

## **Amount of Japanese Plutonium at End of 2004 Stands at 43.1 Tons**

**On September 6, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) reported to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) about the status of the management of separated plutonium owned by Japanese interests as of the end of 2004. According to the report, the amount held both domestically and overseas stood at 43,110kg, up 2,467kg from the year before. That amount attests to the need to implement the program to use mixed oxide (MOX) fuel as quickly as possible.**

The breakdown of the figure is 5,710kg held domestically (up 235kg from the year before), and the remaining 37,400kg held abroad (up 2,232kg). Of the domestic figure, 837kg was held at reprocessing facilities (up 142kg), 3,562kg at fuel fabrication facilities (up 26kg), and 1,311kg at nuclear reactors (up 67kg).

Japan has commissioned operators in Britain and France to reprocess spent fuel: 15,897kg (up 2,283kg) in Britain and 21,503kg (down 51kg) in France.

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