

MEXT Reports on Safeguards Activities in 2006

On September 18, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) reported to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) about safeguards activities, quantities of nuclear materials in 2006, and their evaluation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). IAEA, in its Safeguards Statement for 2006, concluded that “all [of Japan’s] nuclear material remained in peaceful activities.”

In 2006, inspections in Japan increased by 21% from the year before, to 2,921 person-days. As a result of active tests carried out at the reprocessing plant by Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. (JNFL), total inspections there increased by 74%, to 1,457 person-days.

Of the total, inspections by implementing organizations accounted for 2,623 person-days, and those by governmental staff, 296 person-days. The number of facilities where inspections were conducted came to 259, and reports submitted by companies totaled at 4,968, including inventory changes, material balances and actual inventory. The number of items and/or transactions involved in gross data processing amounted to approximately 340,000.

Japan’s holdings of nuclear materials, as reported to IAEA, consisted of 1,079 tons of natural uranium, 13,879 tons of depleted uranium, 19,061 tons of enriched uranium, three tons of thorium, and 132 tons of plutonium (holdings based on the International Plutonium Management Guidelines).

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