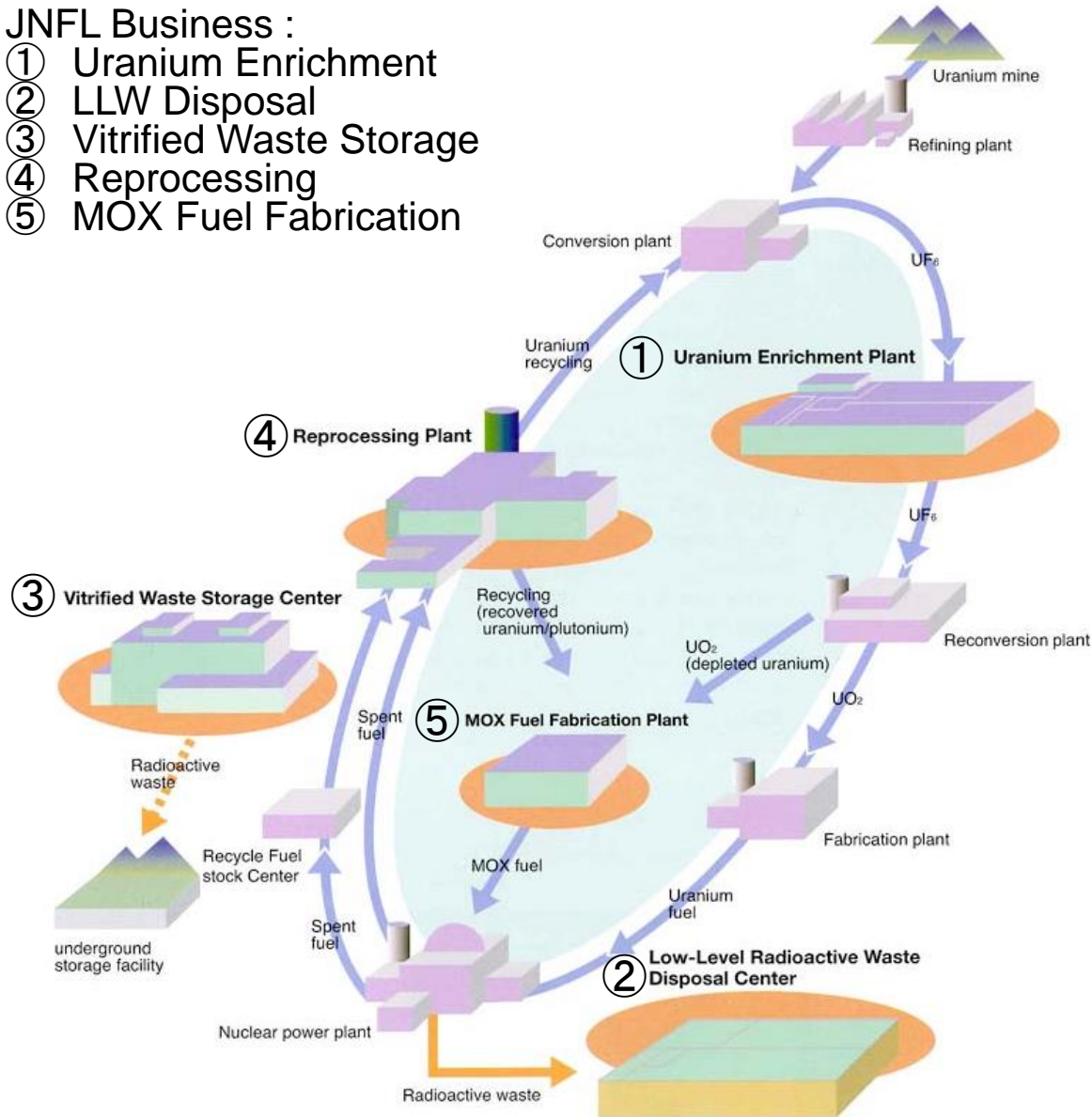
# Nuclear Fuel Cycle and JNFL Business



## Nuclear Fuel Cycle Conceptual Diagram

JNFL Business :

- ① Uranium Enrichment
- ② LLW Disposal
- ③ Vitrified Waste Storage
- ④ Reprocessing
- ⑤ MOX Fuel Fabrication



Business Line

JNFL is responsible for the vital stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

# JNFL' Role and the Significance of Nuclear Fuel Cycle

## JNFL' Role

### Reprocessing and MOX Fuel Fabrication

- Makes effective use of spent fuel via reprocessing/MOX
- Reduces the volume of high-level radioactive waste
- Makes decay period of HLW shorter

Storage of high-level radioactive waste

Uranium enrichment

Disposal of low-level radioactive waste



## Significance of Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Contributes to Japan's energy self-sufficiency rate

Establishes a good precedent for the peaceful use of reprocessing technology

Provides comprehensive support for nuclear power generation



Regional development

# Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Center

- Approx. 296,000 drums of LLW arising from Japanese nuclear power plants are disposed
- Site expansion to be planned

- Start of operation : December, 1992
- Ultimate capacity : 600,000 m<sup>3</sup>  
(Equivalent to 3 million 200 liter drums)

- Current status :

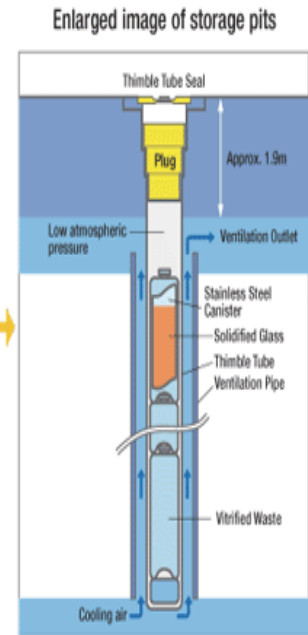
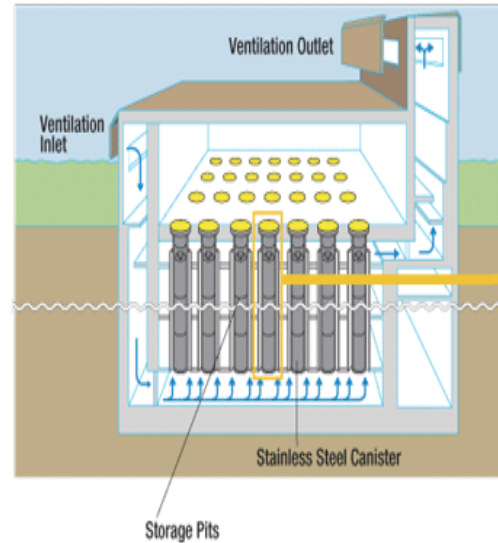
- Number of drums stored

No.1 (Solidified liquid waste) approx. 149,000

No.2 (Solidified miscellaneous waste) approx. 147,000  
(as of December 31, 2016)



# Vitrified Waste Storage Center (Interim Storage)



- Start of operation : April 1995
- Storage capacity : 2,880 canisters
- Storage period : 30 - 50 years

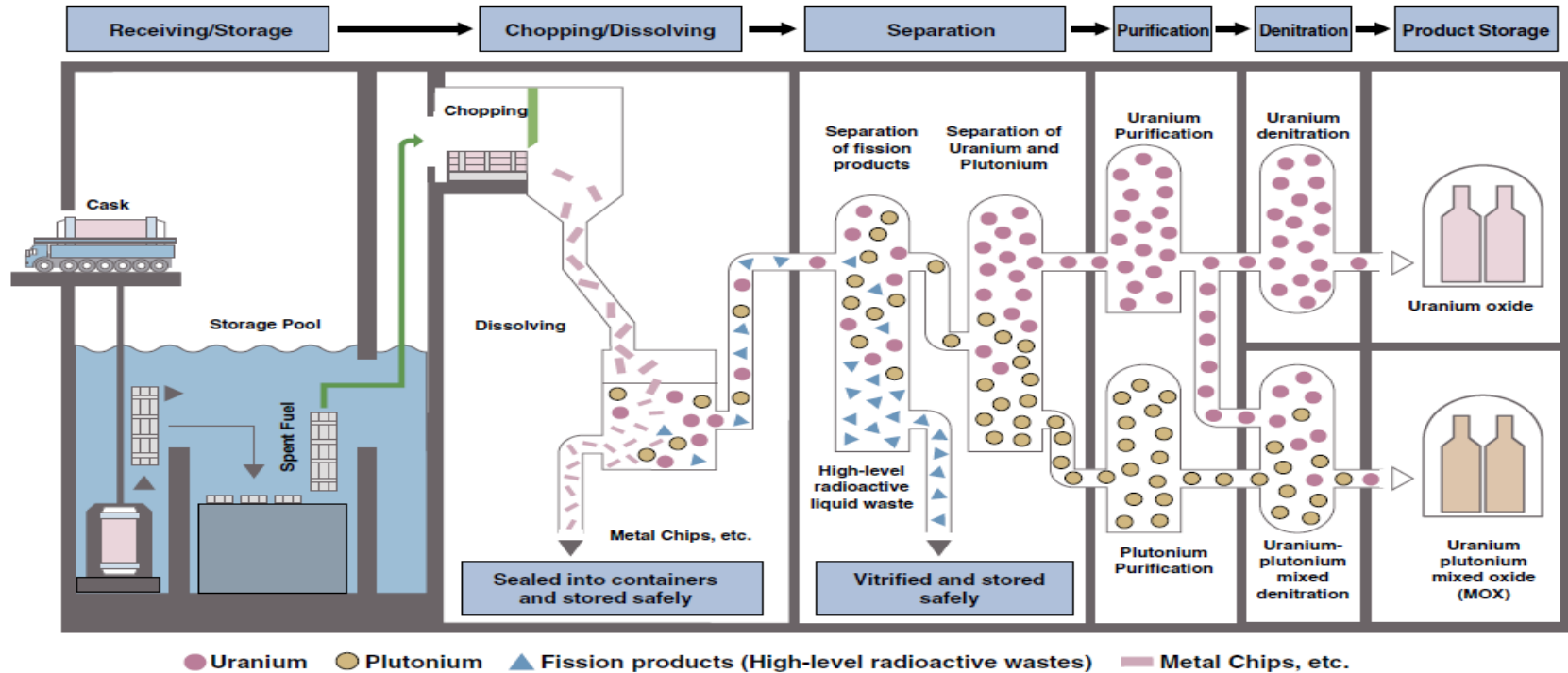


# Vitrified Waste Storage Center (Interim Storage)



- Current storage status (as of December 31, 2016):
  - 1,310 canisters from France (Completed on March 31, 2007)  
520 canisters from UK as of September 30, 2015.
  - Approx. 2,200 canisters are expected to be returned in total.
  - Storing returned low-level radioactive vitrified waste canisters is also planned.
  
- 346 canisters were produced at Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant in Active Test.

# Reprocessing (Main Process)



- Capacity : Max. 800 tU/y
- Reprocessing technology : PUREX method
- Nuclear security measures : U-Pu Co-denitration
- Safeguards : Under continuous inspection by IAEA and Japan Safeguards Office

# Reprocessing (Main Process)

1968 US-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

1988 US-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (Present)

1989 Licensing application

1992 Licensing approval

1993 Commencement of construction

2001 Commencement of Water Test

2002 Commencement of Chemical Test

2004 Commencement of Uranium Test

2006 Commencement of Active Test

Tests almost completed at the main process by 2008

Reprocessed SF in Active Test : 425 tU

Recovered MOX product in Active Test : 6.7 tHM

2011 Great East Japan Earthquake happened

2013 Completion of vitrification tests



Construction Progress: 99%

Completion of RRP : First half of Japanese FY 2018



# New Regulatory Requirements

- New regulation on safety was enforced in December 2013, reflecting Fukushima daiichi NPP accident.
  - Design standards
  - Seismic evaluation
  - Severe accident
  
- JNFL submitted applications for conformance to the new safety regulations to the NRA in January 2014.
  
- Reviews by NRA are undergoing.

# Review of Seismic Standard

## Evaluation items

Evaluation of underground structures

Faults in the JNFL site

Evaluation of active faults around the site  
(Inland Crustal earthquake: Deto West fault,  
fault on the outer edge of the continental shelf)

Seismic ground motions with specific hypocenters  
(Inter-plate earthquake and oceanic intra-plate earthquake)

Seismic ground motion without specific hypocenters



Design-standards seismic ground motion 700 gals

# MOX Fuel Fabrication Plant (under construction)

(MOX: Mixed Oxide)

- MOX powder produced from the reprocessing plant is fabricated to MOX fuel at the MOX Fuel Fabrication Plant in Rokkasho
- Application for compliance with the new safety regulations was filed in January 2014 and is currently under the review by the NRA
- Completion of the construction is scheduled to the first half of Japanese FY 2019

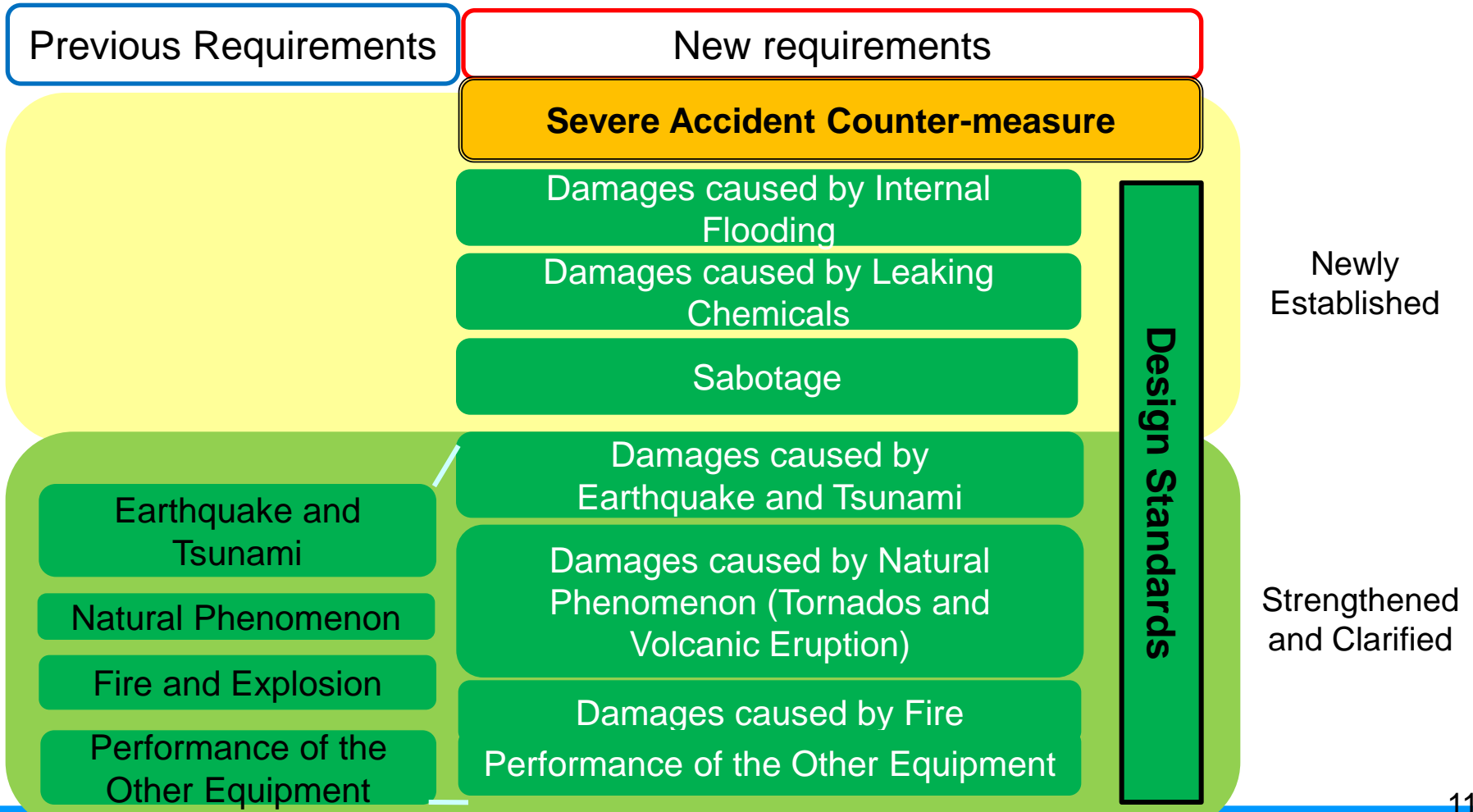
- Capacity : max.130 tHM/y
- Location : adjacent to RRP
- MOX product is automatically transferred from the reprocessing plant to MOX plant through underground tunnel.
- Construction status
  - October 2010: Construction started  
(Construction work was suspended from March 2011 to March 2012 due to the Great East Japan Earthquake.)



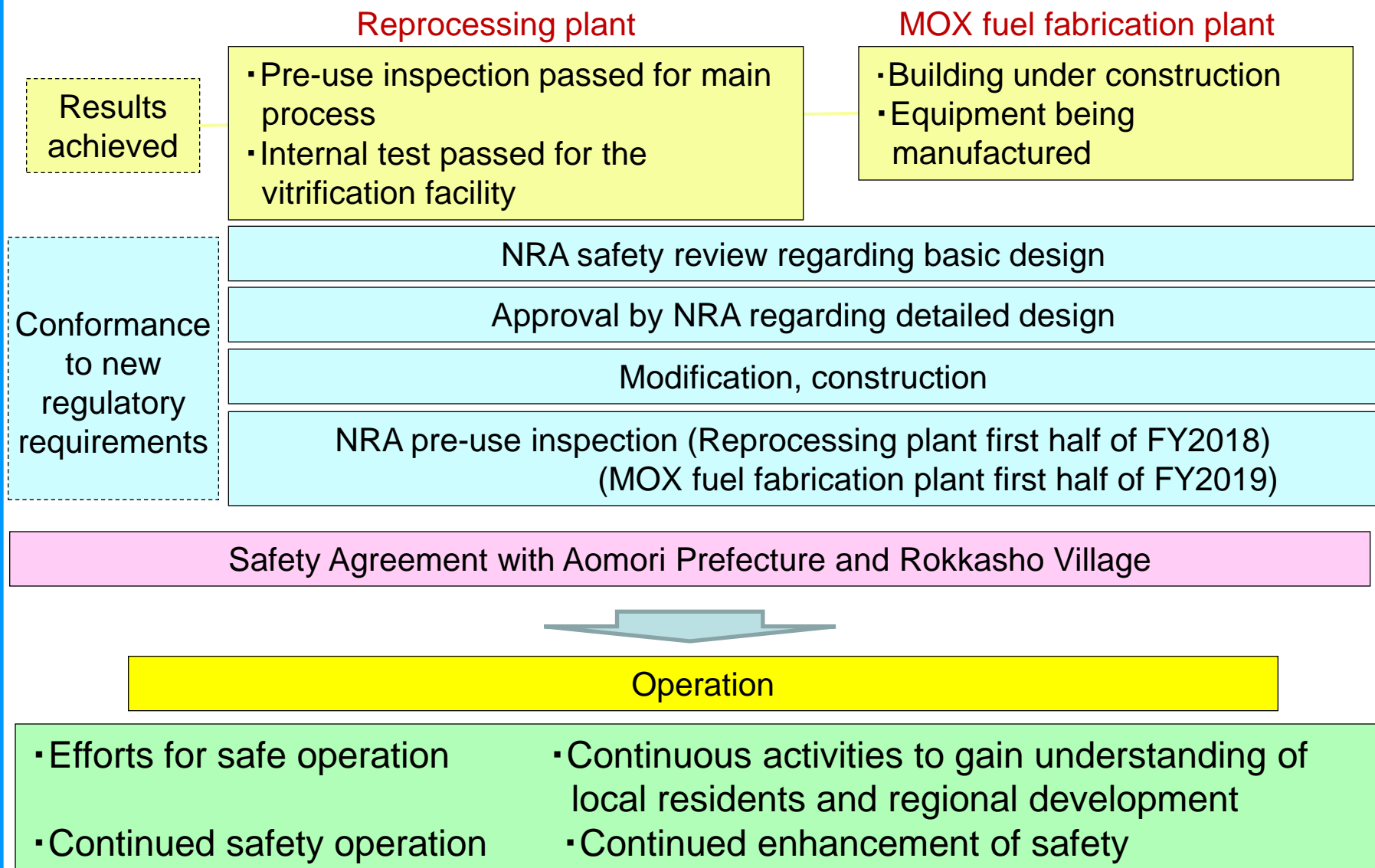
# (Reference) New Regulatory Requirements for Reprocessing Plant



In the New Regulatory Requirements, the previous requirements are strengthened and clarified, and four new items including severe accident countermeasures are added.



# (Reference) Results Achieved and Future Plans



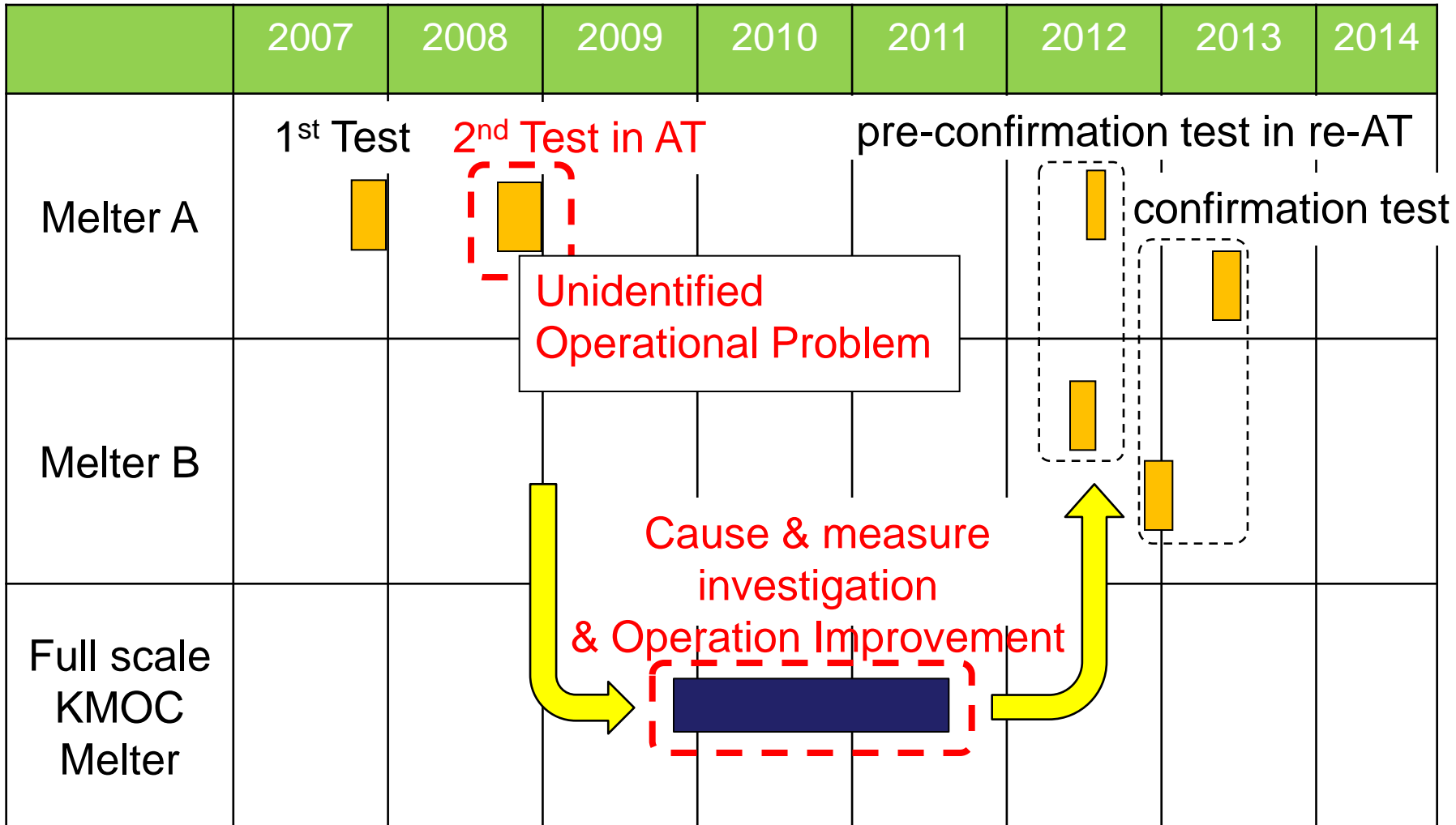
# (Reference) Schedule of the Development of the Advanced Melter



- Development of the advanced melter was started at 2009

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
RRP	Active test										
Vitrification facility of RRP	Pre-test, Vitrification test			Design, fabrication and cold test of advanced melter							
Development of advanced melter	Melter design		Melter component development								
	Fabrication of full-scale inactive test melter				Full-scale inactive test Phase I			Full-scale inactive test Phase II		Full-scale inactive test Phase III	
										Tentative	
	Replacement by 2 <sup>nd</sup> melter										
								Commercial operation			
								NRA pre-service inspection			

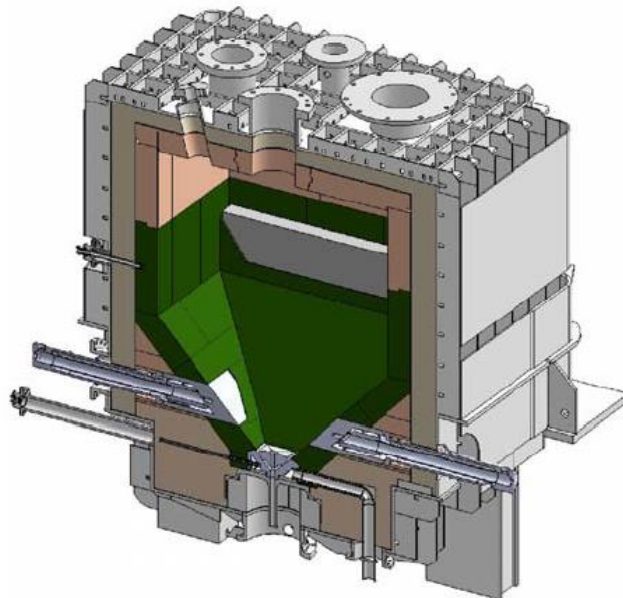
# (Reference) Problems in Existing-Melter Operation in AT



## (Reference) Advanced Melter in RRP

- The advanced melter is Liquid Fed Joule-heated ceramic melter
- The advanced melter was developed considering the following points
  - ✓ Suppressing deposition of noble metals in bottom part of melter
  - ✓ Increasing operation availability and throughput

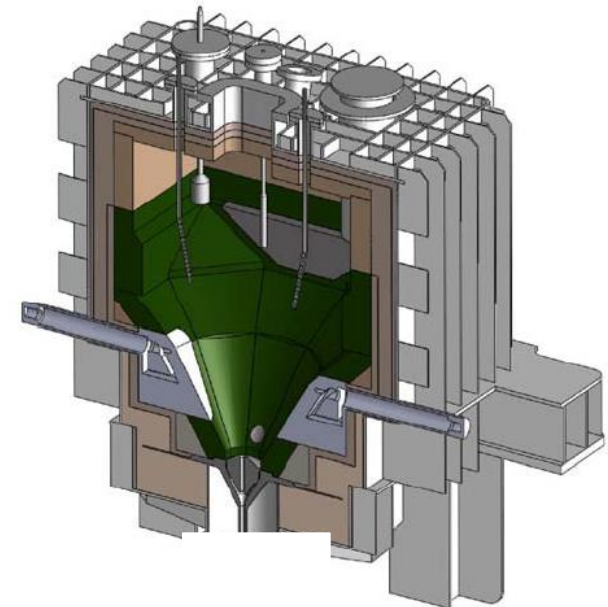
### Existing melter



45° slope and pyramidal form with 4 corners



### Advanced melter



60° slope and conical form



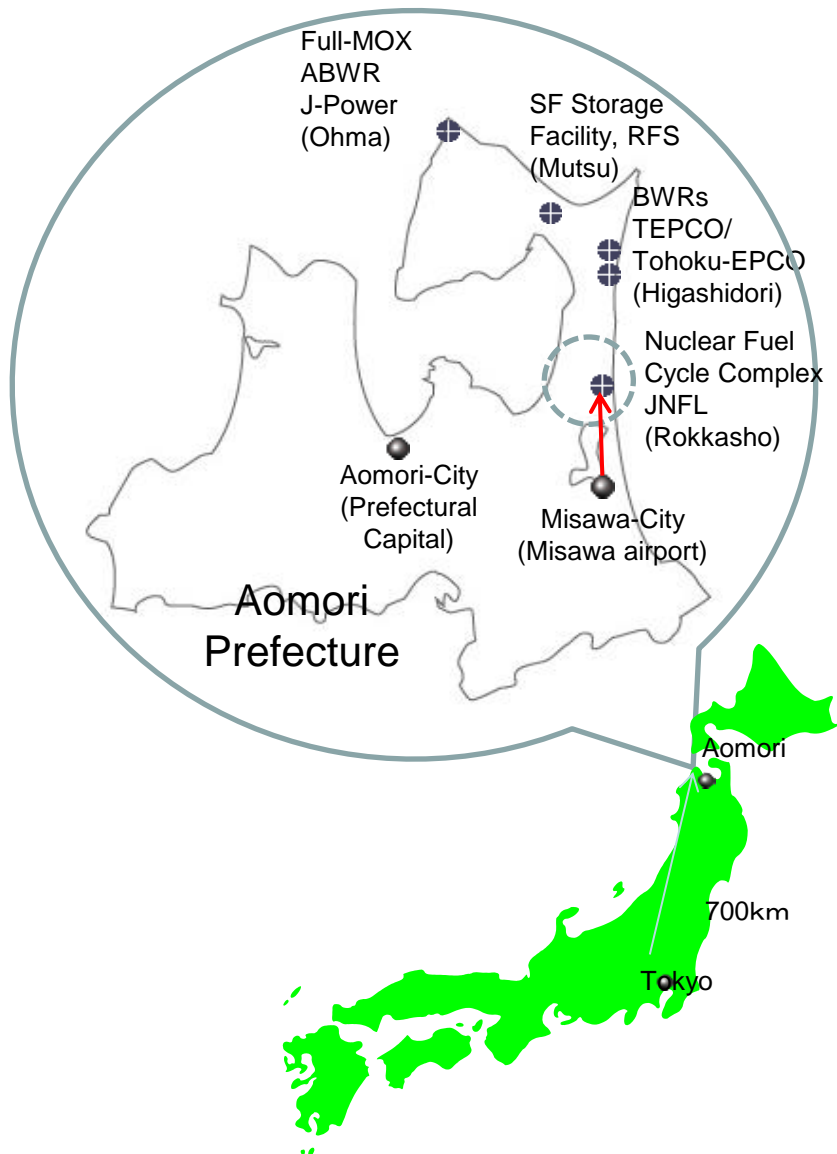
## (Reference) History of JNFL

Some thirty years have passed since “The Basic Agreement about Cooperation in the Siting of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Plant” was concluded with Aomori prefecture and Rokkasho village.

### History of JNFL

Apr. 1985	“The Basic Agreement about Cooperation in the Siting of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Plant” was concluded
Oct. 1988	Construction of the Uranium Enrichment Plant started
Nov. 1990	Construction of the Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Center started
Mar. 1992	The Uranium Enrichment Plant started operation
May 1992	Construction of the High-level Radioactive Waste Storage Center started
Dec. 1992	The Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Center started operation
Apr. 1993	Construction of Reprocessing Plant started
Apr. 1995	The High-level Radioactive Waste Storage Center started operation
Mar. 2006	The active test was started at the Reprocessing Plant
Oct. 2010	Construction of the MOX Fuel Fabrication Plant started
Mar. 2011	Great East Japan Earthquake happened
Dec. 2013	New Regulatory Requirements became effective
Jan. 2014	NRA began screening of reprocessing facilities to check conformance to new regulatory requirements

# (Reference) Location: JNFL

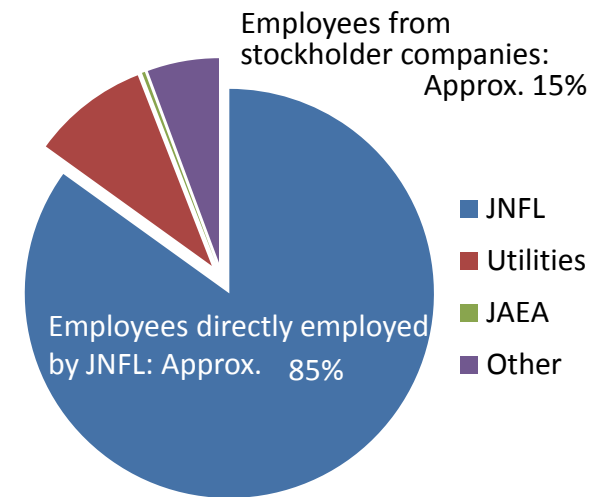


Overview of the Reprocessing Plant

# (Reference) JNFL Corporate Profile

- Establishment: July 1, 1992
- Customers : Japanese nuclear power plant operators
- Stockholders : Ten Japanese electric power utilities (approximately 90% of interests) and 74 other Japanese companies
- Capital Stock : 400 billion yen + Capital reserve 200 billion yen
- Net sales : 295.4 billion yen (FY 2015)
- Gross assets : 2,414.5 billion yen (FY 2015)
- Employees : 2,589 (as of May 1, 2016)

Approx. 62% of all employees (1,618) is from Aomori Prefecture.



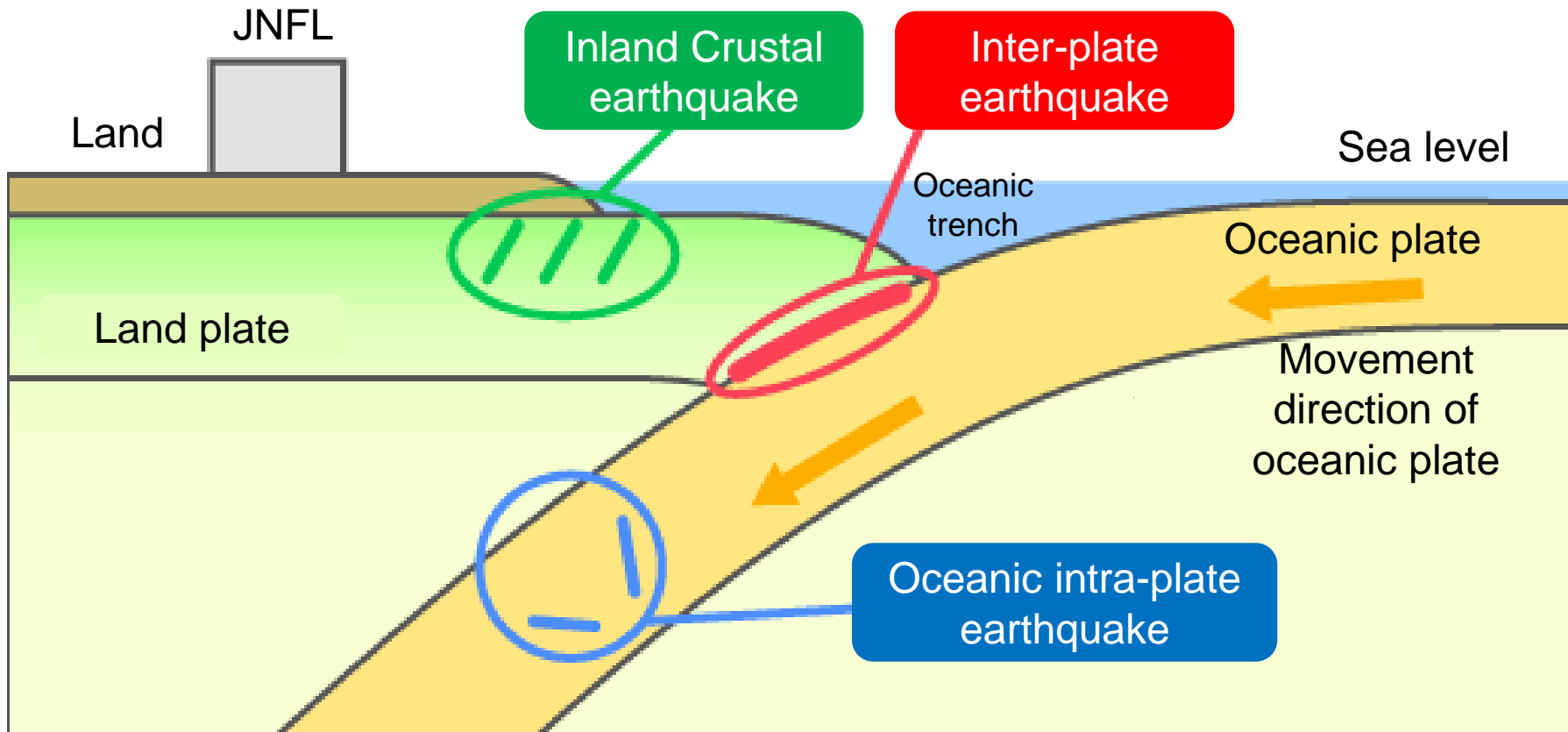
Employment Structures

# (Reference) Type of Radioactive Waste in Japan

Type of Radioactive Waste			Waste (Example)	Source	How to Dispose (Example)		
High level radioactive waste			Vitrified waste	Reprocessing plant	Deeper ground (300m-)		
Low level radioactive waste	Waste from NPP	High ↑ Activity	Waste with relatively high activity (L1)	Control rod, components inside reactors	Nuclear power plant	Deep ground (50-100m)	
		↓ Low	Waste with relatively low activity (L2)			Effluent, filter, consumables, etc. which are solidified	Shallow ground (Low level radioactive waste disposal center, Rokkasho)
			Waste with very low activity (L3)			Concrete, metal	Shallow ground
	TRU		Fuel rod parts, effluent, filter	Reprocessing plant, MOX fuel fabrication plant	According to the level of radioactivity		
Waste below clearance level			Most of wastes coming from dismantling of nuclear facilities	All plants mentioned above	Can be reused or disposed as general waste		

Source: "Type and Source of Radioactive Waste" and "Disposal Depending on the Type of Radioactive Waste", Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

# (Reference) Type of the Earthquake



# (Reference) New Regulatory Requirements for the Reprocessing Plant

## ■ Design standards

(To prevent damage caused by fire, internal flooding, impact from the outside, etc. )

The basic policy was confirmed, and the review of respective measures was almost completed



[Examples of measures against tornado: Preventing damage caused by impact from outside]

# (Reference) New Regulatory Requirements for the Reprocessing Plant

- Severe accident
  - Criticality accident, dryness due to loss of cooling function, explosion due to hydrogen generated by radiolysis, etc.
  - Concrete measures for events of severe accidents including the superimposition of accidents and assessments of effectiveness of measures continues to be reviewed.
  
- Improvement of the quality of training



Night-time cable connection training



Water supply training in winter

# (Reference) Examples of Measures against Severe Accidents



Securing hydrogen scavenging function



Power supply truck



Securing cooling functions



Large-size pumping truck, Hose extension vehicle, Medium-size pumping truck, All terrain vehicle



# (Reference) Activities to Gain Understanding from Region: Promoting Communication



## ○ Visiting all households

Employees visit households in the Rokkasho village to explain. They also hear opinions towards JNFL. (3,090 households in Rokkasho village [June 2015], conducted twice a year since FY1984)



## ○ Ladies' monitor in Aomori

Request for opinions from the ladies' perspective in Aomori. (Commenced in 1996, conducted about seven times an year, one year term of service)



## ○ Cultivating a sense of safety using an example of troubles.

Explain potential troubles and their impact.

# (Reference) Collaboration with Relevant Organizations both Domestic and Abroad



## ■ France:

- AREVA
  - ⇒ International partner
- Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA)
  - ⇒ Joint research

## ■ United Kingdom:

- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
  - ⇒ International partner

## ■ United States:

- United States Department of State
  - ⇒ Provide information
- United States Department of Energy, national laboratories
  - ⇒ Participation to the DOE program

Connect with the world as a comprehensive nuclear fuel cycle company, and aim to make Rokkasho known worldwide.