

# Prospective Activities of Regulatory Safety Research and Development on Sub-Surface and Near-Surface Disposal

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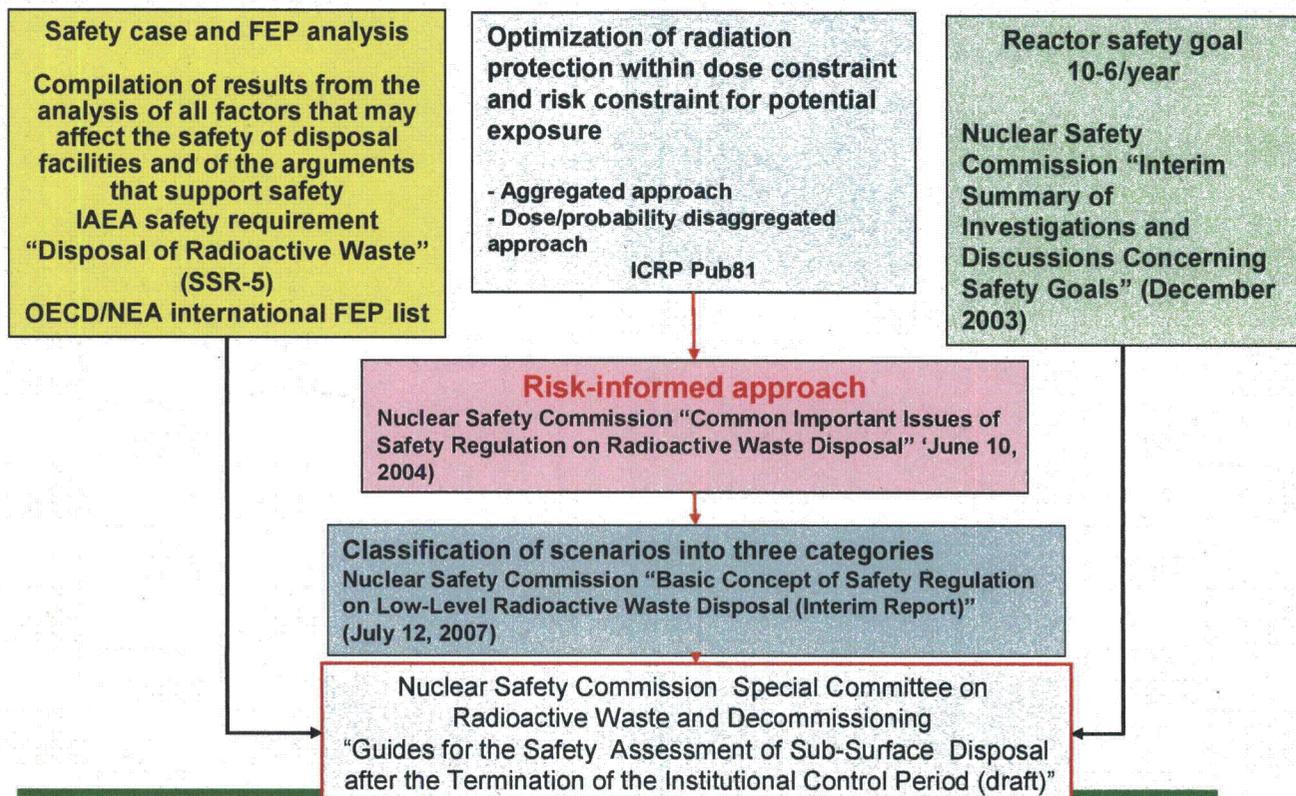
February 23, 2010

Hiroto Kawakami

Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES)

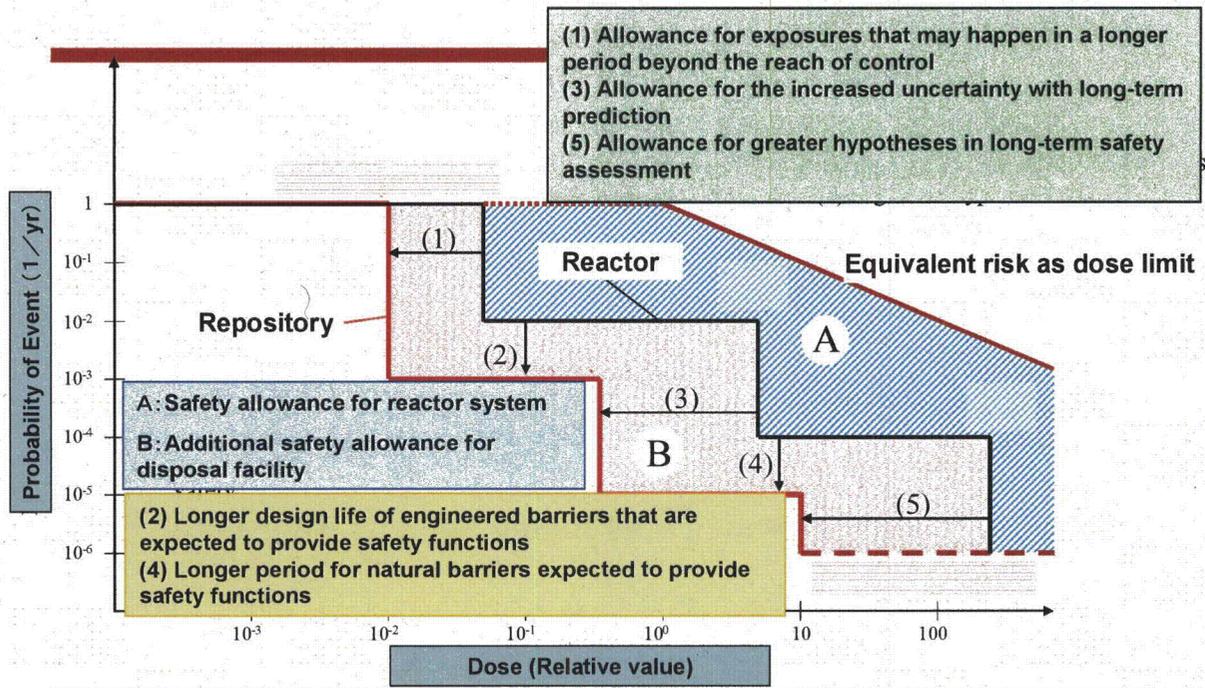
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## I. Background of Safety Policies Based on the Risk-Informed Approach Concerning Sub-Surface and Near-Surface Disposals



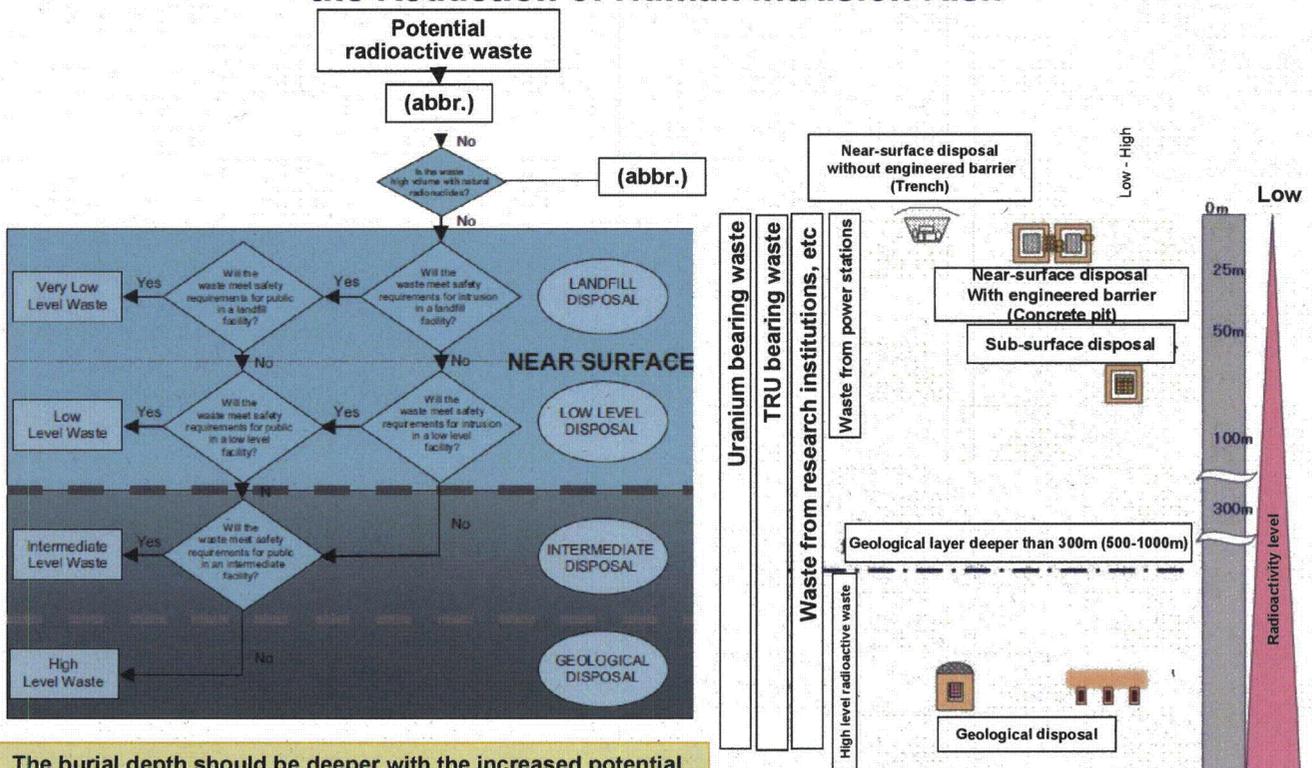
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# Inherent Risk of Radioactive Waste Disposal and Difference from Reactor System



Modified based on "A. Suzuki "An Overview on Radioactive Waste Disposal Regulations in Japan"

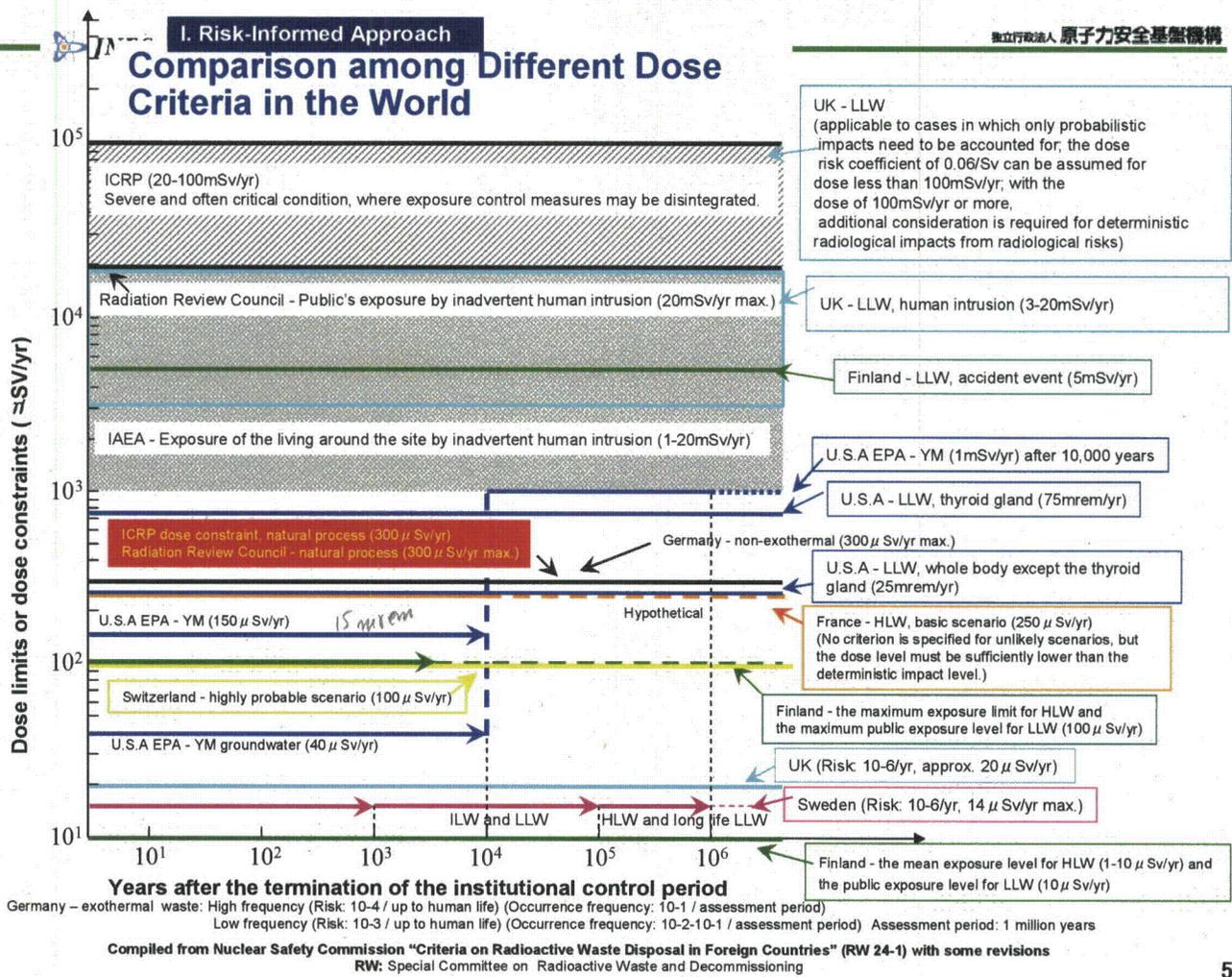
# Appropriate Selection of Burial Depth and the Reduction of Human Intrusion Risk



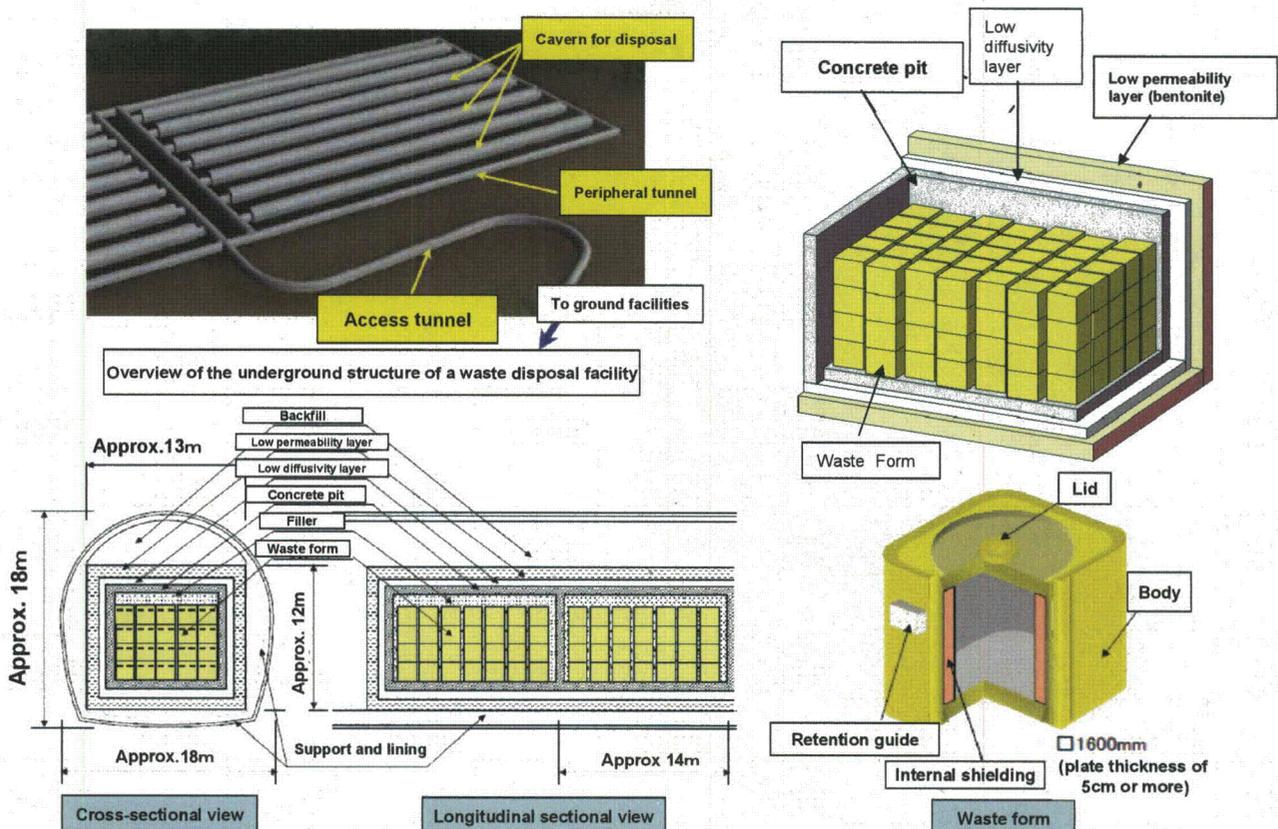
The burial depth should be deeper with the increased potential hazards from the radioactive waste in order to reduce the possibility of human intrusion.

IAEA safety guideline "Classification of Radioactive Waste" (GSG-1)

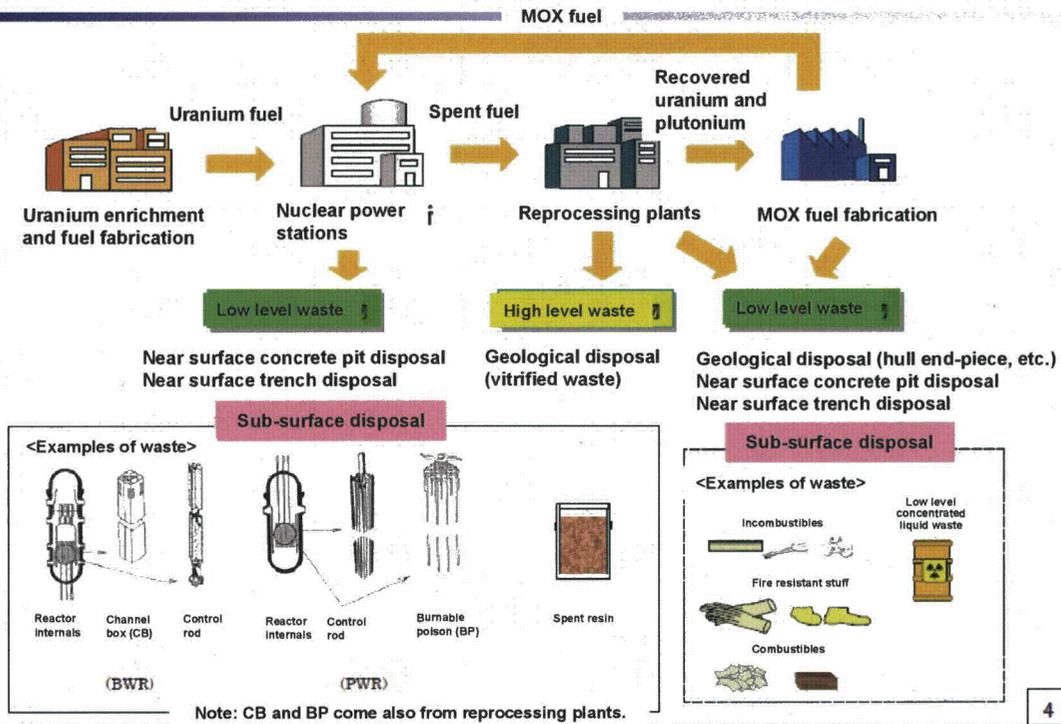
NISA web site  
<http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/>



## II. Planned Concept of Sub-Surface Disposal Facility to be Assessed



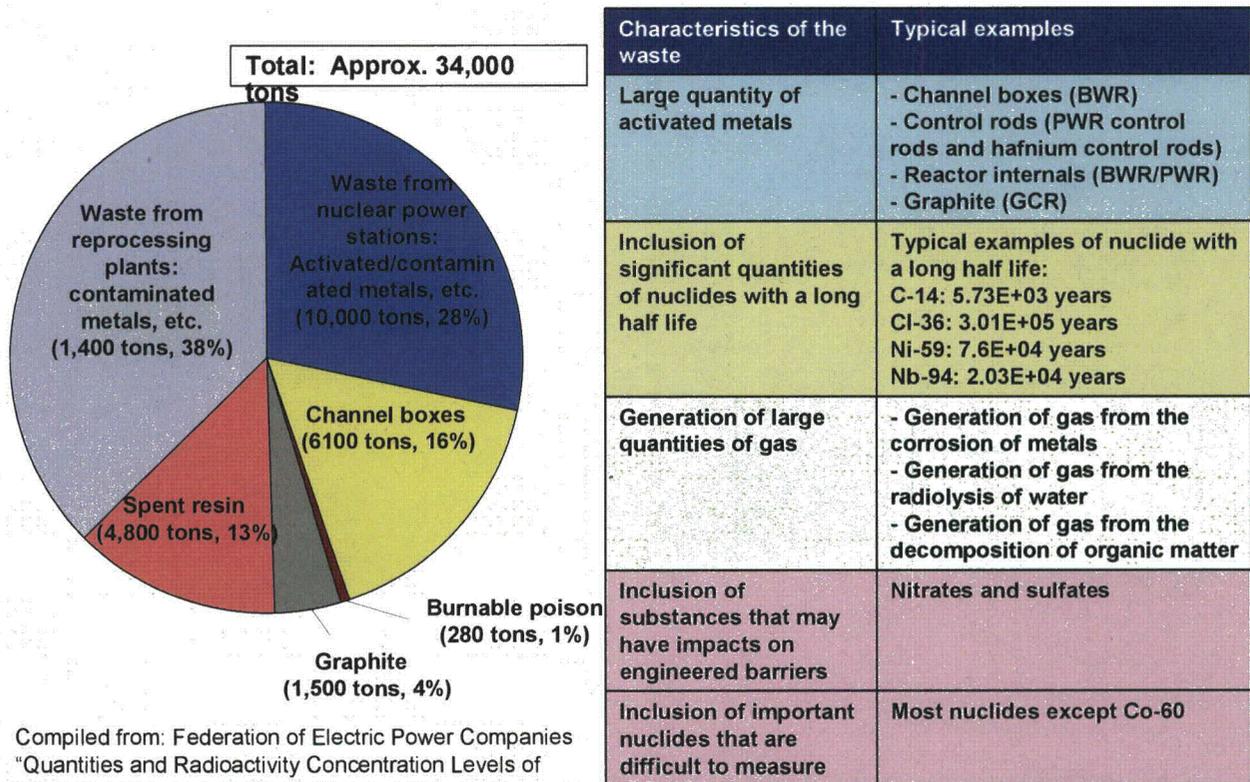
# Radioactive Wastes Planned for Disposal



電気事業連合会 The Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan

Source: Federation of Electric Power Companies "Report on the Progress of Studies Concerning Intermediate Depth Disposal" (Document No. 17-4 on Radioactive Waste)

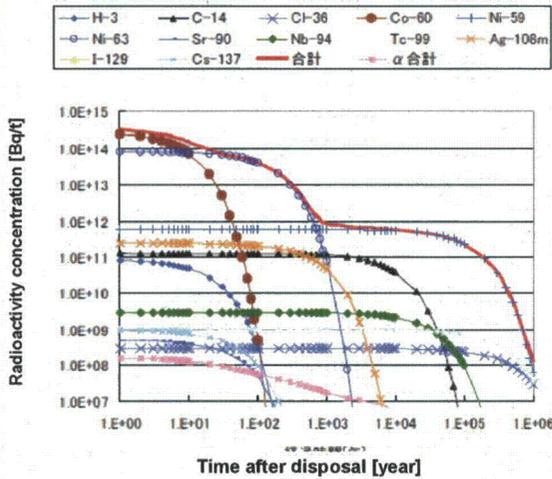
# Quantities and Characteristics of Radioactive Waste for Sub-Surface Disposal



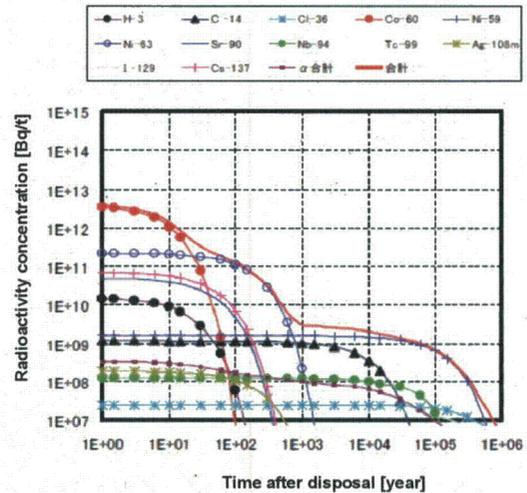
Compiled from: Federation of Electric Power Companies "Quantities and Radioactivity Concentration Levels of Waste for Intermediate Depth Disposal (C2 11-1)

# Radioactivity Concentration Decay Curve of Waste in a Sub-Surface Disposal Facility

Operational waste from power stations (activated metal)



Waste from JNFL

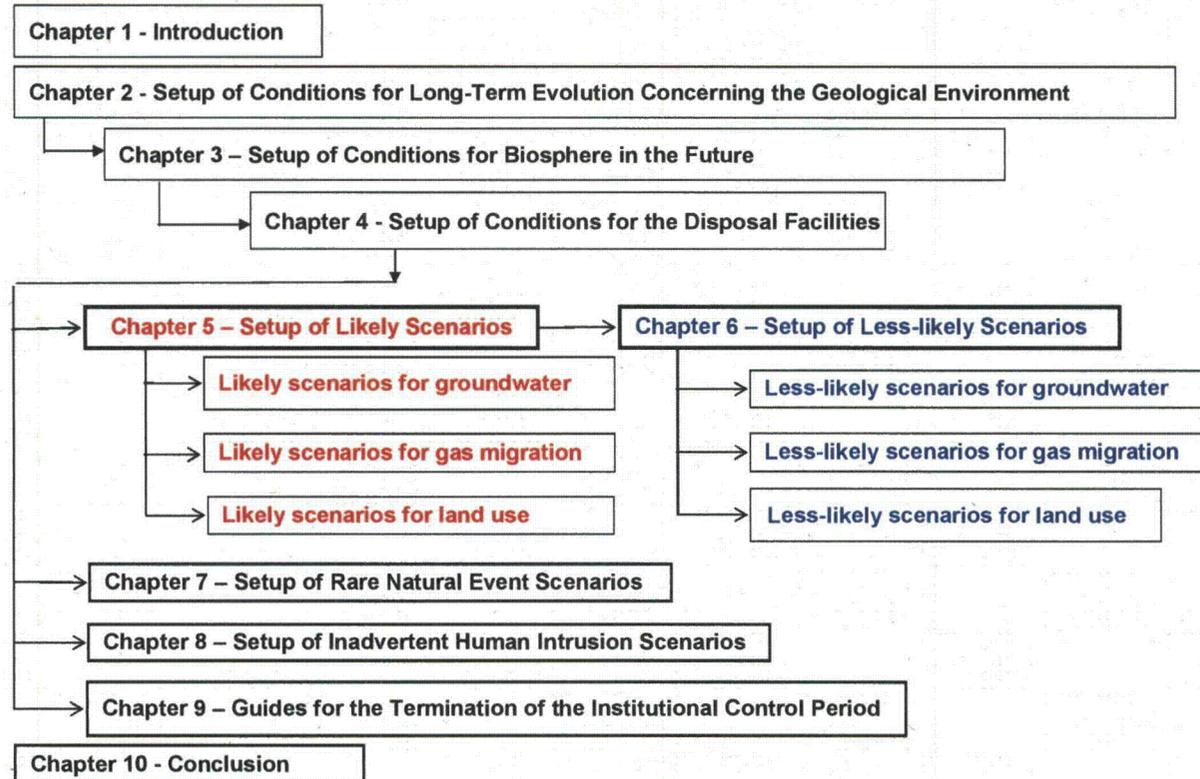


Waste for sub-surface disposal contains significant quantities of nuclides with a long half life. The verification of the safety of sub-surface disposal facilities, therefore, requires the safety assessment over a long period.

It is important that the safety assessment should address the impacts from geological uplift, erosion and sea level change if such phenomena are likely to take place around the site in a long term.

Source: Federation of Electric Power Companies "Report on the Progress of Studies Concerning Sub-Surface Disposal" (Document No. 17-4 on Radioactive Waste)

## Overview of "Guides for the Safety Assessment of Sub-Surface Disposal after the Termination of the Institutional Control Period (Draft)"

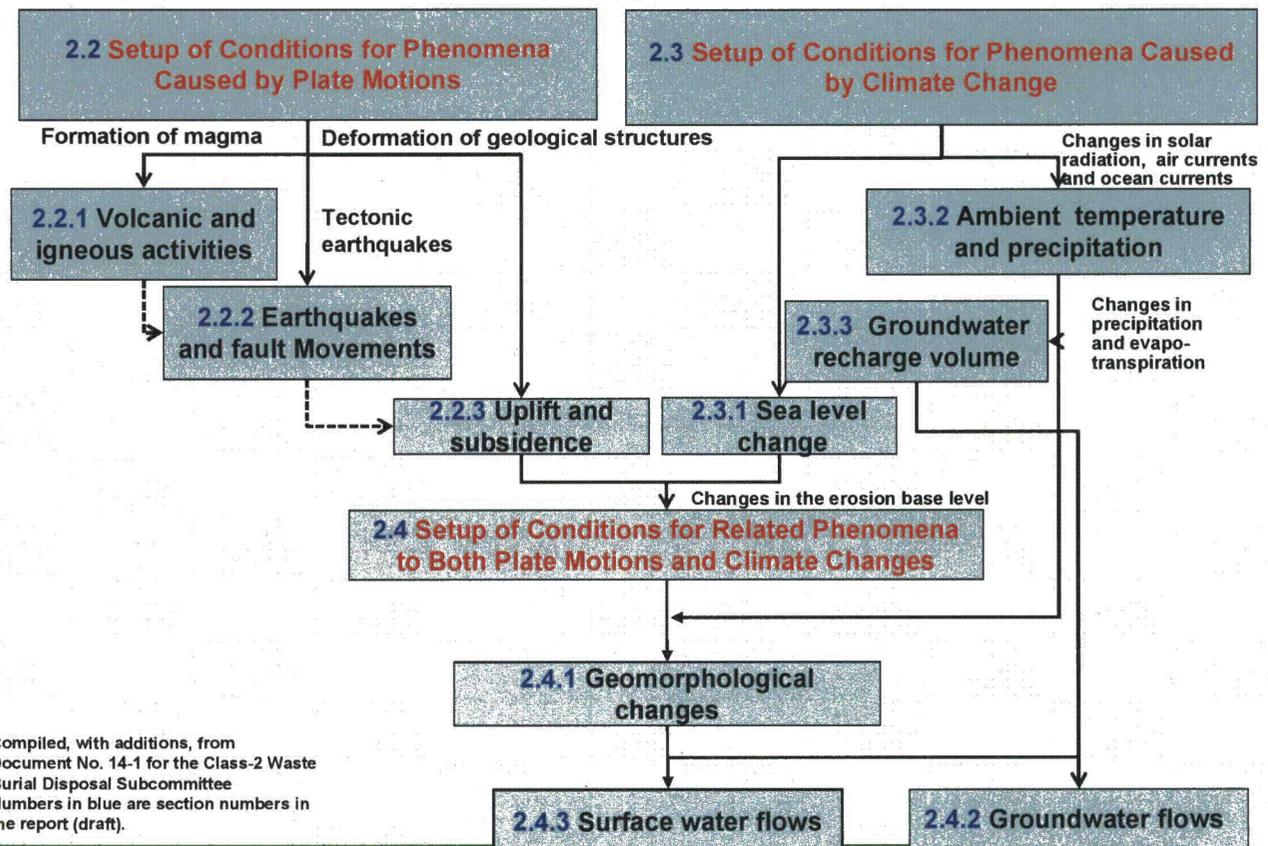


# Classification of Safety Assessment Scenarios and their Assessment Objectives

Scenario category	Assessment objective	Standard dose value (Chapter 9)
<b>Likely scenarios</b> (Chapter 5)	Scenarios that address highly probable, normally expected events These scenarios account for a series of changes that are reasonably expected to take place in the repository system and exposure pathways, or affect the characteristics thereof, in the future based on the evaluation of conditions in the past and present. These scenarios are used for assessing how well the basic design concept and policy for the repository system are configured to control the dose, arising from such changes, as low as possible reasonably achievable.	10 μSv/yr
<b>Less-likely scenarios</b> (Chapter 6)	Scenarios that address variations that are relatively improbable but are important in the context of safety assessment These scenarios are used for assessing how well the repository system design is configured to address various uncertainties. General uncertainties in safety assessment, including uncertainties concerning properties of the geological environment, are addressed by these less-likely scenarios.	300 μSv/yr
<b>Rare natural event scenarios</b> (Chapter 7)	Scenarios that address highly improbable, natural phenomena Even after including the scenarios that address relatively improbable events, there remain some uncertainties. Rare natural event scenarios are used for verifying that no additional special measure for radiation protection is deemed to be required even after giving attention to such remaining uncertainties	10mSv/yr~100mSv/yr
<b>Inadvertent human intrusion scenarios</b> (Chapter 8)	These scenarios address inadvertent human intrusion events. These scenarios are used to verify that adequate measures are taken to reduce the possibility of human intrusion and to control the exposure dose as low as reasonably achievable. These scenarios are also used to verify that no additional special measure for radiation protection is deemed to be required even after choosing a conservative assessment approach.	Residents: 1mSv/yr~10mSv/yr Intruders -defined individual intruders (e.g. workers): 10mSv~100mSv

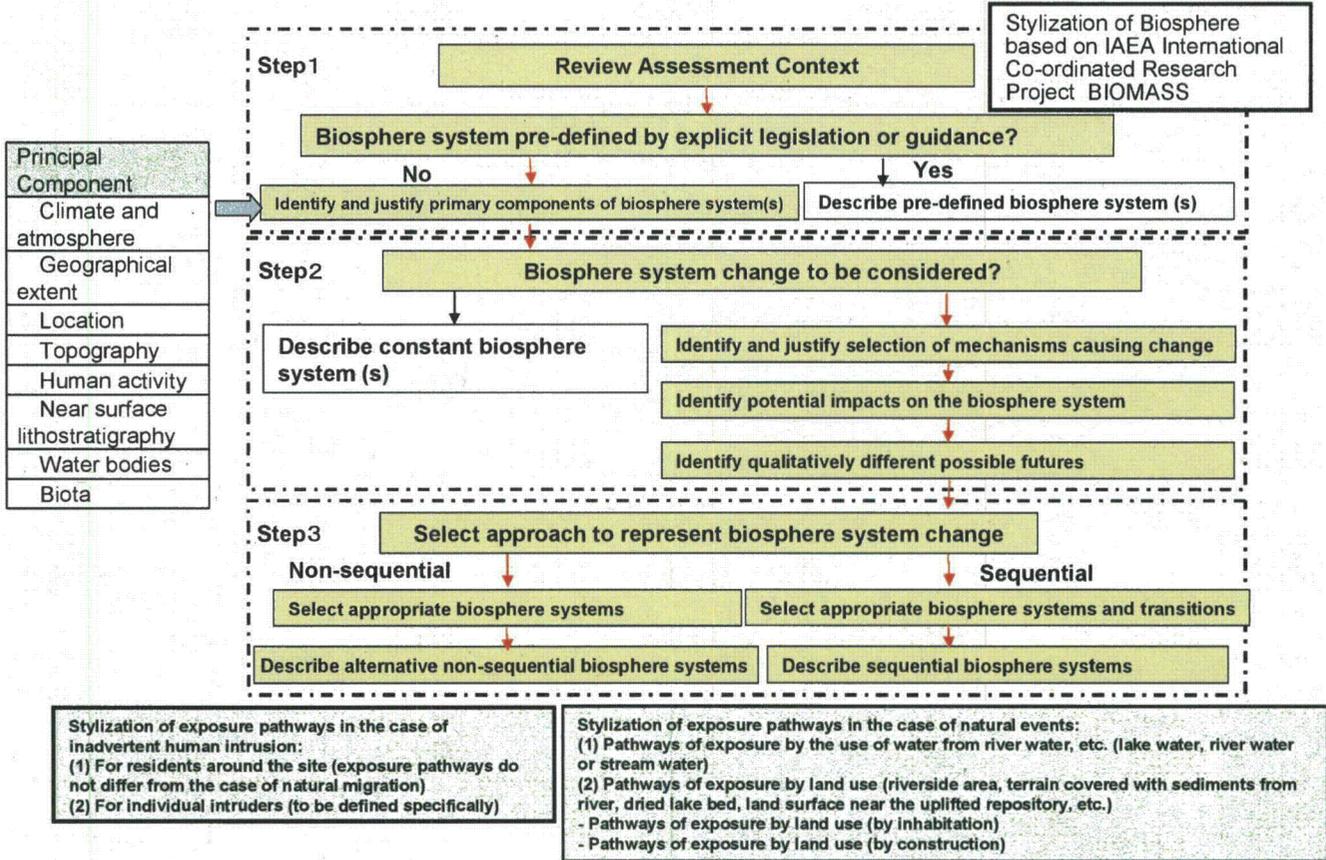
 The distinction between likely and less-likely scenarios is as reported in Nuclear Safety Commission "Basic Concept of Safety Regulation on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal (Interim Report)" (July 12, 2007).  
 The "human intrusion and rare events scenario" in the above-mentioned interim report is now classified further into "rare natural events" and "inadvertent human intrusion scenarios"

## Chapter 2 - Setup of Conditions for Long-Term Evolution Concerning the Geological Environment



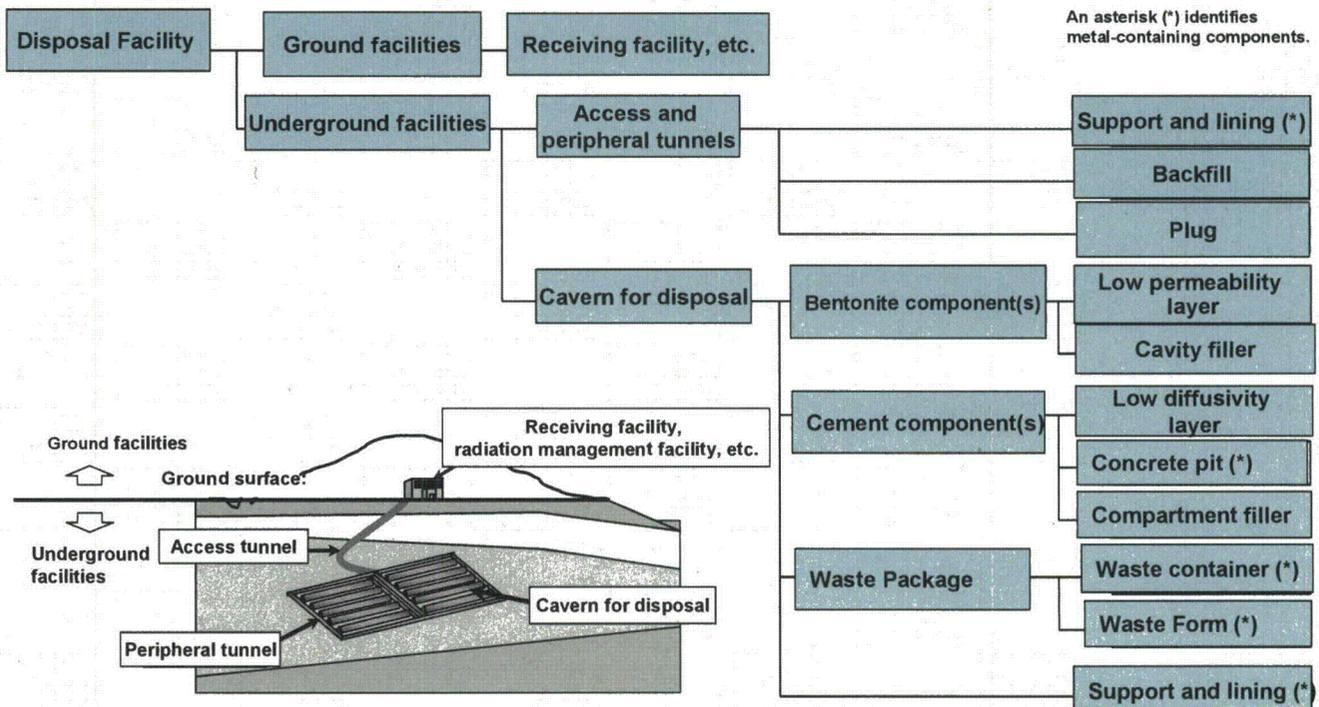
Compiled, with additions, from Document No. 14-1 for the Class-2 Waste Burial Disposal Subcommittee  
 Numbers in blue are section numbers in the report (draft).

### Chapter 3 - Setup of Conditions for Biosphere in the Future

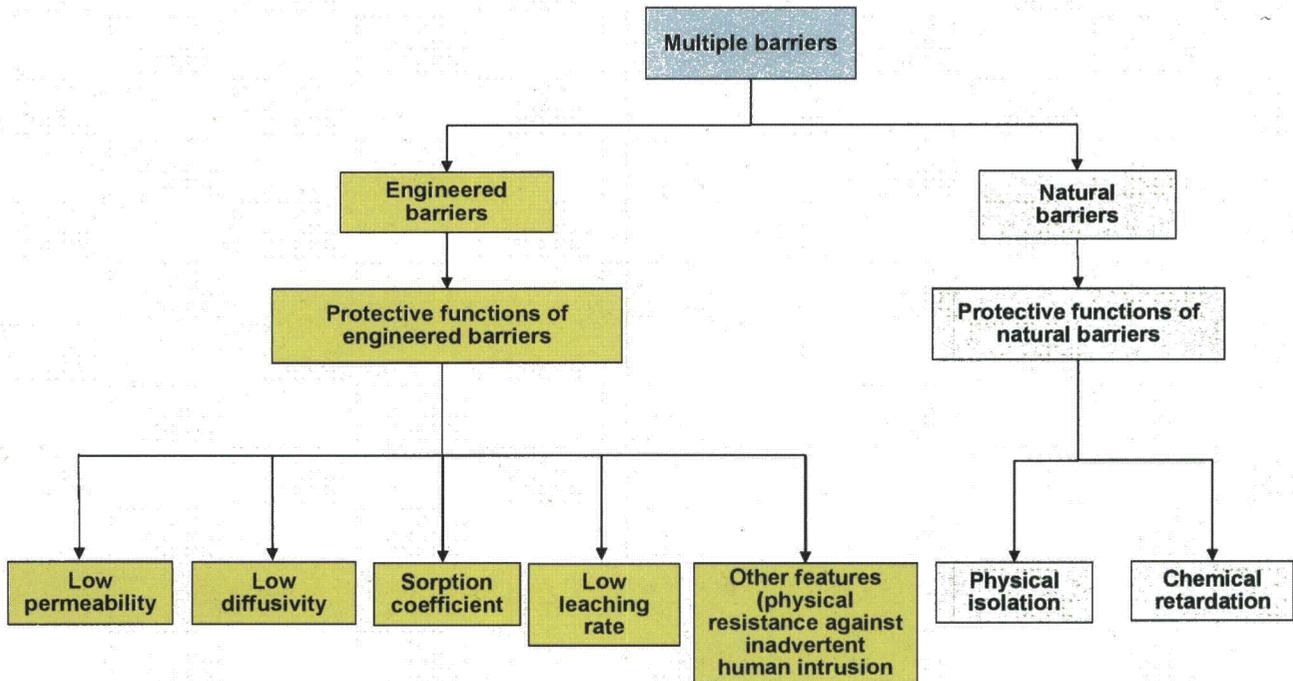


IAEA "Reference Biospheres" for solid radioactive waste disposal Report of BIOMASS Theme 1 of the BIOSphere Modelling and Assessment (BIOMASS) Programme (IAEA-BIOMASS, July 2003)

### Chapter 4 - Setup of Conditions for the Disposal Facilities Structures and Components of Disposal Facilities



# Concepts of Multiple Barrier Structures of Sub-Surface Disposal Facilities and Their Protective Functions



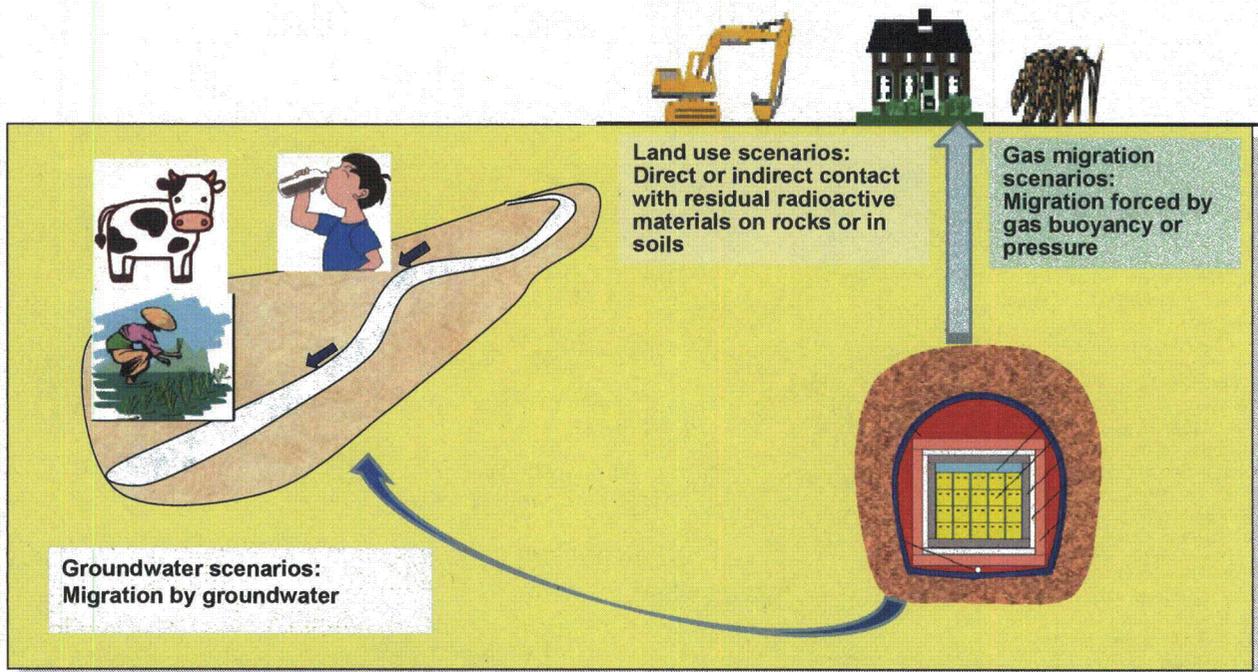
# Guides for the Setup of Conditions of Disposal Facilities for Different Time Periods

Time Period	Protective functions / characteristics of engineered barriers and the environmental conditions	Post-closure phases			
		Transient period	Period during which safety depends much on multiple barrier functions	Period during which natural barrier functions are expected to play a major role	Period during which the repository is expected to come close to the ground surface
Policies concerning the setup of conditions	Protective functions of engineered barriers: - Retardation of nuclide migration - Physical resistance against inadvertent human intrusion  Properties of engineered barriers: - Low permeability - Low diffusivity - Sorption coefficient - Low leaching rate - Other properties (mechanical properties, etc.)  Setup of the environmental conditions: - Temperature (heat) - Hydraulic conditions - Dynamic conditions - Chemical conditions	Time up to the stable conditions or the settling of changes in the states of the repository and the peripheral geological environment  - Ensure that engineered barriers are expected to withstand damage and degradation sufficiently well even when subjected to nonuniform progress of transient.  	In this period, evolutions in the repository conditions are expected be slow, because of the long-term stability of the geological environment.  Extrapolation based on scientific and technological bases and findings  	In this period, the impacts of internal and external factors, which are difficult to exclude or reduce their effects from the setup of repository conditions, become manifest.  	In this period, the repository is expected to come close to the ground surface as a result of phenomena such as uplift, erosion and sea level change  
		Define conditions based on the evaluation of physical properties specific to barrier materials and functions inherent to natural barriers, assuming a conservative approach to uncertainties.	Define conditions that accord with the setup of conditions for the near-surface geological environment.		

# Chapter 5 - Setup of Likely Scenarios

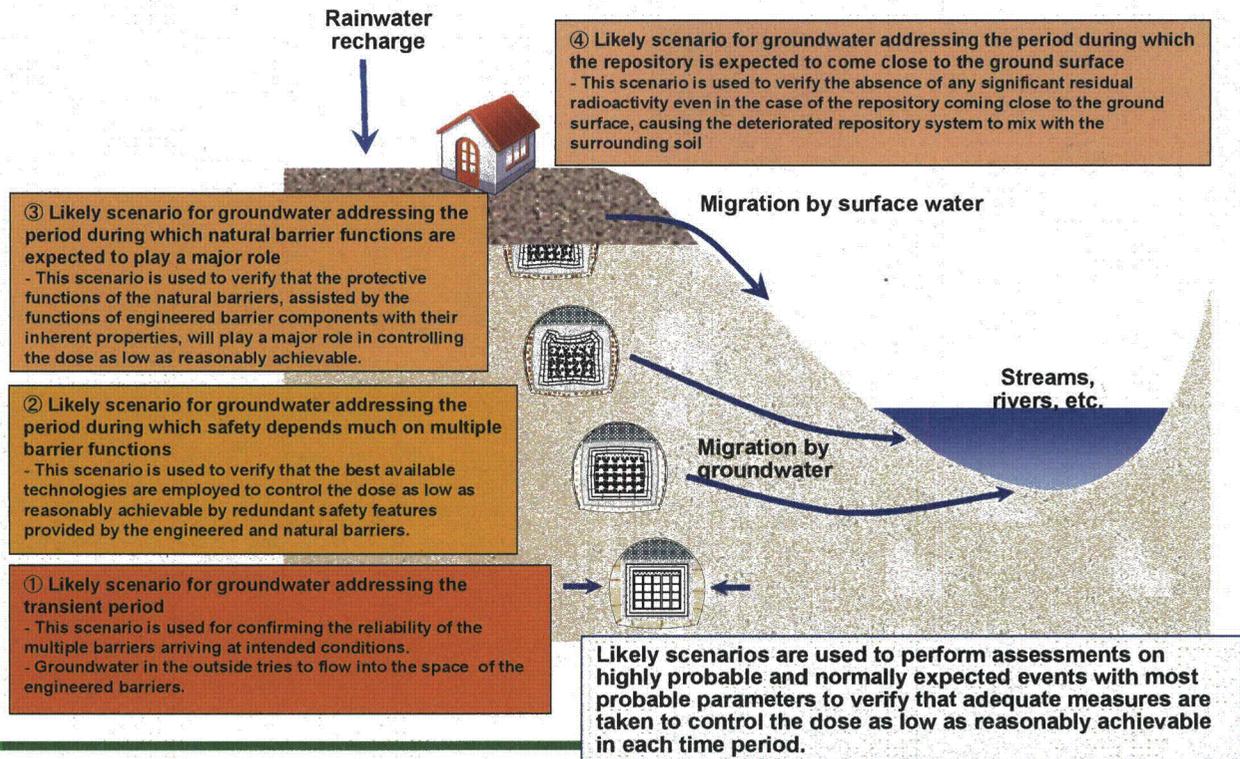
	Transient period	Period during which safety depends much on multiple barrier functions	Period during which natural barrier functions are expected to play a major role	Period during which the repository is expected to come close to the ground surface
Likely scenarios for groundwater	(Assessment of reliability of the multiple barriers arriving at intended conditions.)	<b>Likely scenario for groundwater</b> Assessment of the robustness of protection by the engineered and natural barriers	<b>Likely scenario for groundwater</b> Assessment of the robustness of protection, provided mainly by the natural barriers	<b>Likely scenario for groundwater</b> Assessment of impacts from weathering and erosion, assuming the state of mixing with the surrounding soil
Likely scenarios for gas migration	<b>Likely scenario for gas migration</b> -If the waste package is not capable of containment: This scenario is used for assessing impacts from the radioactive gas and from the generation and migration of radioactive radiolysis gas. -If the waste package is capable of containment: This scenario is not used.	<b>Likely scenario for radioactive gas migration</b> Assessment of impacts from the generation and migration of radioactive gas <b>Likely scenario for hydrogen gas migration</b> Assessment of impacts from the generation of hydrogen gas by radiolysis and from the generation and migration of hydrogen gas from the corrosion of metals	<b>Likely scenario for gas migration</b> Assessment of impacts from the gas generation under the conditions of physically damaged engineered barriers and chemical environmental changes	(Separate assessment of impacts from radon)
Likely scenarios for land use	<b>[Present land use]</b> <b>Likely scenarios for land use</b> (if there is any land that can be used after contamination along or around rivers and lakes in the downstream) <b>[Land use in the case topographical changes due to sea level change are considered]</b> <b>Likely scenarios for land use</b> Assessment of impacts from the use of dried lake beds in the downstream (impacts from construction and impacts from inhabitation) <b>[Land use in the case a terrain covered with sediments from uplift and erosion is considered]</b> <b>Likely scenarios for land use</b> Assessment of impacts from the use of a terrain covered with sediments from uplift and erosion (impacts from construction and impacts from inhabitation)			<b>[Land use in the case the repository is expected to come close to the ground surface]</b> <b>Likely scenarios for land use</b> Assessment of impacts from the use of contaminated land (impacts from construction and impacts from inhabitation).

# Radioactive Material Migration Pathways to the Biosphere and Their Assessment by Different Scenarios

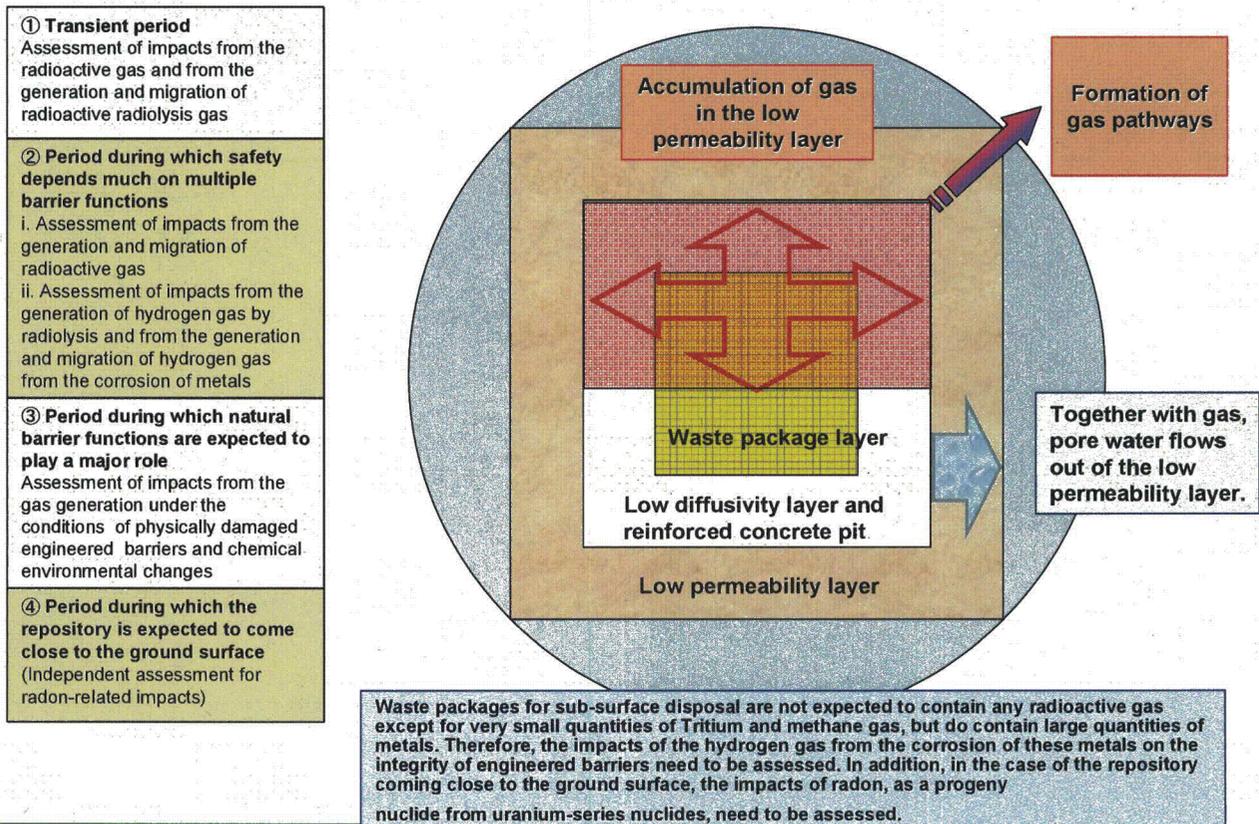


All pathways of radioactive nuclides to the biosphere must be addressed (considering migration by liquid, gaseous and solid media).

## Evolution of the Likely Scenario for Groundwater through Different Time Periods



## Evolution of the Likely Scenario for Gas Migration through Different Time Periods



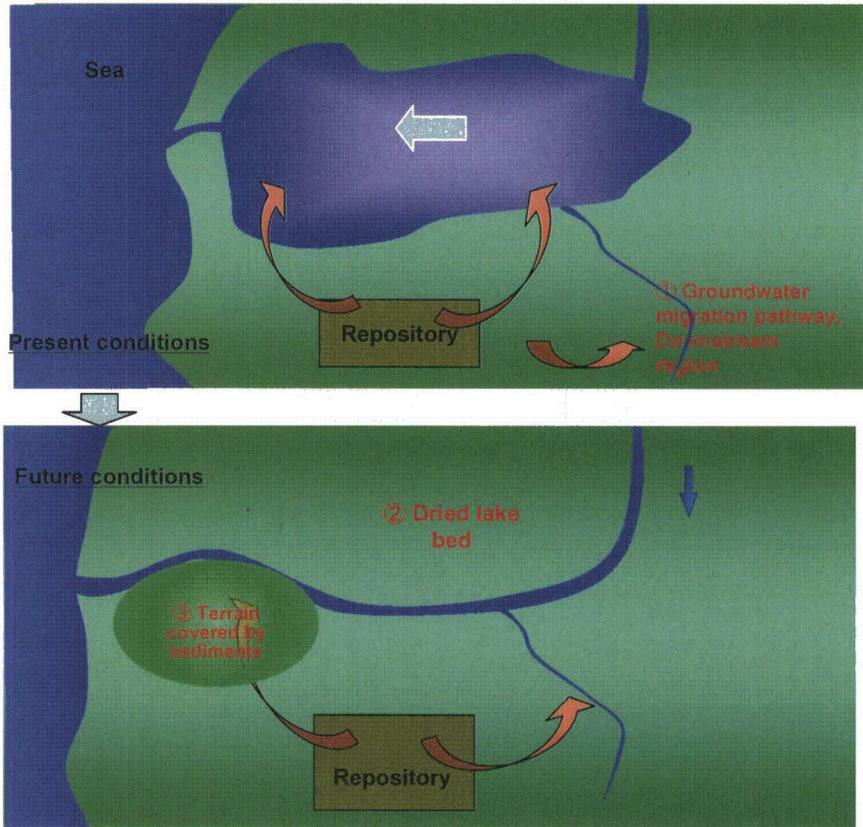
## Evolution of the Likely Scenario for Land Use through Different Time Periods

① **Present land use:**  
(if there is any land that can be used after contamination along or around rivers and lakes in the downstream)

② **Land use in the case topographical changes due to sea level change need to be considered:**  
Assessment of impacts from the use of dried lake beds in the downstream (impacts from construction and impacts from inhabitation)

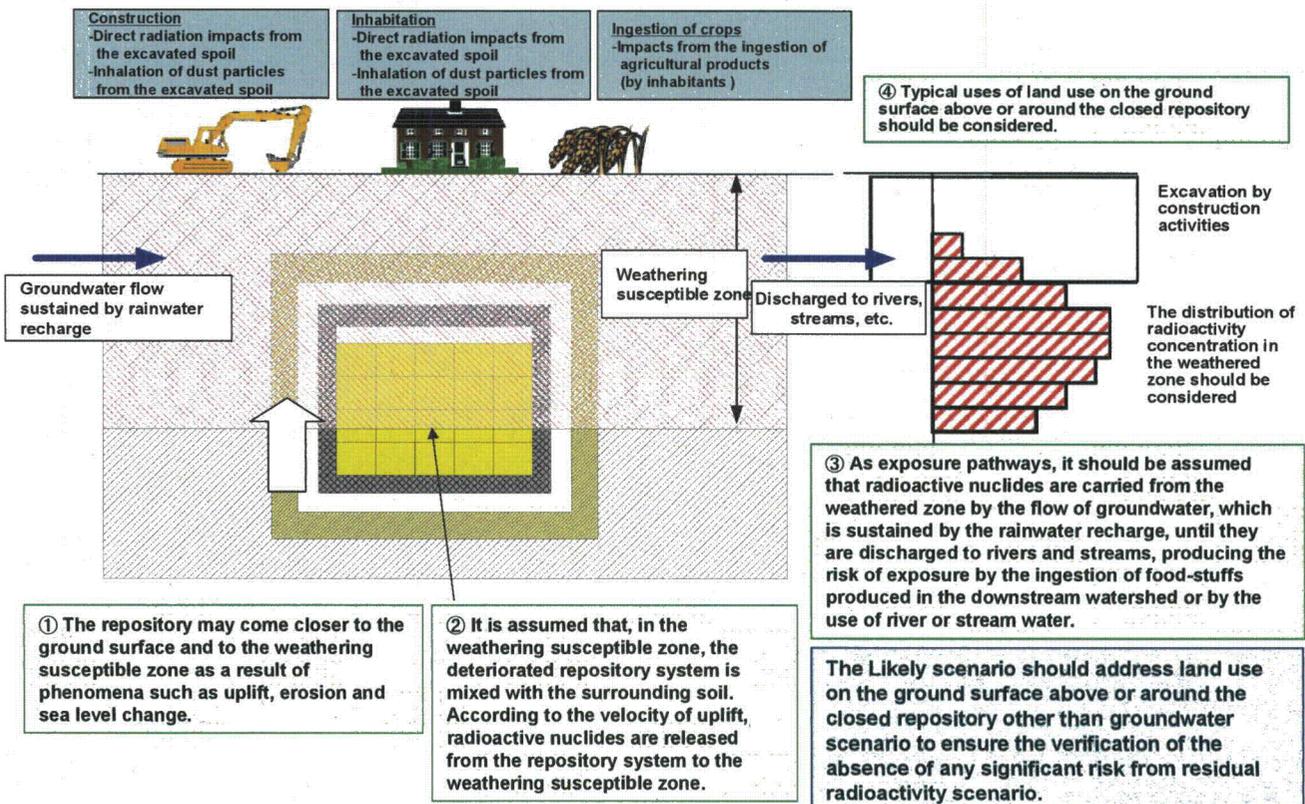
③ **Land use in the case a terrain covered with sediments from uplift and erosion:**  
Assessment of impacts from the use of a terrain covered with sediments from uplift and erosion (impacts from construction and impacts from inhabitation)

④ **Land use in the case the repository is expected to come close to the ground surface:**  
Assessment of impacts from the use of contaminated land (impacts from construction and impacts from inhabitation)



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## Assessment of Impacts from the Repository Coming Close to the Ground Surface as a Result of Phenomena Such as Uplift, Erosion and Sea Level Change



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## Chapter 6 - Setup of Less-likely Scenarios

	Transient period	Period during which safety depends much on multiple barrier functions	Period during which natural barrier functions are expected to play a major role	Period during which the repository is expected to come close to the ground surface
Less-likely scenarios for groundwater	(Assessment of factors that cause variations to the initial construction conditions)	-Typical less-likely scenarios for groundwater -Scenario for the partial loss of barrier functions Robustness assessment that assumes the partial loss of barrier functions with the aim of assessing the robustness of multiple barriers and the aim of assessing the importance of individual protective functions	-Typical less-likely scenarios for groundwater -Scenario for the partial loss of barrier functions	-Typical less-likely scenarios for groundwater -Alternative less-likely scenario for groundwater Use of an alternative model for representing the weathered zone - Scenario for the safety assessment margins against uncertainties
Less-likely scenarios for gas migration	- Typical less-likely scenarios for gas migration	-Less-likely scenario for radioactive gas migration -Less-likely scenario for hydrogen gas migration	- Typical less-likely scenarios for gas migration	(Separate assessment of impacts from radon)
Less-likely scenarios for land use	<b>[Present land use ]</b> -Typical less-likely scenarios for land use <b>[Land use in the case topographical changes due to sea level change are considered]</b> -Typical less-likely scenarios for land use -Scenario for the partial loss of barrier functions <b>[Land use in the case a terrain covered with sediments from uplift and erosion is considered]</b> -Typical less-likely scenarios for land use -Scenario for the partial loss of barrier functions			<b>[Land use in the case the repository is expected to come close to the ground surface]</b> -Typical less-likely scenarios for land use -Alternative less-likely scenario for groundwater Use of an alternative model for representing the weathered zone - Scenario for the safety assessment margins against uncertainties

In order to ensure that the repository system design adequately accounts for various uncertainties, less-likely scenarios are prepared to address various factors contributing to variations, which are relatively unlikely but still important in the context of safety assessment conducted with the likely scenarios. Less-likely scenarios are used to verify that it can reasonably be judged that the impacts from such variations will remain limited and the repository system is robust enough to withstand them.

General uncertainties in safety assessment, including uncertainties concerning properties of the geological environment, are addressed by these less-likely scenarios.

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## Guides for the Safety Assessment for less-likely Scenarios

<p><b>Analysis of factors that cause variations from the likely scenarios</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of plural less-likely scenarios for each likely scenario</li> </ul>	<p>Example of statistical data on the distribution coefficient</p> <p>Kd-Distribution</p>
<p><b>Completeness in the identification of variation factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The setup of conditions is preceded by the identification of variation factors by FEP analyses, etc.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Probability and scientific reasonability of variation factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If sufficient quantities of statistical data are available, use them to select values in the 97.5% one-sided confidence interval.</li> <li>- If sufficient quantities of statistical data are not available for addressing uncertainties in long-term safety assessment, make the best use of available scientific and technological findings to set up conditions with sufficient allowances based on a conservative approach.</li> <li>- If several parameters largely affect the assessment results, it is useful to evaluate the uncertainties with such parameters by a probabilistic method to verify reasonability in the setup of conditions</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Assessment of the repository system robustness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A partial loss of safety functions is assumed to verify that the repository system does not depend excessively on any single safety feature.</li> <li>- However, it is not necessary to assume the absence of contributions from the components that have sufficiently demonstrated their reliability or from inherent properties of materials, etc., provides that such contributions are expected to persist through environmental changes, etc. Rather, scenarios should be designed to address uncertainties in long-term safety assessment.</li> </ul>	<p>Aoki et al., "Study on uncertainty of safety assessment parameters for intermediate depth disposal (III) Example dose calculation" Autumn, 2009, AESJ</p>

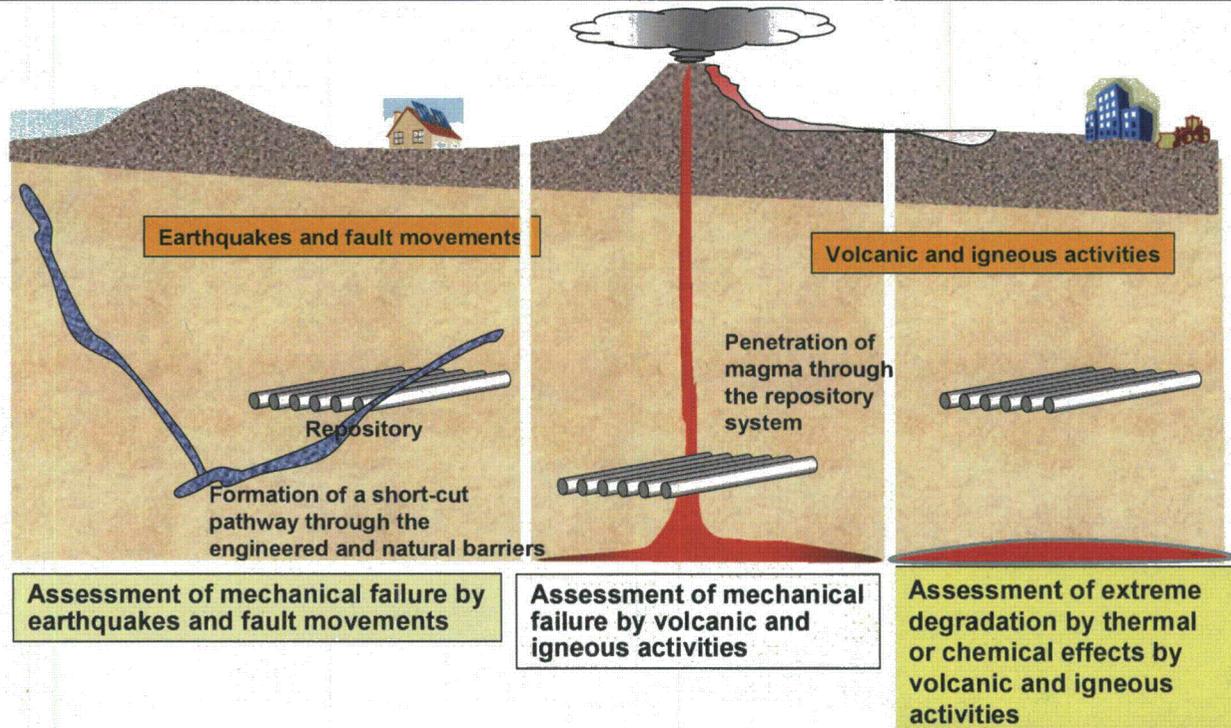
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### Examples of Scenarios to Be Addressed by less-likely Scenarios for Groundwater Prepared for the Period during Which Safety Depends Much on Multiple Barrier Functions

	Waste package	Engineered barriers			Natural barriers		Biosphere
	Leaching rate	Low permeability	Low diffusivity	Retardation	Physical isolation	Chemical retardation	Quantity of diluting water, etc
Likely scenarios for groundwater	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Typical less-likely scenarios for groundwater	△	△	△	△	△	△	△
Scenario for the partial loss of barrier functions of engineered barriers	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○
	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○
	○	○	▼	○	○	○	○
Scenario for the partial loss of natural barrier functions of natural barriers	○	○	○	○	▼	○	○
	○	○	○	○	○	▼	○

○: Addressed by likely scenarios for groundwater.  
 △: Addressed by typical less-likely scenarios considering variation factors that are relatively improbable but are important in the context of safety assessment.  
 ▼: Addressed in conservative assessment procedures that assume a partial loss of functions for the verification of robustness. (Such assessments are performed for radioactive materials with important safety implications and for the functions required for the protection of such materials based upon FEP analyses for actual site.)

## Chapter 7 – Setup of Rare Natural Event Scenarios

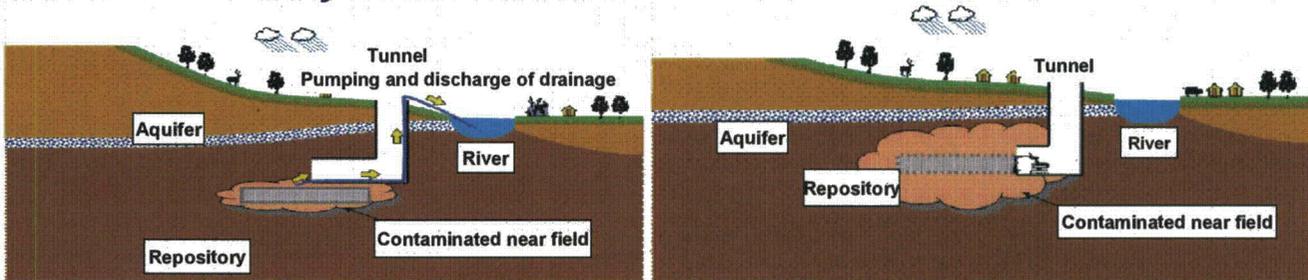


Even after including the scenarios that address relatively improbable events, there remain some uncertainties. Rare natural event scenarios are used for verifying that no additional special measure for radiation protection is deemed to be required even after giving attention to such remaining uncertainties.

## Chapter 8 - Setup of Inadvertent Human Intrusion Scenarios

Scenario name	Boring scenarios			Tunnel excavation scenarios		Extensively exploited land use scenarios
	Scenario for the direct boring and core observation	Scenario for the formation of a short-cut of migration pathway	Scenario for the pumping of groundwater from a bore hole near the repository	Scenario for the excavation of a tunnel near the repository	Scenario for the excavation of a tunnel through the repository	
Assessment objective	- Verify the adequacy of radioactivity concentration of each waste package.	- Verify the adequacy of radioactivity inventory in each cavern.	- Verify the adequacy of radioactivity inventory in each cavern and the adequacy of the engineered barrier capability for retarding the migration of radioactive materials.	-Verify the adequacy of the engineered barrier capability for retarding the migration of radioactive materials and of the duration in which this capability is maintained.	- Verify the adequacy of the engineered barrier capability for physical resistance and of the duration in which this capability is maintained.	- Verify that, even in the case of the repository coming close to the ground surface, the impacts from the inventory (and the radioactivity concentration) of radioactive materials with a long half life will not result in a dose that exceeds the dose guides suggested by the guideline.
<p><b>Scenarios for inadvertent human intrusion :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-These scenarios are used to verify that adequate measures are taken to reduce the possibility of human intrusion and to control the exposure dose as low as reasonably achievable. They are also used to verify that no additional special measure for radiation protection is deemed to be required even after choosing a conservative assessment approach.</li> <li>-In order to confirm the safety of residents around the site, events connected with stylized human actions are analyzed using the most probable assumptions for following related natural processes, and therefore, these scenarios serve the purpose of verifying the probability of such impacts being successfully reduced. A conservative assessment approach, which properly accounts for uncertainties, is required for verifying the adequacy of sub-surface disposal and that no additional special measure for radiation protection is deemed to be required .</li> <li>-The dose for individual intruder(s) should be estimated according to a stylized scenario, for both cases of the most probable assumptions and the conservative ones in order to estimate the maximum dose and to verify that no additional special measure for radiation protection is deemed to be required .</li> </ul>						

## Stylization of Tunnel Excavation Scenarios



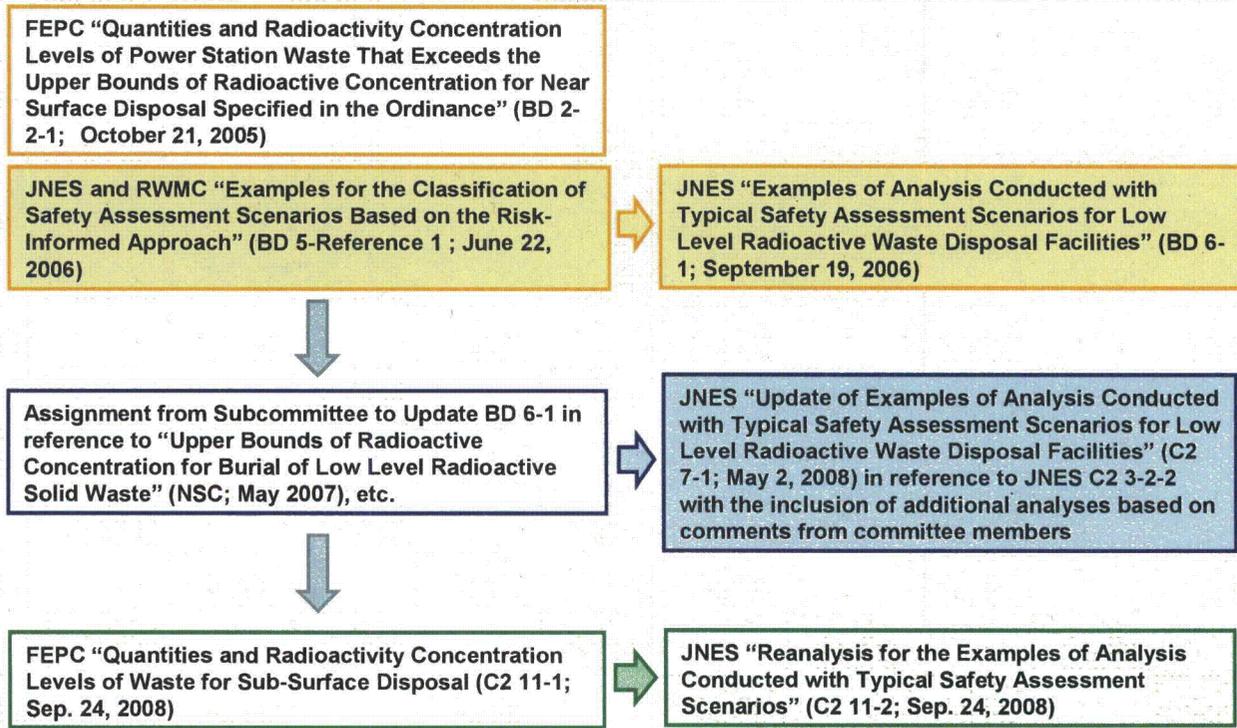
Scenario name	Scenario for the excavation of a tunnel near the repository	Scenario for the excavation of a tunnel through the repository
Stylization of inadvertent human intrusion	- Objective cavern: Based on a conservative approach, assume that a tunnel is excavated across the most conservative point along a line that runs perpendicularly to the group of caverns for disposal. -Concentration of radioactive materials in the drainage from the tunnel: Assume that all radioactive materials released from caverns near the tunnel flow into the tunnel.	- Objective cavern: Assume the excavation of a tunnel through a single cavern for disposal. However, if two or more cavities exist on a straight line at the same depth with little distance from each other, for example, consider the total length of all these cavities. - <b>Timing of excavation: Assume that the tunnel is excavated at a time when it has become impossible to recognize the presence of engineered barriers.</b> - Excavation technique: Based on the current technology, assume a general and reasonable excavation technique that is likely to be used in consideration of the geological features (particularly of rocks) of the chosen site. - Geometry of excavated spoil storage place etc.: Make assumptions in consideration of the common geometry of spoil storage place presently chosen for the safety measures.
Conditions to be assumed in the assessment of the adequacy of mitigation measures	The assessment may require the setup of probable assumptions concerning the hydraulic gradient for the case that assumes the excavation of a tunnel above the repository and the inherent properties of engineered barriers.	Probable assumptions may be accepted to support the reliable prediction of the time at which the engineered barriers will become unrecognizable based on a reliable assessment concerning the gradual loss of physical resistant capability due to corrosion, etc.
Conditions to be assumed in the assessment of the adequacy of sub-surface disposal	The assessment may require the setup of conservative assumptions concerning the hydraulic gradient and the inherent properties of engineered barriers leading that larger quantities of radioactive materials may migrate.	The assessment may require the setup of conservative assumptions concerning the acceleration of corrosion, etc., due to environmental changes, leading that the engineered barriers may become unrecognizable at an earlier timing.
Exposure pathways and the residents around the site	Assume that the drainage from the tunnel is discharged directly to rivers, etc. Address the exposure of residents who use water from these rivers, etc.	Address the exposure of residents who use water from rivers, etc., into which the rainwater may flow after permeation into the excavated spoil.
Exposure pathways and individual intruders	none	Address the internal and external exposure of tunnel excavation workers.

## Chapter 9 - Termination of the Institutional Control Period

Likely scenarios	By means of the safety assessment of likely scenarios, the applicant shall present the scientific grounds about the basic design and its policy for assuring that, at a sufficient probability, the risk will be limited to $10^{-6}$ /year or less with the radiological impact of $10 \mu$ Sv/year or less.
Less-likely scenarios	By means of the safety assessment of less-likely scenarios that are designed to address uncertainties in the conditions assumed by the likely scenarios, the applicant shall demonstrate that the radiological impact from such uncertainties will be limited to $300 \mu$ SV/year or less.
Rare natural event scenarios	By means of the safety assessment of rare natural event scenarios that are designed to address rare natural event for further assurance, the applicant shall demonstrate that the radiological impact from rare natural events will not exceed 10mSv/year fundamentally and never exceed 100mSv/year, or, in other words, the applicant shall demonstrate that a further special measure for radiation protection will not always be required even after the occurrence of rare natural events.
Inadvertent human intrusion scenarios	By means of the safety assessment of inadvertent human intrusion scenarios, which should involve the setup of such scenarios according to stylized procedures, etc., the applicant shall demonstrate that the radiological impact from inadvertent human intrusion will not exceed the criterion of 1-10mSv/year for residents around the site, and that the radiological impact on individual intruders will not exceed 10mSv/year fundamentally and never exceed 100mSv/year.
Transition into the post-institutional control phase	Based on the comprehensive review of the results of different types of safety assessment described above, it may be judged that the possibility of the proposed disposal business achieving a transition into the post-institutional control phase is sufficiently supported by scientific grounds.

## Procedure of Regulation Support Research and Development on Sub-Surface Disposal

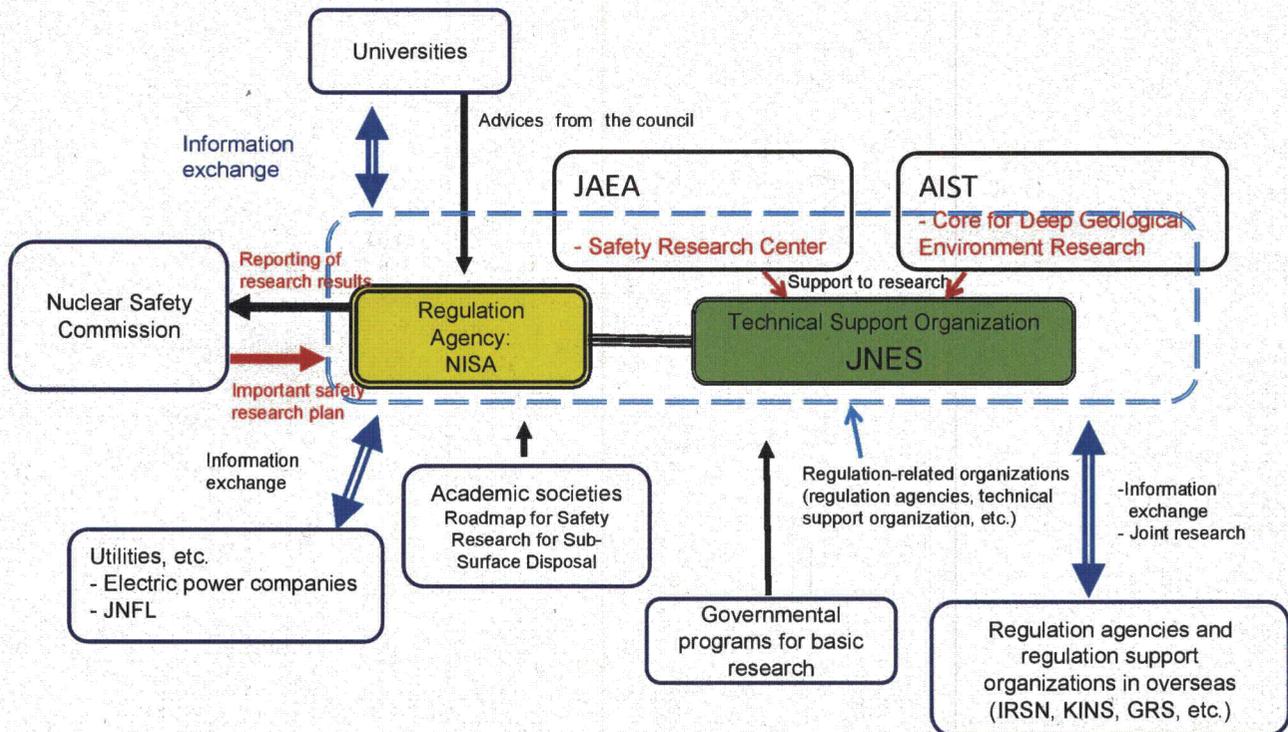
### Analytical study and other work projects previously conducted or participated by JNES in support of the Nuclear Safety Commission



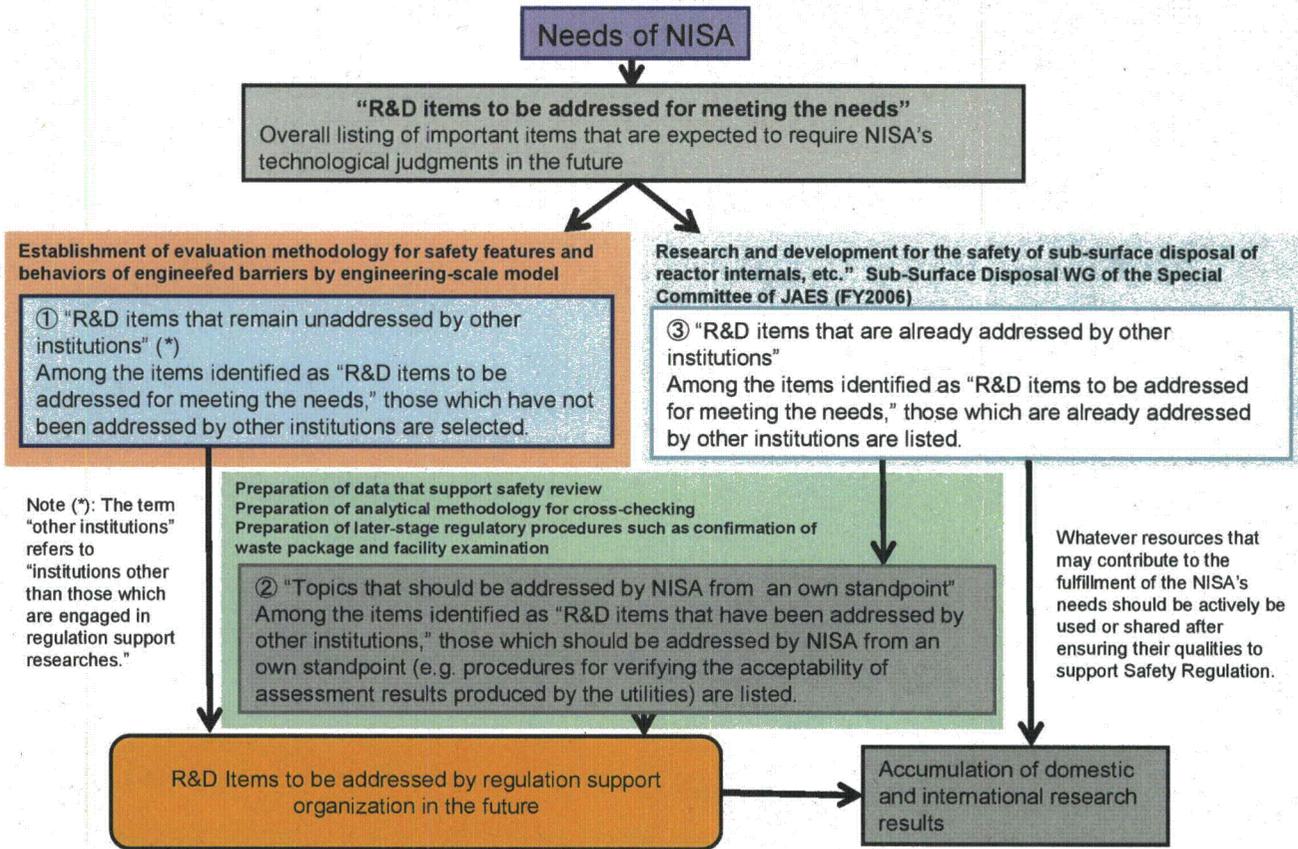
### key Safety Studies for Sub-Surface Disposal and Near Surface Disposal

Fiscal year	~H21	H22	H23	H24	H25	H26~
Near surface disposal	Confirmation procedures concerning waste package					
		(Disposal with engineered barrier: JNFL (during operation))	Examination of the burial disposal facility	Confirmation of waste package		Specific procedures for the disposal of waste from research institutions, etc., and uranium bearing waste, etc., are to be discussed in reference to the disposal plans to be prepared in the future by the utilities, etc.
	Business licensing application and safety examination	Disposal without engineered barrier (waste from reactor facilities, etc.)				
Studies on near surface disposal	Establishment of analytical methodology for safety examination					
- Establishment of analytical methodology for safety examination						
- Establishment of procedures for the confirmation of safety near surface disposal with or without engineered barrier	(Disposal with engineered barrier) Confirmation procedures have been established for the disposal of homogeneous and uniform solidified waste package and filled-in solidified waste package	Preparation of facility examination procedures	Preparation of waste package confirmation procedures (JNES)			Specific procedures are to be discussed in reference to the disposal plans to be prepared in the future by the utilities, etc., and the specifications of new waste package
Sub-Surface disposal	Legal procedures for sub-surface disposal	NSC Preparation of safety review guidelines	Preparation of judgment criteria for the safety review (as required)	Examination of the burial disposal facility	Periodical safety reviews	
	Studies on sub-surface Disposal	Listing of issues to be addressed by the safety examination		Confirmation of waste package		
	- Listing of topics to be addressed by the safety examination and the establishment of analytical procedures		Establishment of analytical methodology for safety review			
	- Establishment of procedures for the confirmation of safety	Preparation of facility examination procedures				
		Preparation of monitoring procedures				
			Preparation of waste package Confirmation procedures (JNES)			Specific procedures are to be discussed in reference to the disposal plans to be prepared in the future by the utilities, etc.

### Organizational Framework for Future R&D That Support the Regulation of Sub-Surface Disposal



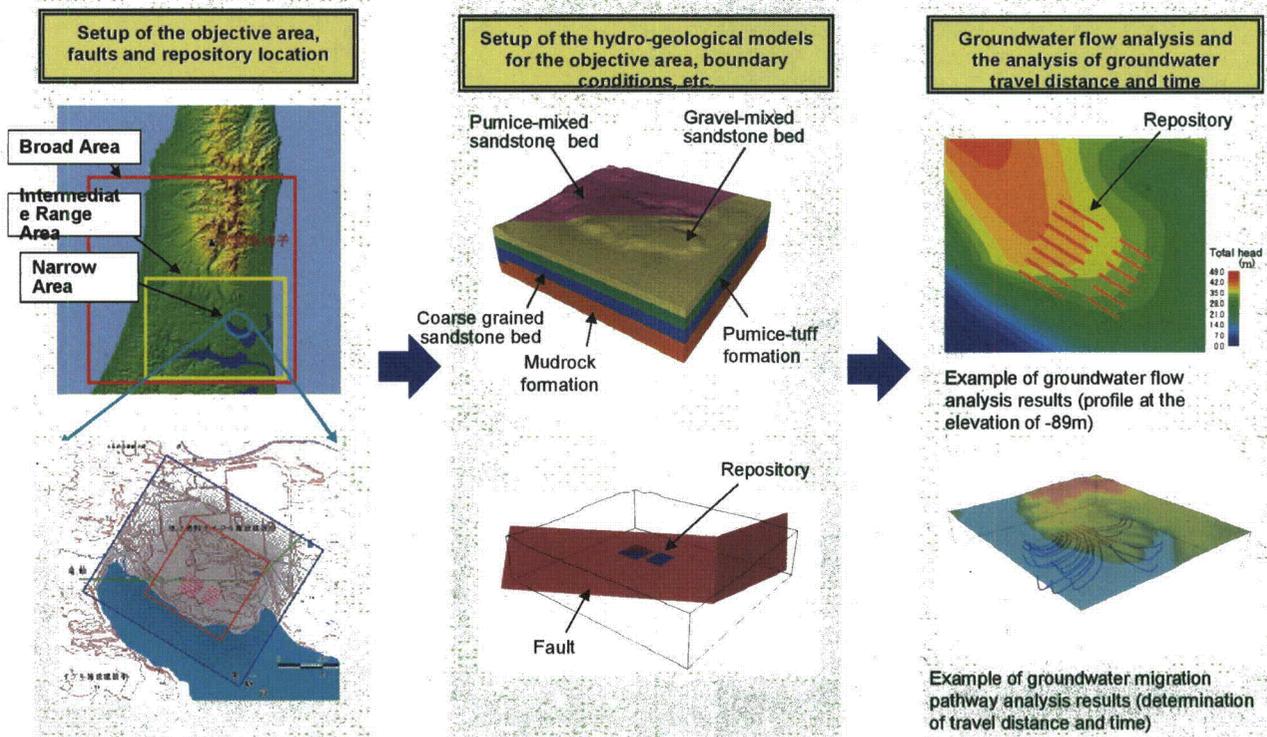
### Selection of Items To Be Addressed by Regulation Support R&D in the Future



## V. Major Current Regulatory Safety R&D on Sub-Surface Disposal and Key Technical Issues

1. Safety R&D on Groundwater Flow Assessment
2. Safety R&D on Nuclide Migration Assessment
3. Safety R&D on Protection Capability Assessment of Engineered Barriers

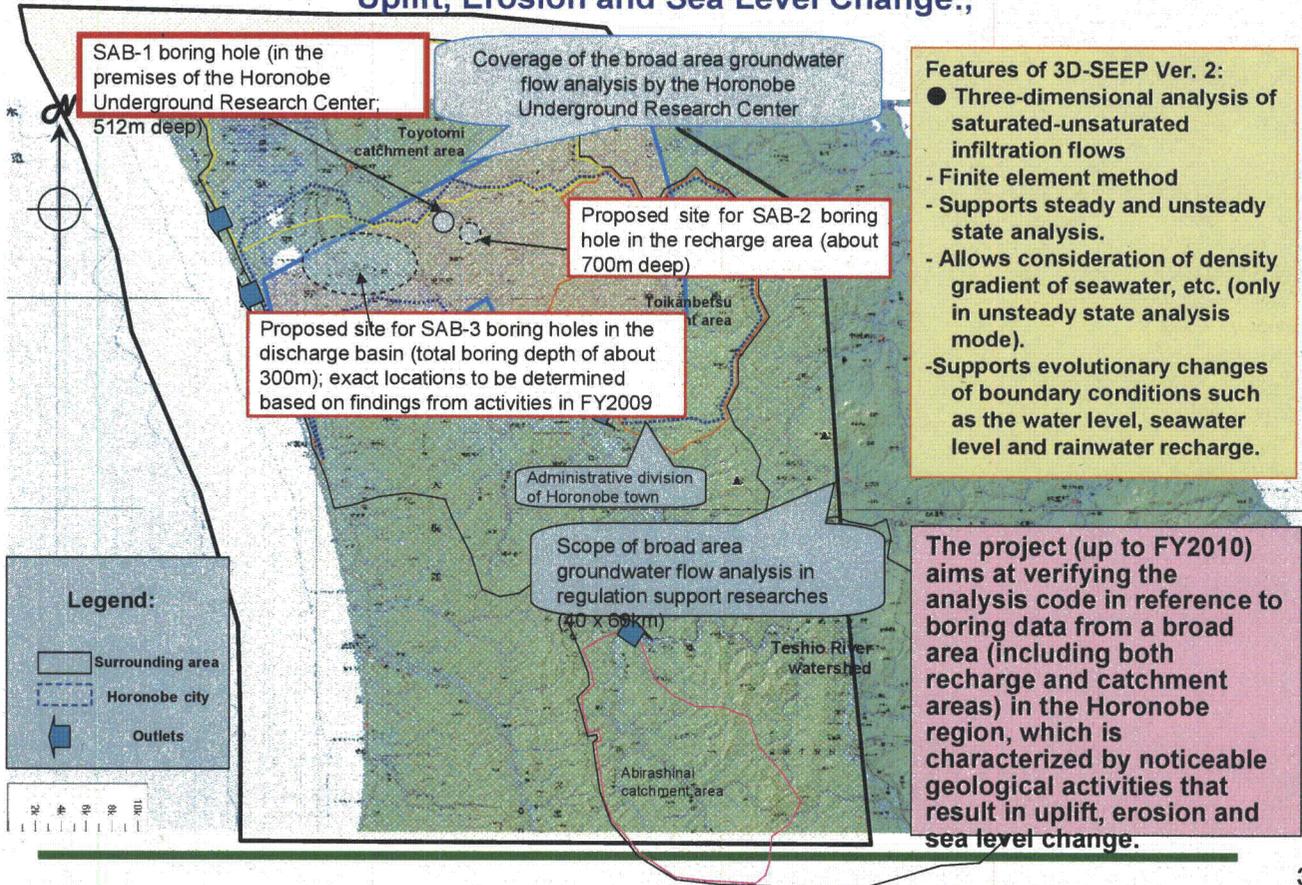
### Assessment using General Purpose Multidimensional Flow Analysis Code



### Safety R&D on Groundwater Flow Assessment

Assessment Objective	Analysis Code	Current Safety R&D
Broad area multi-dimensional groundwater flow assessment	General purpose multidimensional flow analysis codes: TOUGH2, Dtransu, MODFLOW	-JNES has been working toward the establishment of procedures for cross-check analysis. -JNES is preparing the Analysis Support System and Quality Assurance Support System to improve the reliability of cross-check analysis.
Near field multidimensional groundwater flow assessment	Same as the above	
Groundwater flow assessment coupled with uplift, erosion and sea level change	Groundwater flow analysis code that accounts for upheaval, erosion and sea level change: 3D-SEEP	-JAEA Safety Research Center is consigned by NISA to develop the code mainly for the safety assessment of geological disposal. - At present, an experiment for verification of the code is jointly conducted by JAEA, AIST and INES at the JAEA's Horonobe Underground Research Center.

## Verification of Groundwater Flow Analysis Code (3D-SEEP) That Accounts for Uplift, Erosion and Sea Level Change;



## Safety R&D on Nuclide Migration Assessment

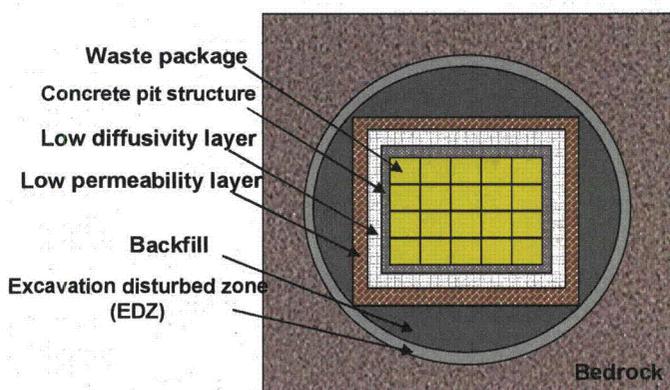
Nuclide Migration Assessment Methods	Assessment Objective	Current Safety R&D
Formula concerning the four important factors in groundwater scenarios	- Simplified expression derived from the equation of nuclide diffusion by advection-Contributes to qualitative and quasi-quantitative understanding of major factors that impact the assessment of exposure dose	- Suzuki et al., "A study on safety assessment methodology of radioactive waste disposal facility with multiple engineered barrier system", Nuclear Power Backend Study, Vol.15, No. 2, pp. 87-98
One-dimensional nuclide migration modeling for groundwater scenarios with the consideration of the degradation of engineered barriers	- Safety assessment models that account for various uncertainties about parameters and the impacts of the degradation on parameters that have major impacts on safety assessment	JNES "Reanalysis for the Examples of Analysis Conducted with Typical Safety Assessment Scenarios" (C2 11-2)
One-dimensional nuclide migration modeling with the consideration of changes in travelling pathways through natural barriers	- Assessment models that account for evolutionary changes in travelling pathways and time due to uplift, erosion and sea level change	- JNES "Reanalysis for the Examples of Analysis Conducted with Typical Safety Assessment Scenarios" (C2 11-2)
Multidimensional nuclide migration modeling	- Detailed analysis for conservatively representing nuclide behaviors in a multidimensional system by one-dimensional models	JNES "Report on Investigations in FY2007 Concerning Radioactive Waste Disposal (Investigations Concerning Sub-Surface Disposal)"; September 2008 -Suzuki et al., "THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH PERFORMANCE NUMERICAL SIMULATION CODE FOR TRANSIENT GROUNDWATER FLOW AND REACTIVE SOLUTE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS BASED ON LOCAL DISCONTINUOUS GALERKIN METHOD"; Collection of Papers by the Japan Society of Civil Engineers, Vol. 65 No. 3, pp. 703-715, August 2009

## Formula Concerning the Four Important Factors In Groundwater Scenarios: $D_i = Q_i \times E_i \times G_i \times B_i$

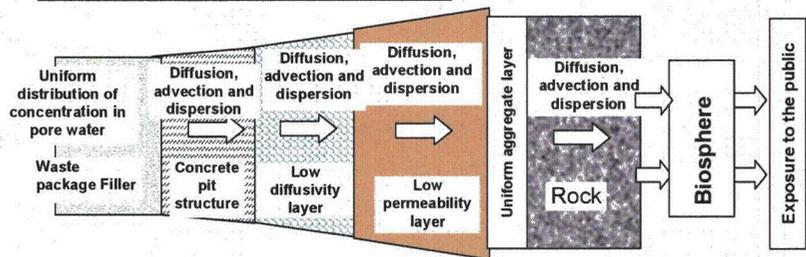
$D_i$ Exposure dose (Sv/y)	$Q_i$ Radioactivity inventory (Bq)	$E_i$ Performance indicator for the nuclide migration control capability provided by engineered barriers (1/y)	$G_i$ Performance indicator for the isolation provided by natural barriers (-)	$B_i$ Biosphere dose conversion indicator (Sv/Bq)
Four factors that determine the exposure dose: (1)Radioactivity inventory of the disposed waste (2)Nuclide migration control capability of engineered barriers (3)Isolation provided by natural barriers (4)Biosphere dose conversion factor	$Q_i$ : gross radioactivity[Bq]	$E_i = f(\zeta, \eta_i, \lambda_i)$ $\zeta$ : leaching rate [-/y] $\eta_i$ : migration rate [-/y] $\lambda_i$ : decay constant [-/y]  $\eta_i = \frac{Fa + Fd_i}{Fr_i}$ $Fa$ : advection parameter [-/y] $Fd_i$ : diffusion parameter [-/y] $Fr_i$ : retardation parameter [-/y]	$G_i = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{T_{eff}}{T_{1/2}}} g(D)$ $T_{eff,i}$ : effective travel time [y] $T_{1/2,i}$ : half life [y]  $g(D)$ : dispersion distance correction term	$B_i = \mu_i \cdot C_{B,i}$ $\mu_i$ : dose conversion factor [Sv/Bq] $C_{B,i}$ : correction factor for dilution, concentration, etc., in the process of migration to the biosphere [-]
Important parameters	(1) Waste type	(1)Activated material leaching ratio (2) Pemeability in the low permeability layer (3)Effective diffusion coefficient in the low diffusivity layer (4)Distribution coefficient for migration through engineered barriers (5)Migration ratio through engineered barriers	(1)Distribution coefficient for migration through natural barriers (2) travel distance (3)Effective flow rate (4)Dispersion distance	(1) Dilution volume (2) Concentration coefficient (3) Migration coefficient for food products from lakes and rivers

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## One-Dimensional Nuclide Migration Modeling for Groundwater Scenarios



- Across different layers from the waste package layer to the bedrock, nuclides migrate by advection, dispersion and diffusion.
- Safety assessment is supported by one-dimensional modeling by GoldSim, in which the volumes of the concrete pit structure, low diffusivity layer and low permeability layer are.
- The uniform aggregate layer represents the backfill, support, lining and EDZ outside the low permeability layer under a single grouping.



**Key technical issues concerning one-dimensional nuclide migration modeling for groundwater scenarios:**

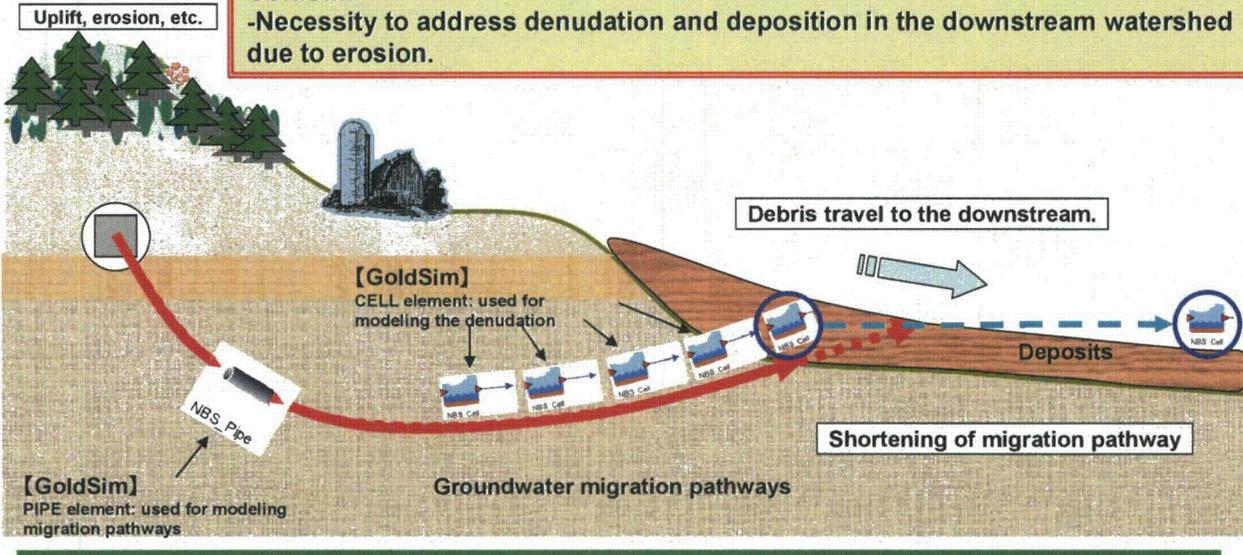
- Methods for enabling one-dimensional models to achieve equivalent and conservative representation of nuclide migration across a two-dimensional profile by advection and diffusion
- Modeling of the degradation of engineered barrier properties by aging and of the cracking of concrete

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# One-Dimensional Nuclide Migration Modeling with the Consideration of Changes in Migration Pathways through Natural Barriers

Key technical issues of addressing changes in migration pathways through natural barriers by one-dimensional nuclide migration modeling:

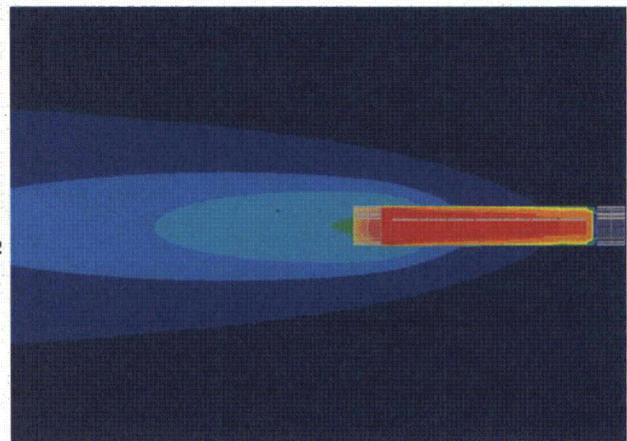
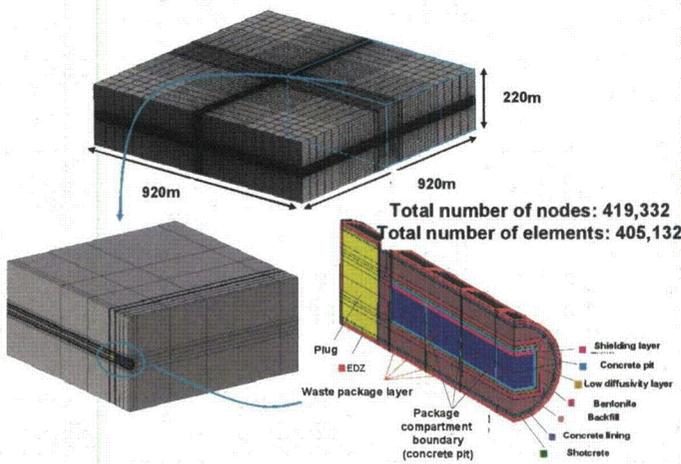
- Spatial changes in migration pathways through natural barriers and the shortening of migration pathways must be represented by changes in the travel length (or time) through natural barriers.
- Appropriateness of modeling by the combination of PIPE and CELL elements of GoldSim.
- Necessity to address denudation and deposition in the downstream watershed due to erosion.



# Multidimensional Nuclide Migration Modeling

Key technical issues concerning multidimensional nuclide migration modeling:

- Pursuit of higher accuracy by the improvement of numerical solution methods (better algorithms for lesser numerical dispersion values)
- Appropriateness of one dimensional modeling of cases in which the line of hydraulic gradient does not perpendicularly go across the length of cavern
- Modeling of entire cavern (assessment of the independency of each cavity; assessment of the probability of interconnection due to EDZ and assessment also of the plug performance)

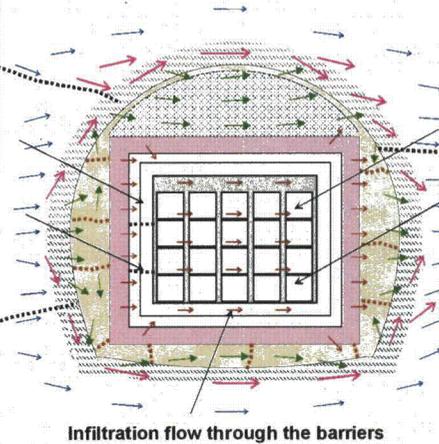


Migration behavior of radioactive materials in the presence of groundwater flow parallel to the length of cavern. In a cavern that does not have partitions, advection and diffusion may cause the radioactivity concentration to increase at the end of cavern.

### V.3 Safety R&D on Protection Capability Assessment of Engineered Barriers Assessment of Degradation of Cement Component(s)

① Leaching of hydrates from cement and the formation of secondary mineral products (Assess the impacts of the formation of pores due to leaching and the impacts of the swelling of secondary mineral products.)

② Appearance and growth of cracks due to changes in the stress field or due to degradation (caused mainly by the swelling of reinforcing bars and waste containers due to corrosion)



③ Impacts of pore water quality (Assess the impacts from salt water, soluble salts and nitrides and sulfides contained in waste package.)

④ Degradation by heat (Assess the impacts of heat from waste and the thermal impacts from igneous activities.)

- Flow direction
- Host rock
- EDZ
- Backfill
- Engineered barrier and waste package layers

Make use of relevant materials such as: Japan Society of Civil Engineers “Guides for the Setting of Nuclide Migration Assessment Parameters for Groundwater Scenarios in the Safety Assessment for Sub-surface Depth Disposal” (June 2008).

### Safety R&D on Protection Capability Assessment of Engineered Barriers Assessment of Degradation of Bentonite Component(s)



Bentonite component (s) degradation processes that require attention:

- ① The loss of compaction and low permeability feature of the bentonite layer with the fall of earth pressure due to uplift, erosion, etc.  
→ JNES studies various properties of bentonite layers in exposed bentonite deposits (natural analogues).
- ② Loss of the low permeability feature due to chemical transformation (into Ca-type bentonite)

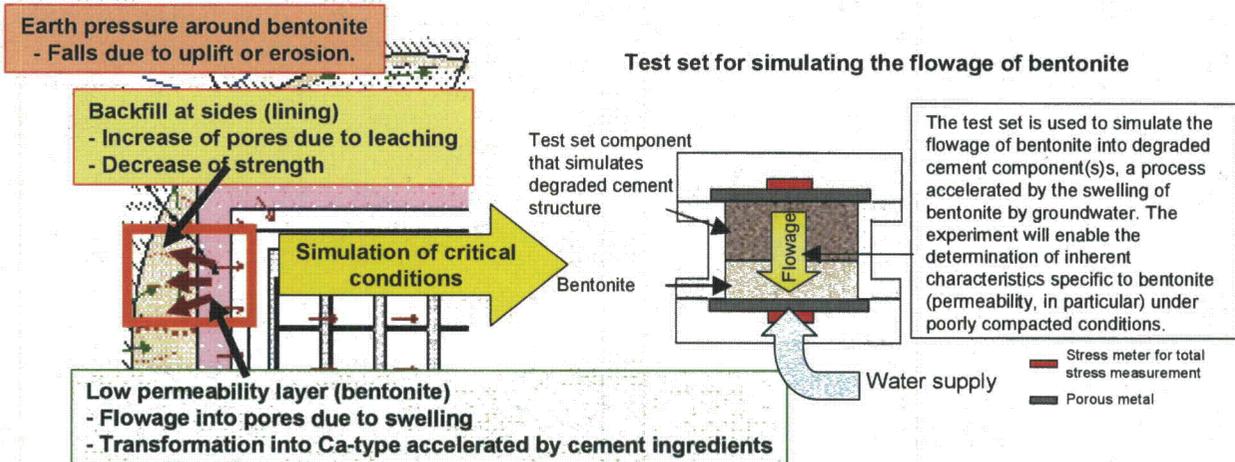
Photo: Bentonite deposit covered by the natural analogue study

## Safety R&D on Protection Capability Assessment of Engineered Barriers Understanding of the Ultimate Characteristics of Cement and Bentonite

**Ultimate characteristics: inherent characteristics that can be still expected from bentonite under severe conditions produced by the combination of multiple degradation processes that should be assumed:**

- Loss of compaction due to the flowage of bentonite into the pore of degraded cement component(s)
- Fall of earth pressure due to uplift or erosion, resulting in the loss of constraint on the swelling of bentonite
- Chemical degradation of bentonite (transformation into Ca-type bentonite)

[JNES is now conducting a column test (FY2009-2010).]



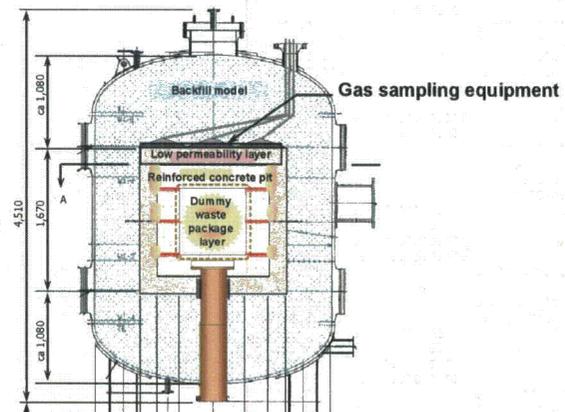
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## Assessment of Engineered Barrier Performance in the Transient Period Experiments for the Verification of Safety Margins for Engineered Barriers

- Engineering-scale (about 1/5) model (more than 100years → about 2)
- Understanding of resaturation and gas migration behaviors in the low permeability layer



Test set overview (before coating)



Concept of the three-dimensional test set (1/5 scale model)

The following should be verified by this experiment for the verification of safety margins for engineered barriers using an engineering-scale model:

1. Stable preservation of the low permeability property  
→ Using the engineering-scale model, it should be verified that the whole layer swells uniformly and the intended low permeability property is achieved without much dependence on local-scale properties.
2. Formation of gas breakthrough pathways by the growing gas pressure  
→ The stress from gas pressure may concentrate at corners of the low permeability layer, producing breakthrough pathways even at a relatively low gas pressure. It should be verified that such will not spoil the integrity of engineered barriers.
3. Restoration of low permeability after the release of gas  
→ It should be verified that breakthrough pathways are closed again and the low permeability property is restored due to the self-sealing property of bentonite.

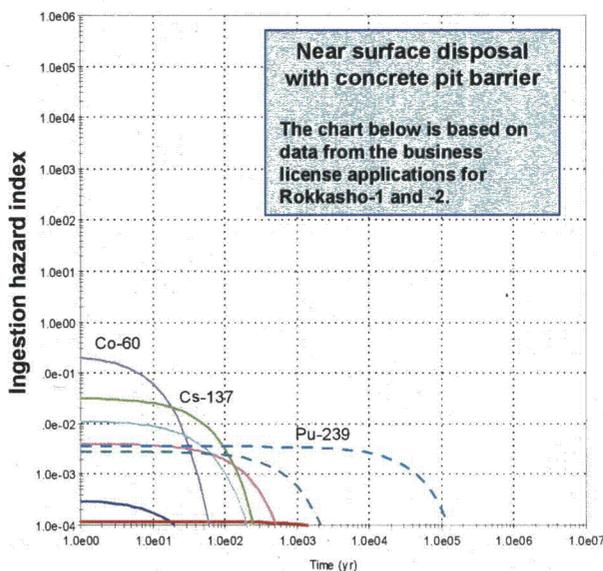
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# VI. Prospective Activities of Regulation Support R&D in the Future

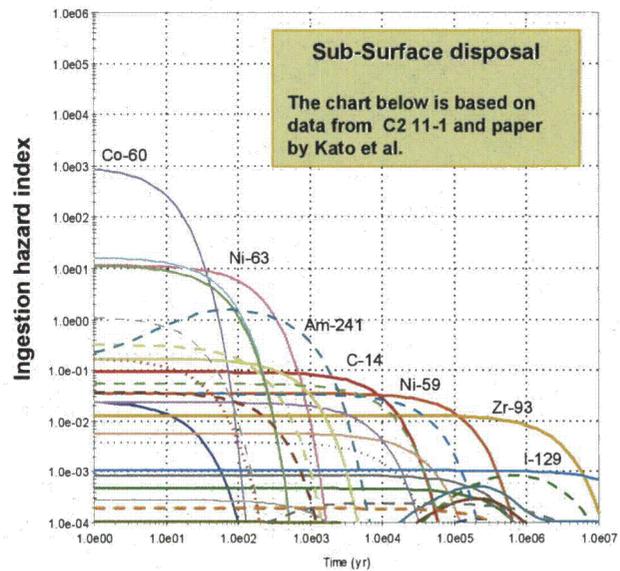
1. Safety Regulation According to the Level of Potential Hazard from Waste
2. Reliable Basic Design Based on Reliable Predictions
3. Ensuring of Total Safety Performance Taken in Consideration of Natural Barrier Performance
4. Preparation for Regulation Process after Safety Review

## Safety Regulations According to the Level of Potential Hazard from Radioactive Waste

Based on the risk-informed approach, the safety regulations demand trench disposal, concrete pit disposal or sub-surface disposal depending on the level of potential hazard from each specific type of radioactive waste.



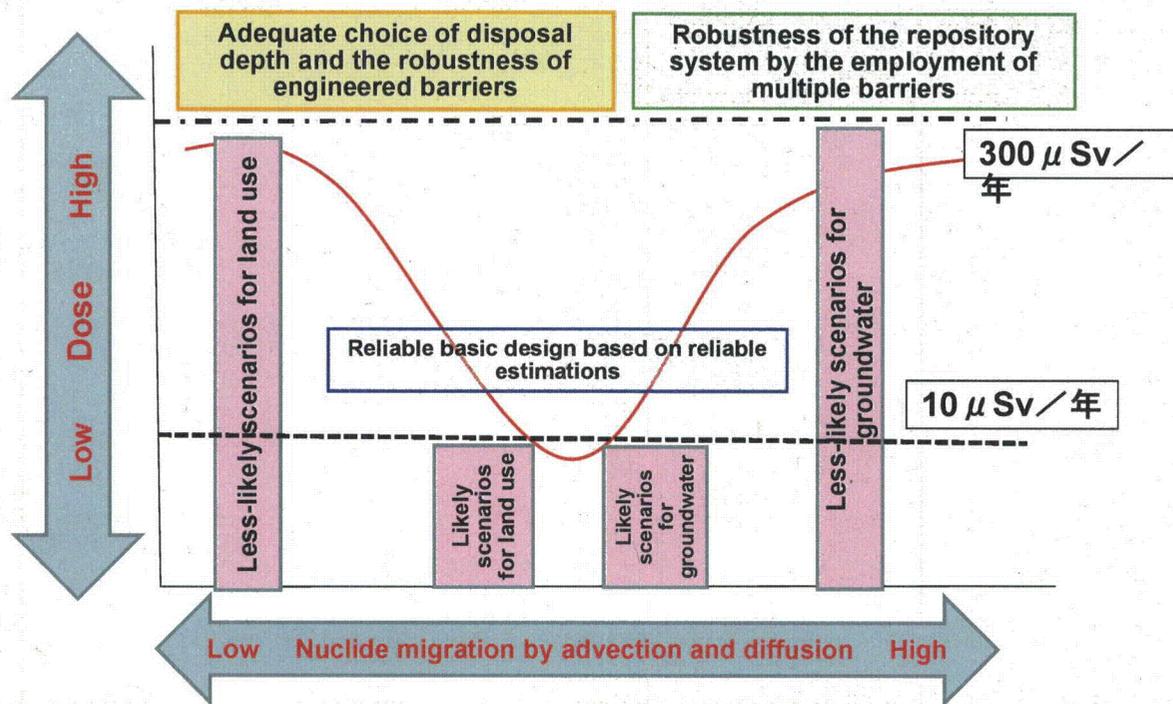
The contamination level of operational waste is extremely low because fuel failures are rare in recent light water reactors and the reactor water contamination level is low.



Key nuclides in waste for sub-surface disposal are difficult to measure. It is important to improve the accuracy of estimation based on calculations about activation.

JNFL: Business License Application for Rokkasho Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Center, Jan. 1997  
 FEPC: Quantities and Radioactivity Concentration Levels of Waste for Sub-Surface Disposal (C2 11-1; Sep. 24, 2008)  
 Kato et al.: Current Status of Technical Confidence Building for Sub-surface Disposal (Journal of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Environment Vol13 No.1, P49-64,2006)

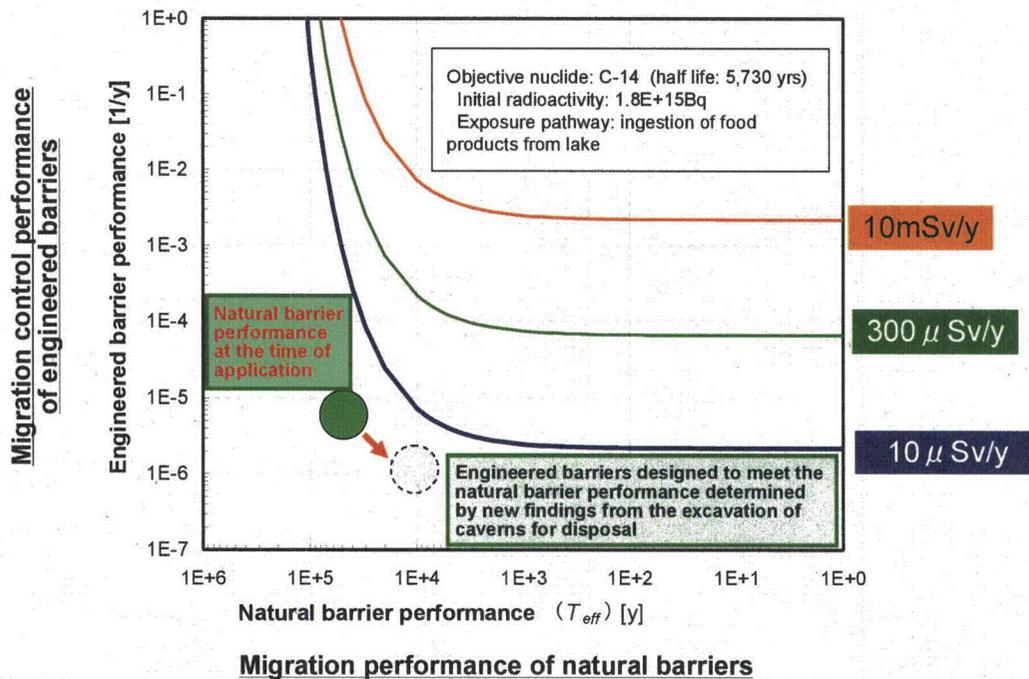
## Basic Design Reliability and Repository System Robustness



The overall safety should be ensured by developing the basic design based on reliable predictions on highly probable and normally expected events with conservative approaches to both sides contradictory characteristics

## Ensuring of Total Safety Performance Taken in Consideration of Natural Barrier Performance

Example of engineered-natural barriers combination that meets the standard dose values and ensuring of total safety performance



## Preparation for Regulation Process after Safety Review

	Waste Package	Engineered barriers	Natural barriers	Biosphere
Safety performance indicator	Total radioactivity inventory Qi: (Bq)	Migration control capability of engineered barriers: Ei (1/y)	Isolation capability of natural barriers: Gi (-)	Biosphere dose conversion factor: Bi (Sv/Bq)
Major factors that impact safety	<u>Radioactivity inventory</u> -Total radioactivity -Radioactivity concentration	<u>Waste characteristics</u> - Leaching rate <u>Migration control capability of engineered barriers</u> - Control of diffusion, control of permeation, and retardation of nuclide migration	<u>Retardation of nuclide migration</u> - Groundwater travel time - Retardation function	<u>Dose conversion</u> - Dose conversion factor - Correction coefficient for dilution and concentration in the process of migration in the biosphere <u>Prevention of specific human activities, etc.</u> - Phased control
Confirmation by the regulatory authorities	<b>Waste package confirmation (JNES)</b>	<b>Facility examination (NISA, with the partial involvement of JNES)</b>	<b>Facility examination (NISA, with the partial involvement of JNES)</b>	<b>Approval of the operational safety program</b>
Confirmation procedure	- Waste package confirmation procedure	- Facility examination procedure	- Facility examination procedure	- Monitoring procedure

# END

## Thank you for your attention.

# **Overview of Geological Disposal Program in Japan**

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**Nuclear Waste Management Organization  
of Japan (NUMO)**

**May 28, 2010**

## ***Contents***

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- 1. About NUMO**
- 2. Nuclear fuel cycle**
- 3. Concept of geological disposal of HLW**
- 4. Site Selection Process and Status**
- 5. NUMO's activity on public relations**

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# ***1. About NUMO***

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## **Specified Radioactive Waste Final Disposal Act (enacted in June 2000, amended in June 2007)**

- Definition of specified waste
- Basic policy, basic and implementing plans for final disposal
- Funding system
- Disposal site selection process
- Provisions for disposal and repository closure
- Implementing entity
- Fund management entity
- .....

# **Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Japan (NUMO)**

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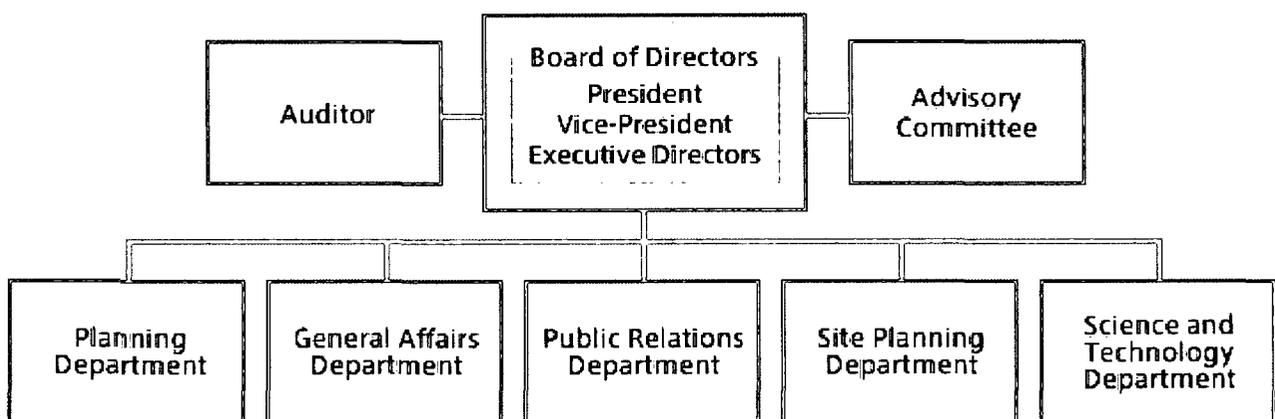
- **Established in October 2000 based on Final Disposal Act**
- **Mission**
  - ◆ **Collection of fund**
  - ◆ **Site selection and characterization**
  - ◆ **Design, licensing, construction, operation and closure of repository**
  - ◆ **Public relations**
- **Outline of NUMO's Repository Plan**
  - **Capacity for HLW > 40,000 glass canisters**
  - **Annual disposal capacity = approx. 1,000 canisters/yr**
  - **Capacity for TRU waste > 19,000 m<sup>3</sup>**
  - **Expected start of operation : around 2035**

NUMO

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## ***Organization of NUMO***

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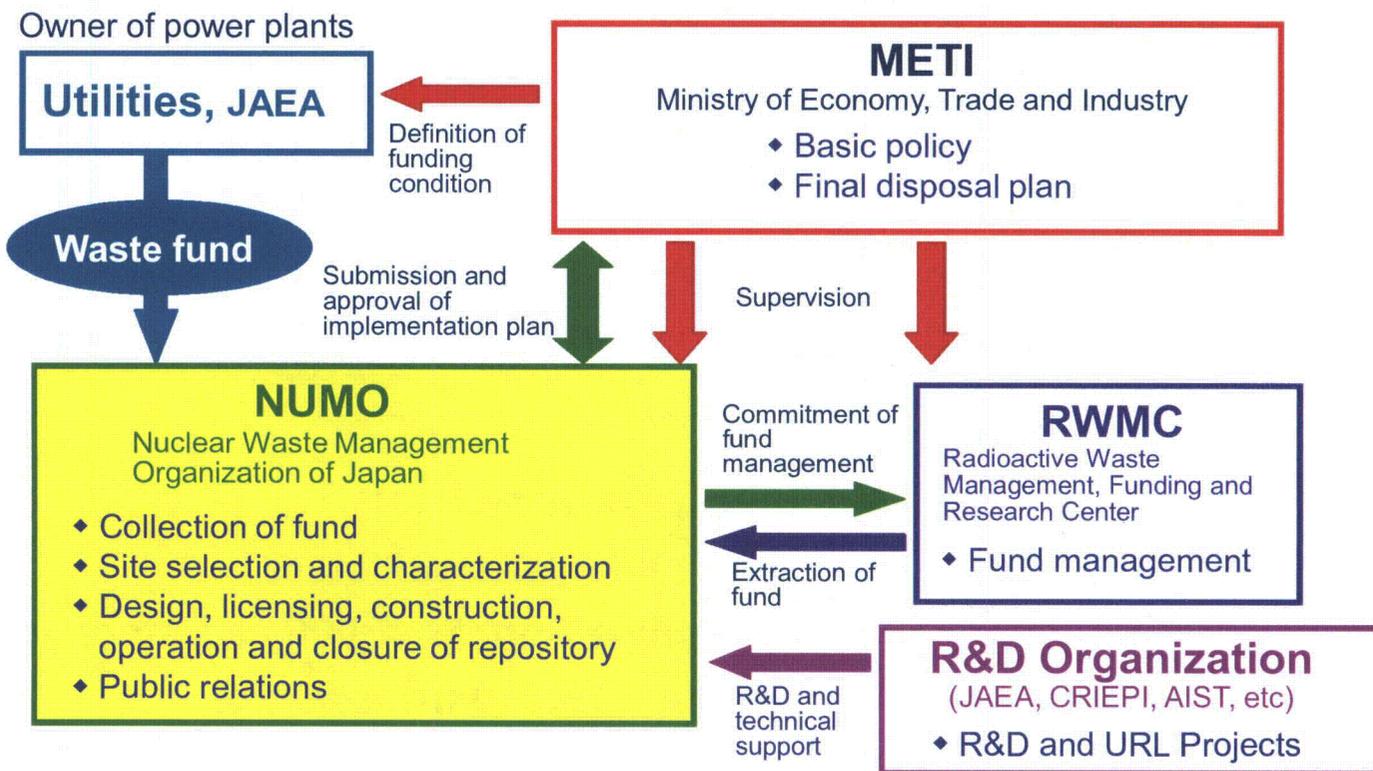


- **Total number of Staff (as of Feb. 2010) : About 80**
- **Expenditures in 2009FY : About 4.4 Billion JPY**

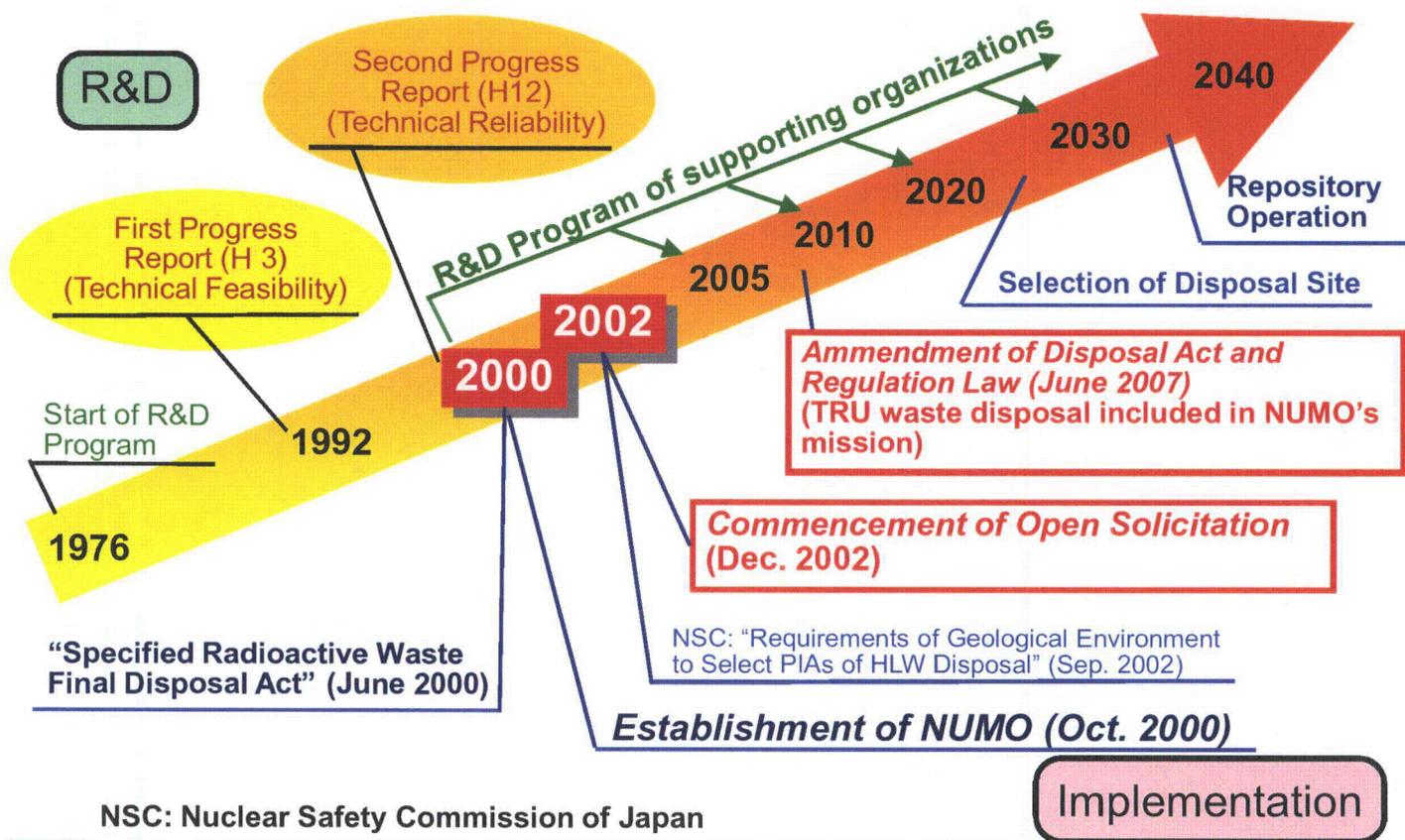
NUMO

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# Organizations and Roles in the HLW Disposal Program



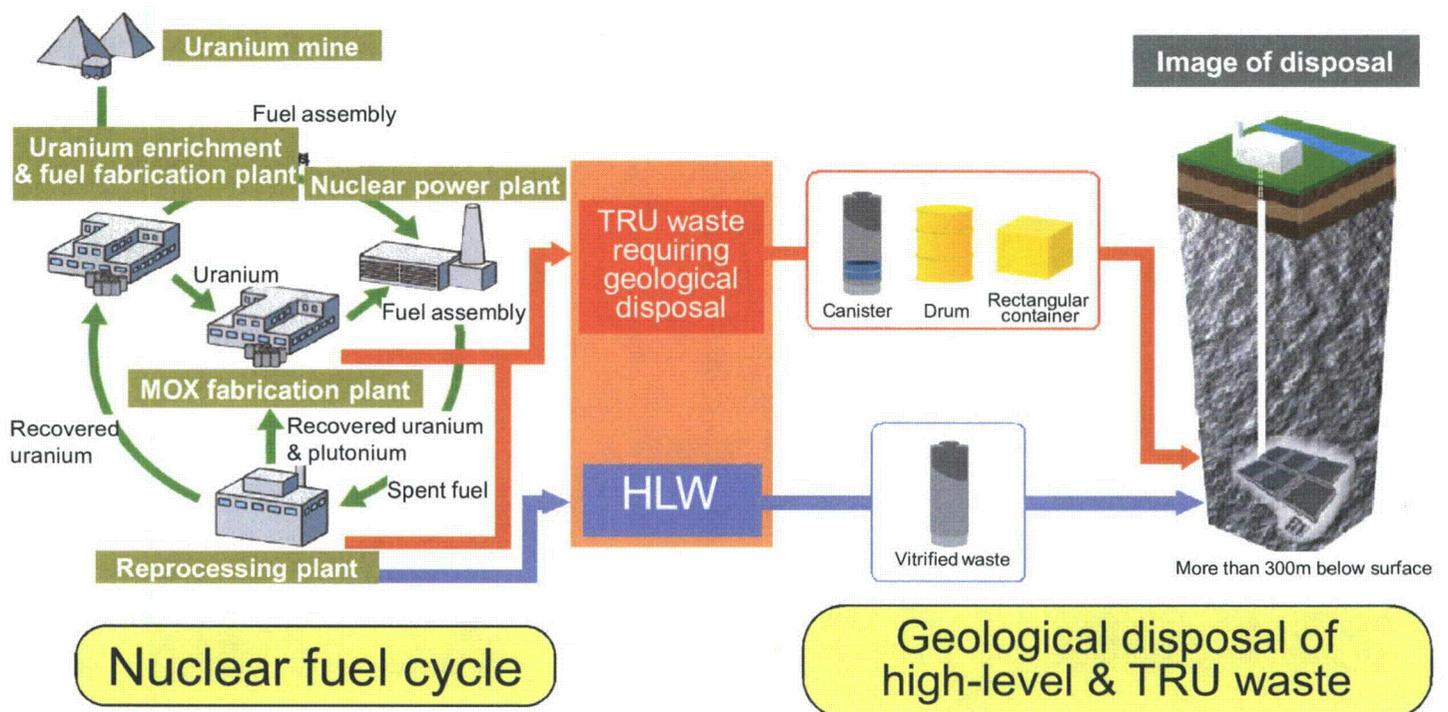
# Japanese Geological Disposal Programme



## 2. Nuclear fuel cycle

### Nuclear Fuel Cycle & Geological Disposal of Nuclear Waste

Nuclear fuel cycle policy is promoted to ensure effective recycling of materials such as uranium and plutonium recovered by reprocessing of spent fuel. Reprocessing generates HLW and TRU waste.



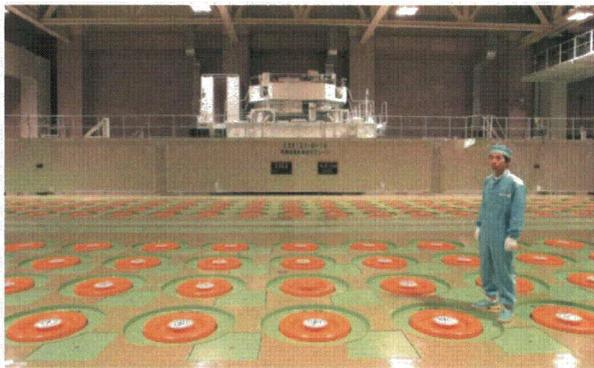
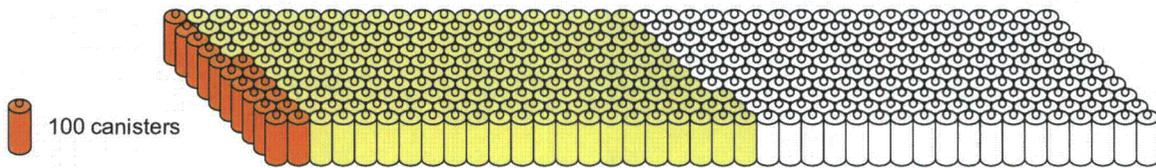
# Storage Status of Vitrified Waste in Japan

## HLW generation

Number of HLW canisters already produced and placed in storage  
 ~1,664 (as of the end of January 2009)

Number of HLW canisters equivalent to SF presently waiting to be reprocessed and vitrified (including unreturned HLW)  
 ~22,200 (as of the end of 2008)

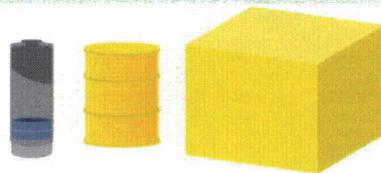
Estimated total HLW (canisters equivalent)  
 ~40,000 (~2020)



Vitrified waste storage center, JNFL

photo credit: JNFL

## TRU waste generation



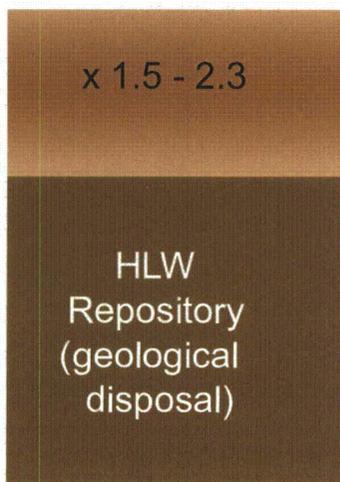
About 18,100m<sup>3</sup>

# Footprints of waste repositories

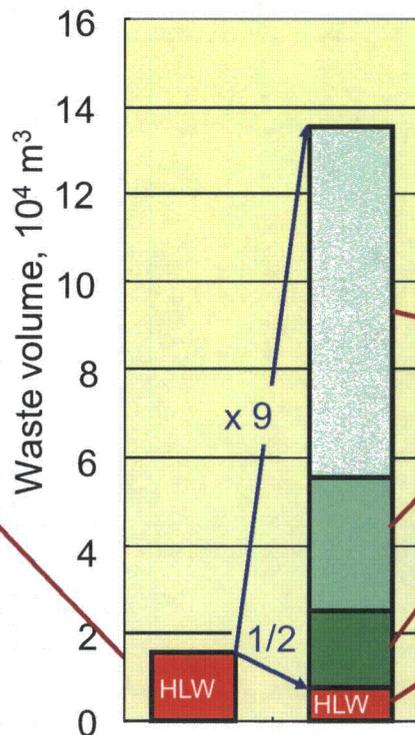
- Direct disposal vs. Reprocessing & recycling -

Report of Long-Term Plan  
 Deliberation Committee, Nov.  
 2004, JAEC

1km



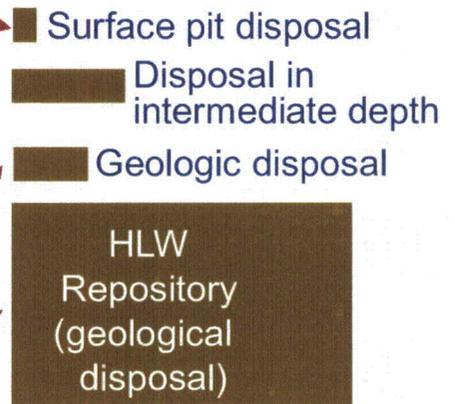
Direct disposal



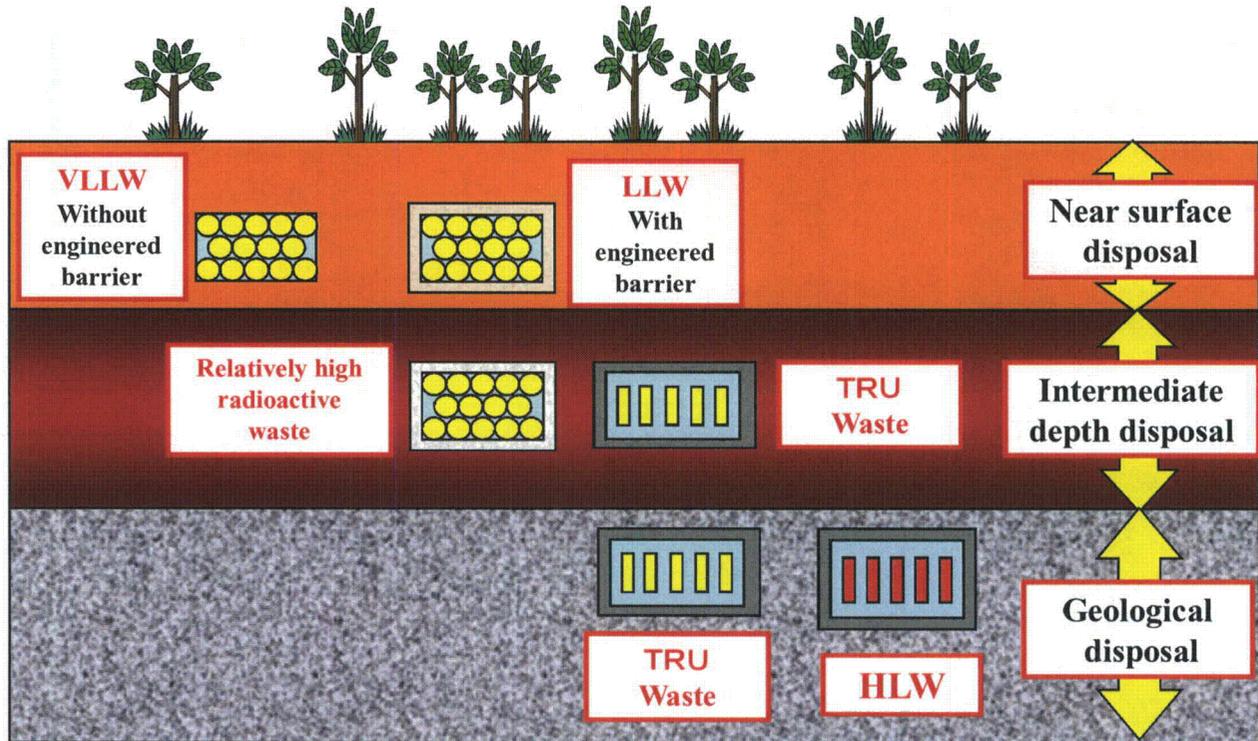
Reproc. & recycle

(Note)

Low-level wastes from decommissioning of reprocessing and MOX plants are included

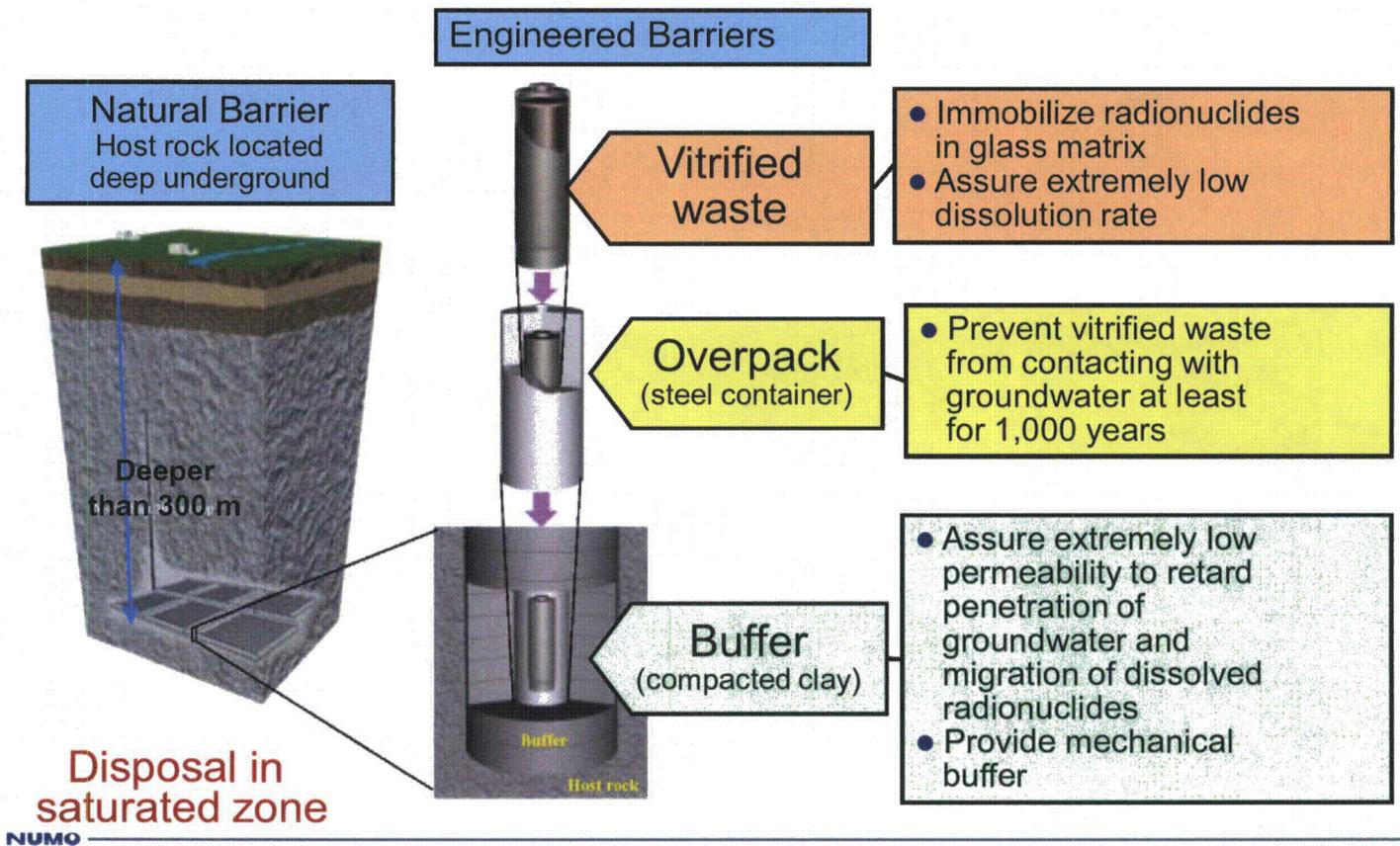


# Radioactive Waste Disposal Methodology



## 3. Concept of geological disposal of HLW

# Multi-barrier Disposal System



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## NUMO's Basic Safety Philosophy

### ■ Safety Principles:

- Protect human health and the environment present and future
- Do not impose undue burdens on present and future generations

Basic policy for ensuring safety

- Appropriate selection procedure of disposal site
- Appropriate design, construction and operation of repository
- Appropriate assessment of safety

Basic policy for promoting understanding of deep geological disposal

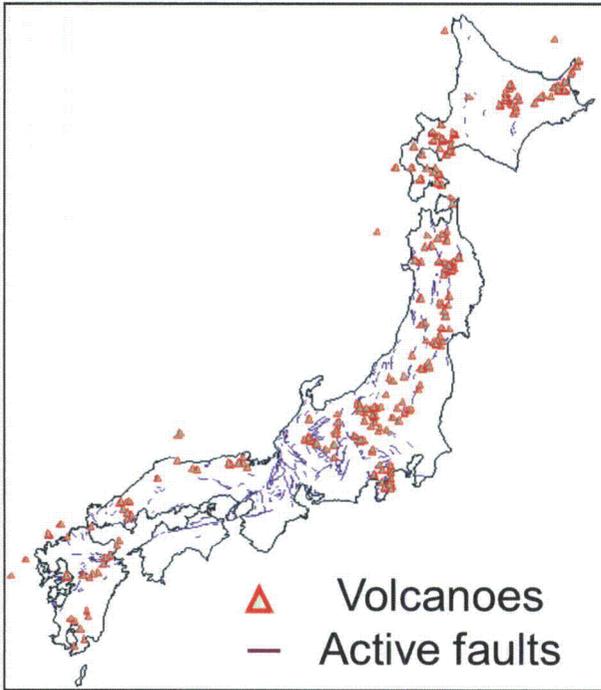
Development of social acceptance

- Active seeking of understanding and fostering a relationship of trust

- Measures to reduce public concerns

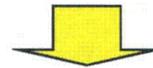


# Stability of Geological Environment



In the Quaternary,

- Volcanic activities and active fault movements occur repeatedly in limited regions
- there is little change in these locations

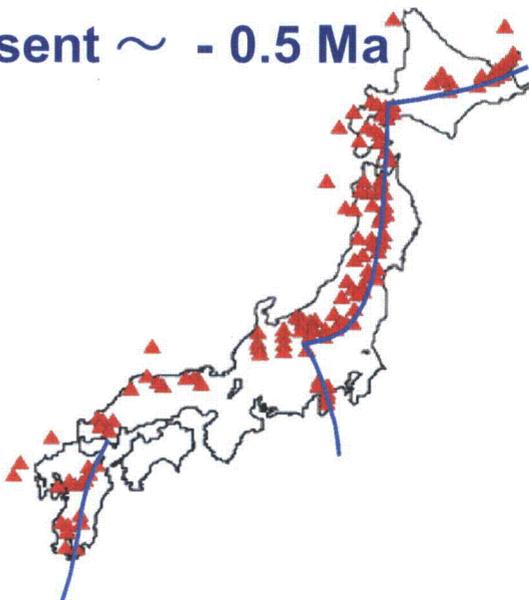


Possible to find a suitable site with minimal effects of volcanic activities and fault movements for next 10<sup>5</sup> years

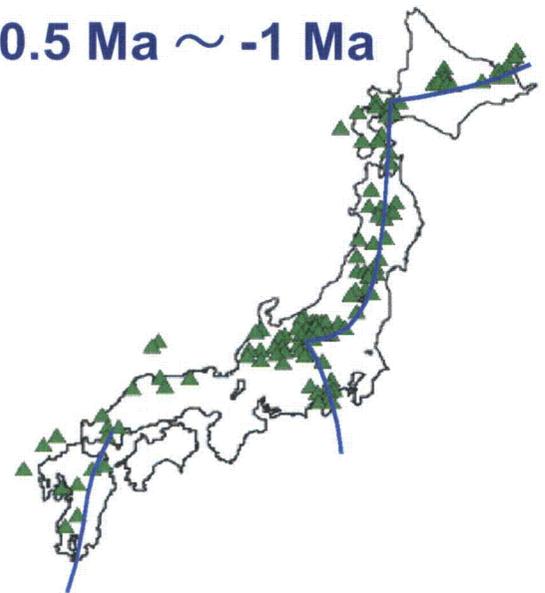


# Geohistorical map of volcanic activities

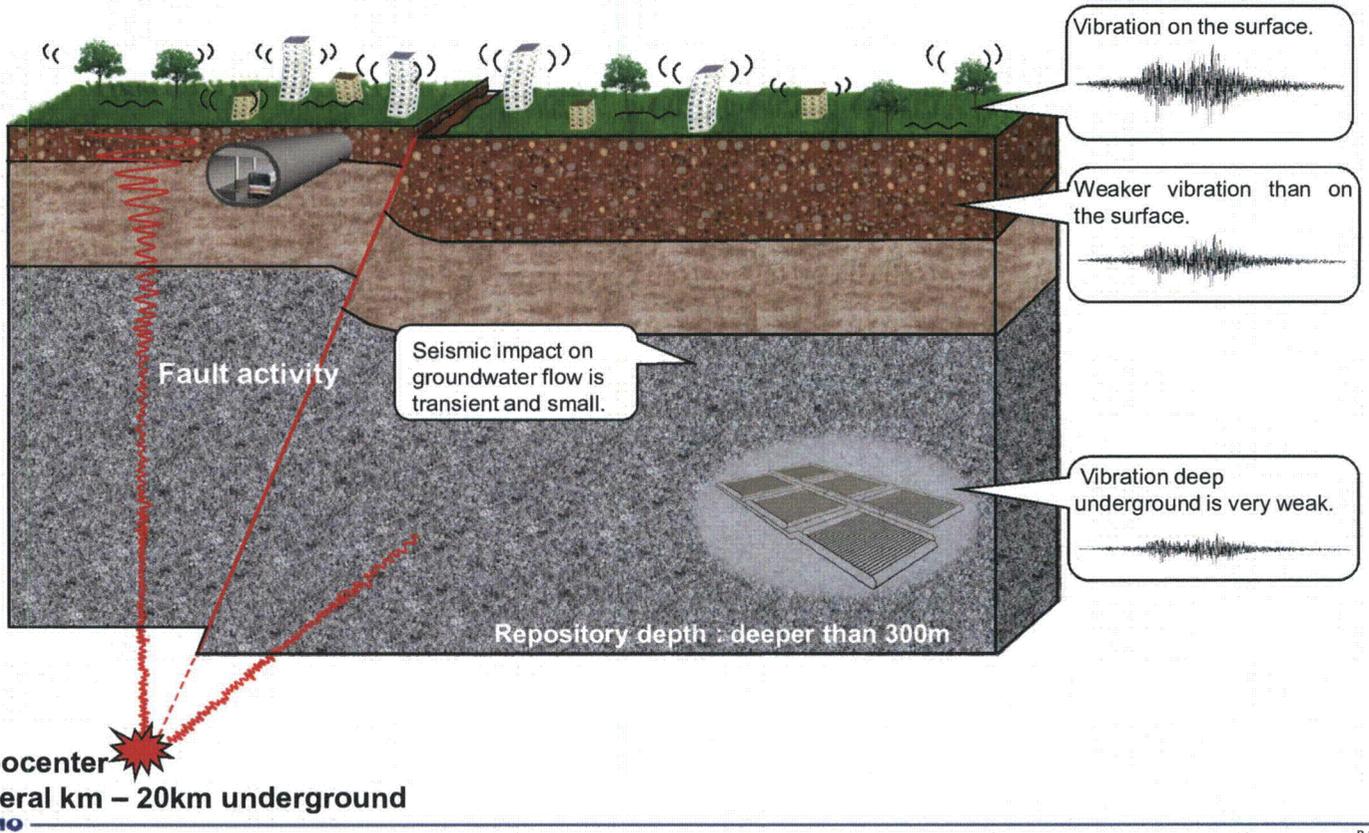
Present ~ - 0.5 Ma



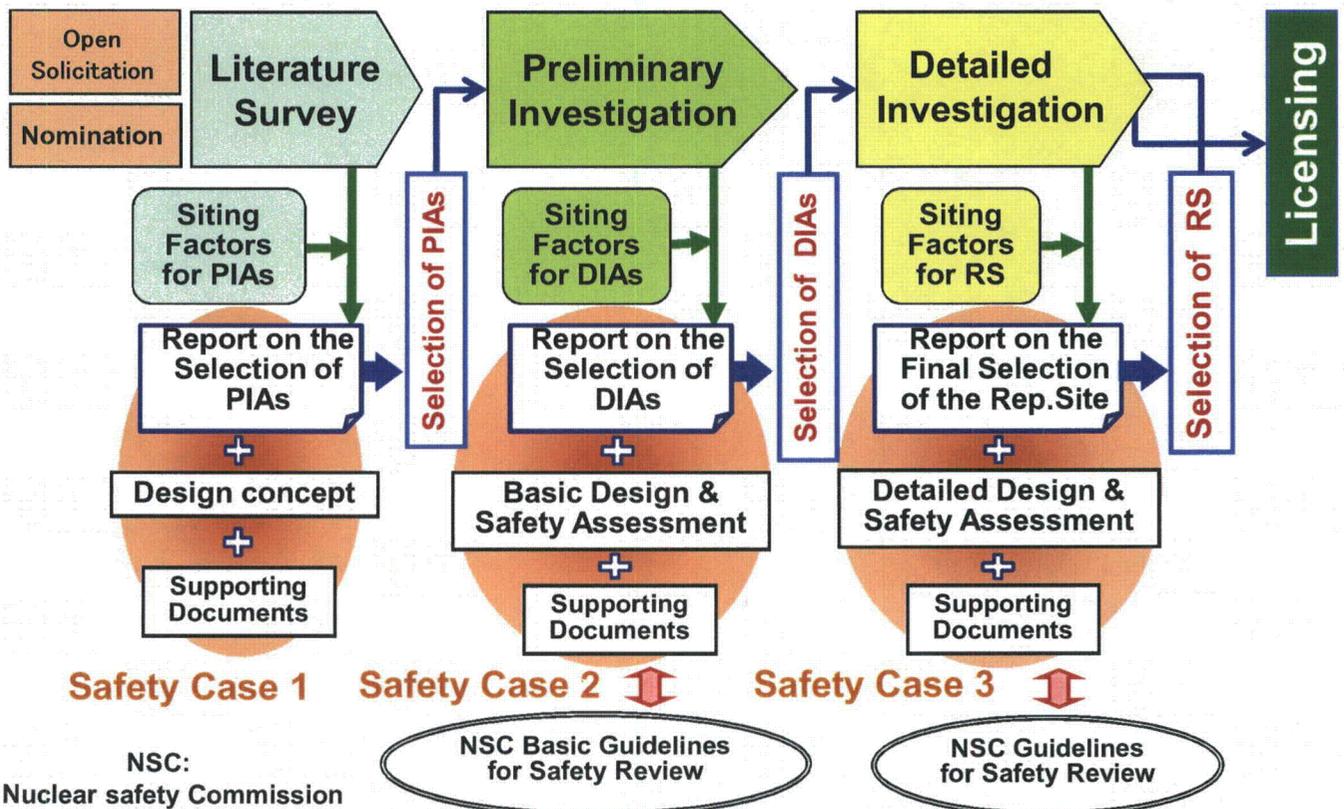
- 0.5 Ma ~ -1 Ma



# Earthquake Vibration

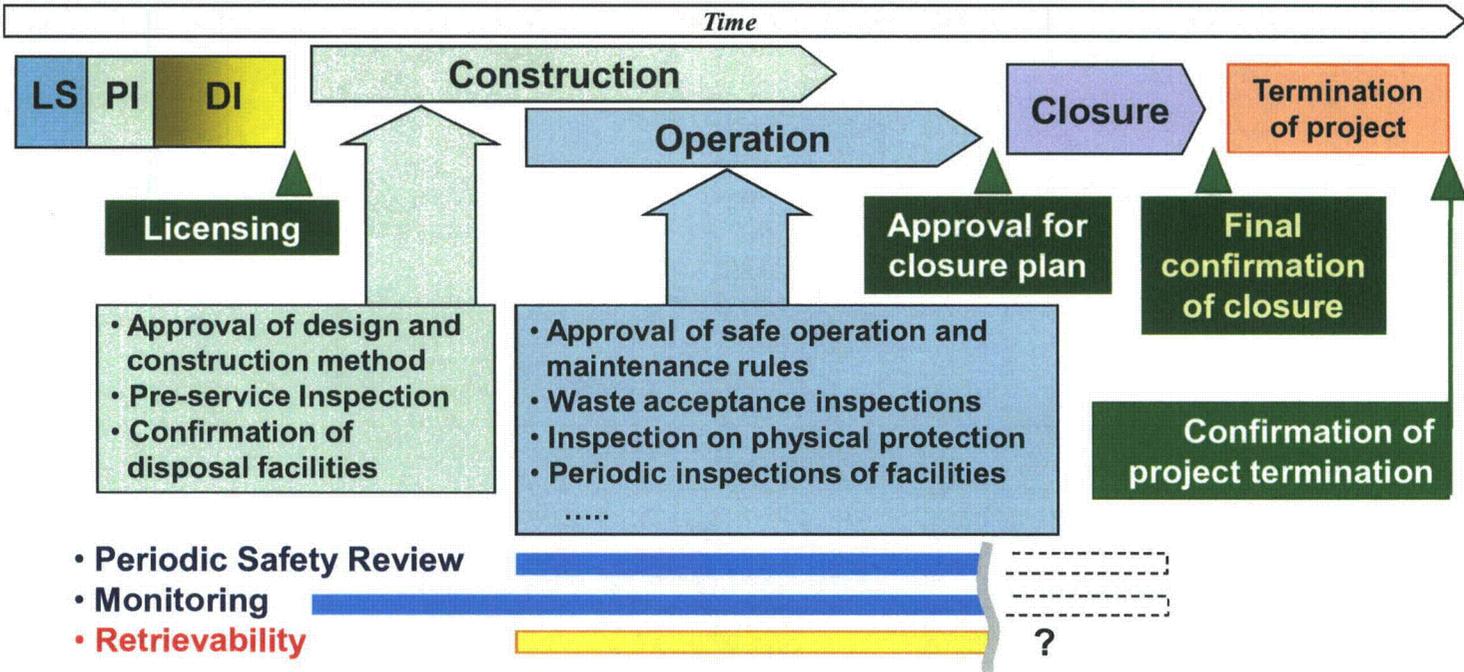


## Stepwise Refinement of the Safety Case



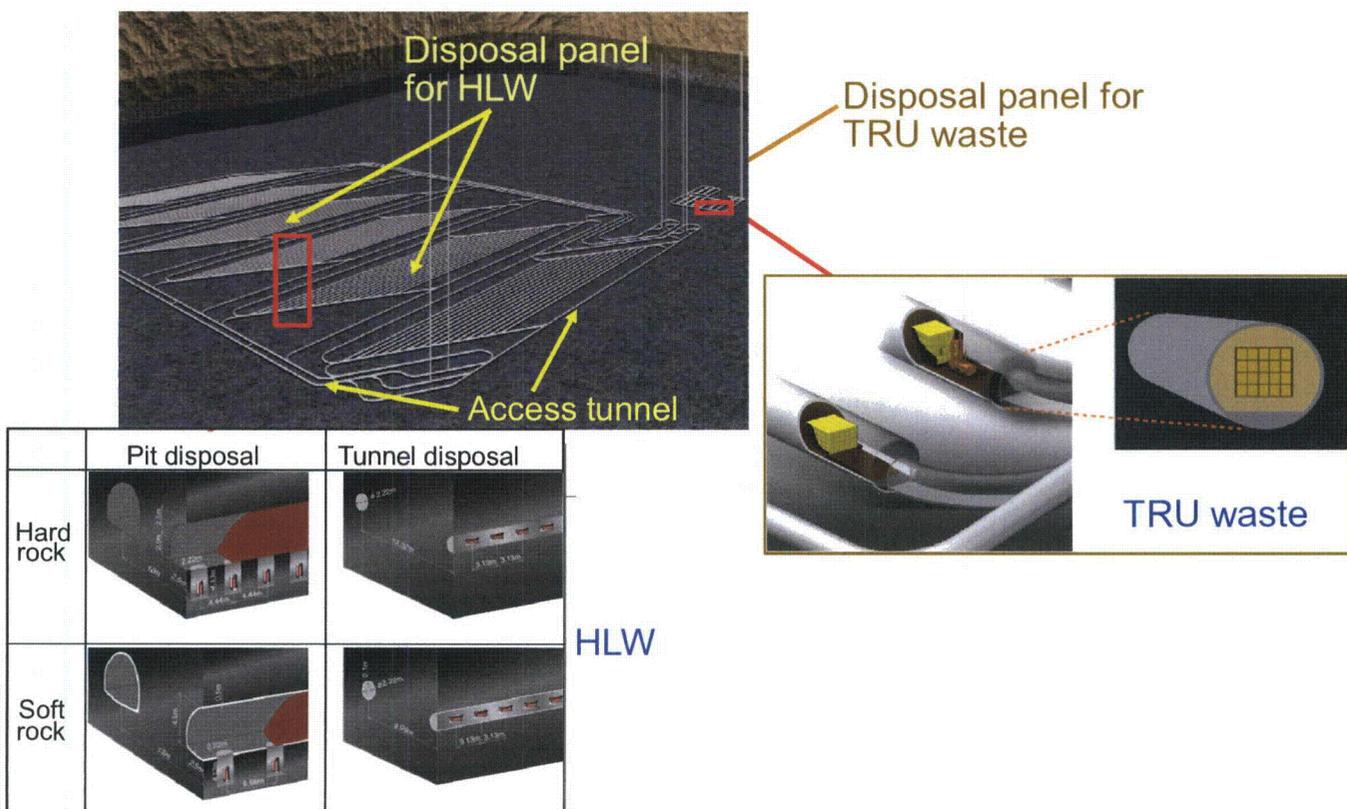
# Conceptual timeline of the project

- Amendment to the "Law for the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors" (Jun. 2007)
  - "Ordinance for the Class1 underground disposal (No.23 of METI)" (Apr.2008)
  - Report on "Regulatory Framework for Geological Disposal of HLW" by NISA Sub-Committee (Jan. 2008)



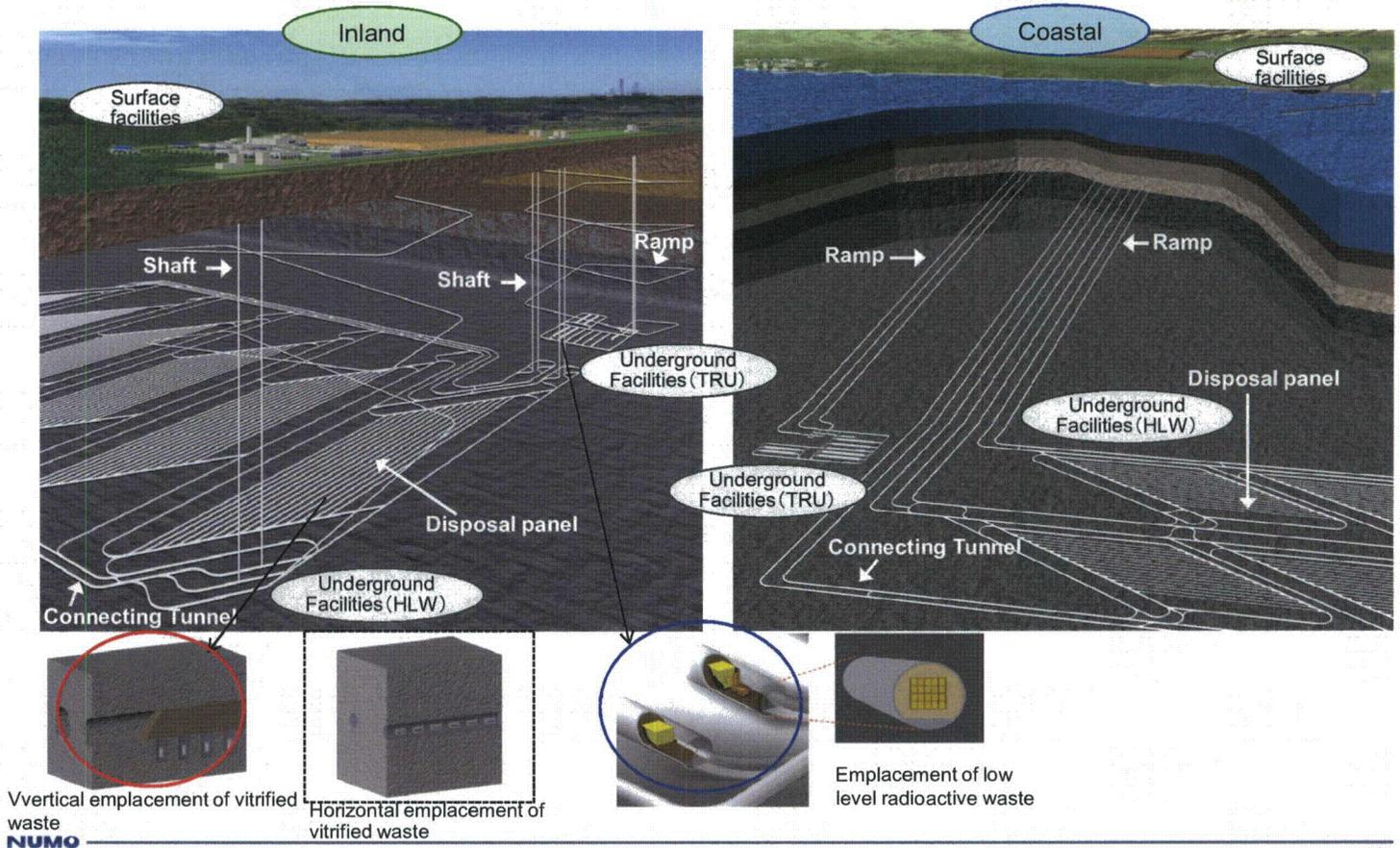
# Typical repository layout

(HLW/TRU co-location option)



# Repository Concept

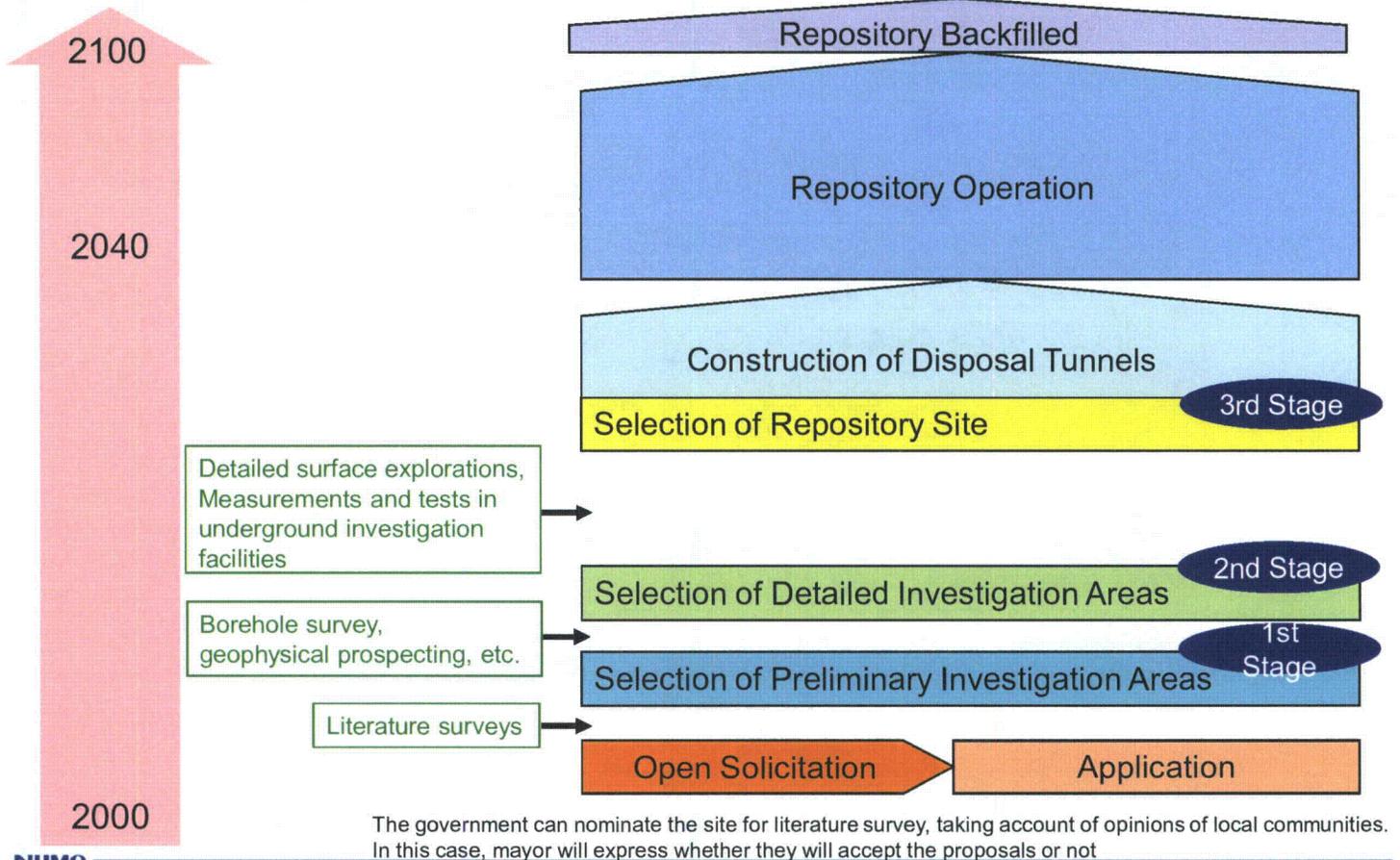
\*: Example of HLW and TRU waste disposal together



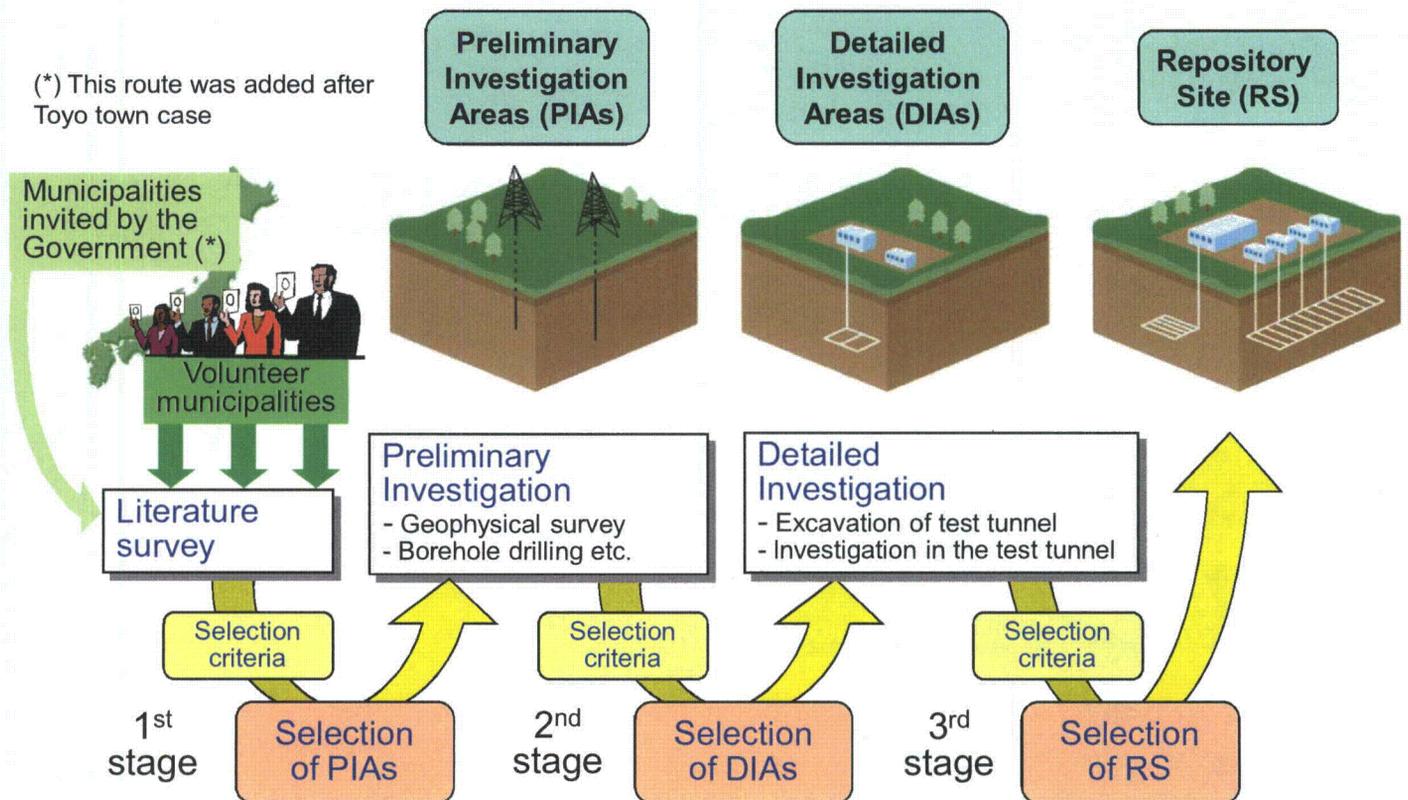
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## 4. Site Selection Process and Status

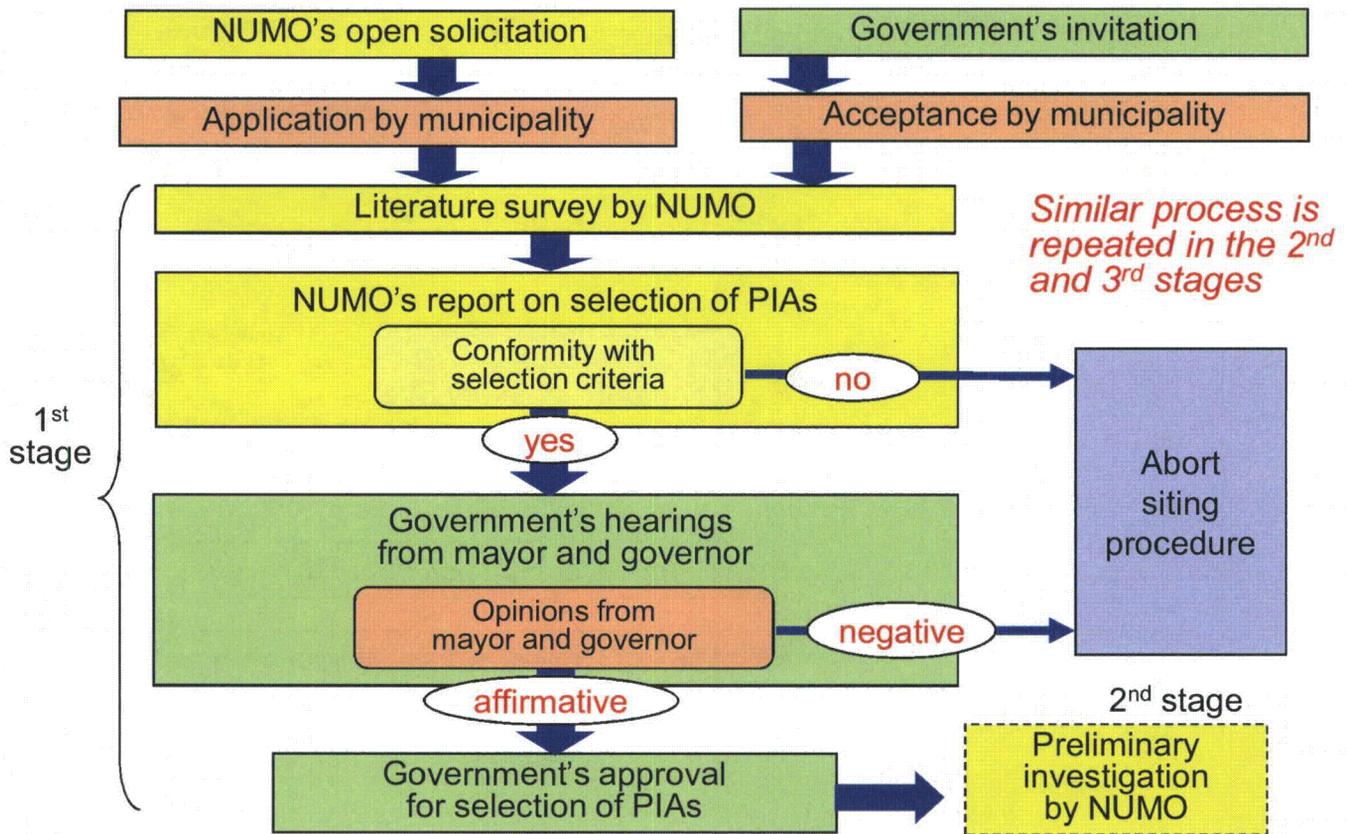
# HLW Disposal Program in Japan



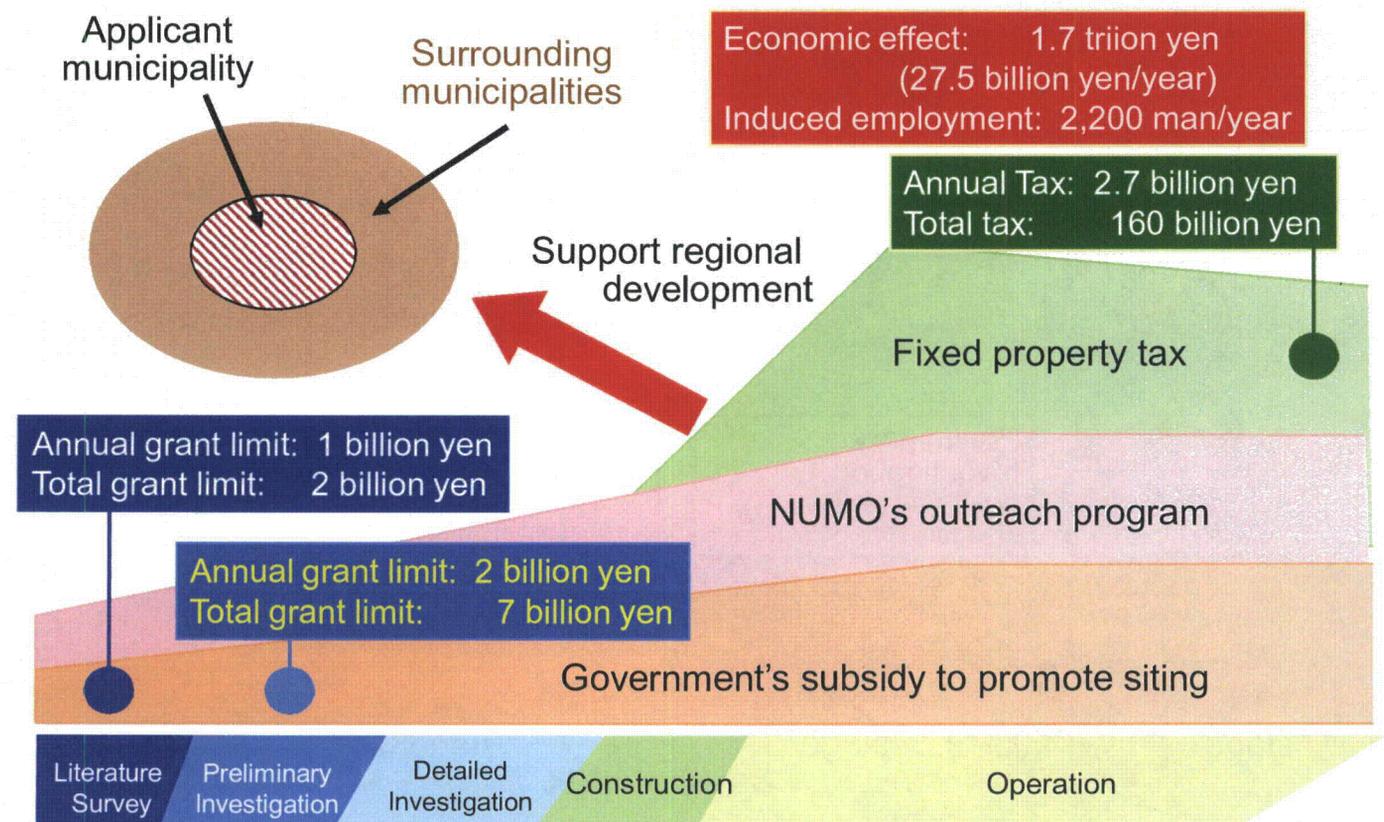
## Three Stages of Site Selection Process



# 1<sup>st</sup> stage of Site Selection

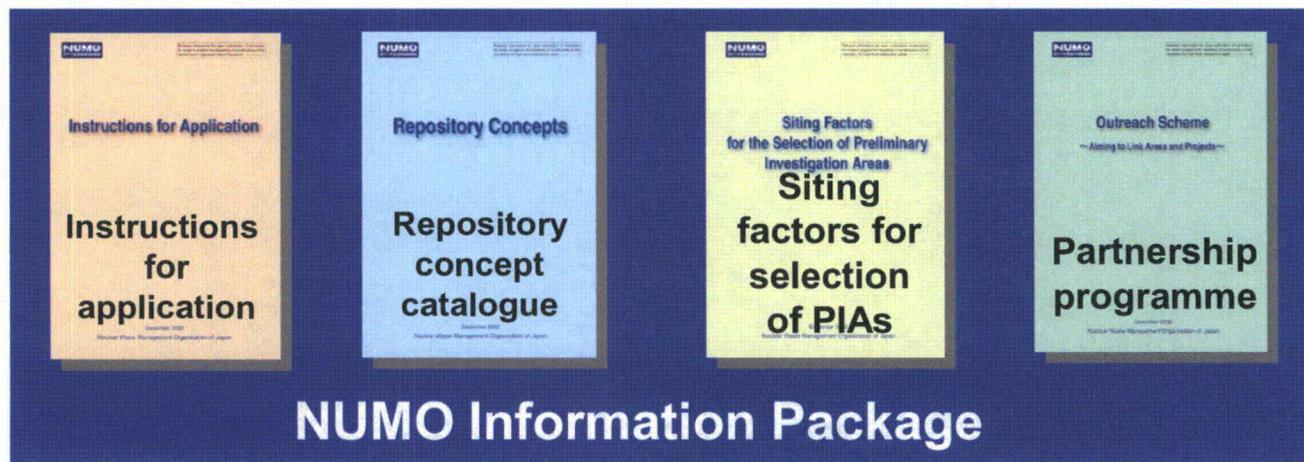


# Proposed Regional Benefit Plan



# Start of Open Solicitation

- On 19 December 2002, NUMO officially announced the start of open solicitation to invite volunteer municipalities for Literature Survey
- Information Package distributed to all municipalities in Japan



## *Siting Factors: focusing site assessment*

### **Evaluation Factors for Qualification (areas excluded as PIAs)**

- Clearly identified active faults
- Within a 15km radius of center of Quaternary volcanoes
- Uplift of more than 300m during the last 100,000years
- Unconsolidated Quaternary deposits
- Economically valuable mineral resources

### **Favorable Factors (categories)**

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Geological formations  | ■ Risk of natural disasters |
| ■ Hydraulic properties   | ■ Procurement of land       |
| ■ Geological environment | ■ Transportations           |

## ***Why Open Solicitation ?***

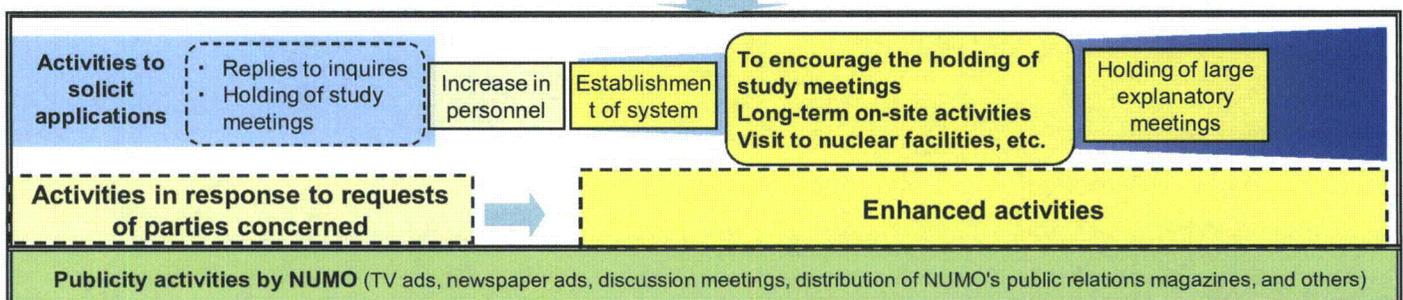
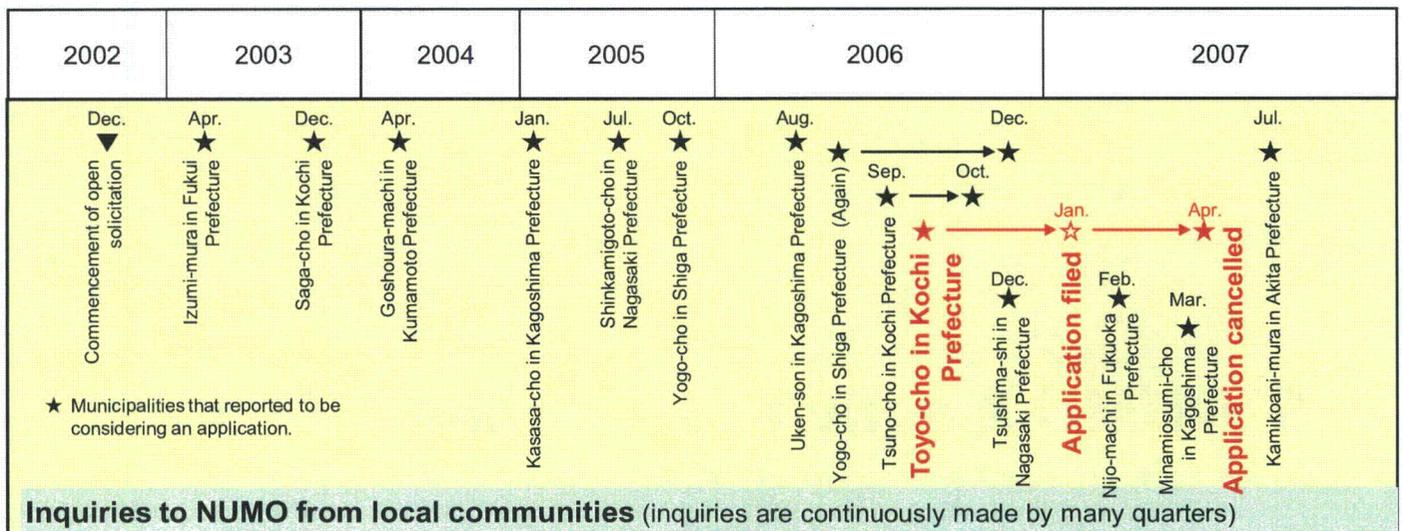
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- 1. Project to involve complex socio-political concerns**
- 2. Public support is crucial for the success of the project**
- 3. Autonomous application by the volunteer municipalities in support by residents forms the basis of politically stable conduct of the project**
- 4. Long-term project lasting for almost a century provides communities a chance for sustainable development**

### ***Evolution since the commencement of open solicitation in December 2002***

- By the end of 2006, about ten local municipalities were reported to have expressed an interest in Literature Survey (LS) , but none lead to the actual application
- In January 2007, Toyo town became the first municipality to submit an application for LS
- Escalation in opposition activities led to the resignation of the mayor and his loss in the following election
- A newly elected mayor withdrew the application and the literature survey for the town was abandoned in May 2007
- Reflecting the lessons learnt, METI radioactive waste sub-committee recommended enhancement measures for HLW disposal program in November 2007

## Municipalities that attempted to apply for Literature Survey



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## Enhancement measures recommended by METI Waste Subcommittee

(Interim report of the subcommittee, Nov.1, 2007)

- Enhancement measures
  - Enhanced PA activities to improve public confidence and to encourage municipalities to participate in literature survey
  - Publication of catalogue of model plans for community partnership
  - Enhancement of R&D and international cooperation to promote public confidence
  - Reinforcement of cooperative framework among government, NUMO and utility companies
- Minor modification of siting process
  - Addition of the system where the government can invite candidate municipalities for literature survey as a supplemental measure to NUMO's voluntary approach

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## 5. NUMO's activity on public relations

### Public Engagement by Multiple PR Approaches (1/2)

#### 1) Improve mutual understanding; establish/expand human network (2007-2009)

- 44 fora/panel discussions in different prefectures (co-hosted by a local newspaper)
- 18 workshops with local NPOs
- Establish and expand network



[Workshop]



[Forum]

- Follow-up for panel members (Local business leaders, Advisory specialist for consumers' affairs, Local newspaper's leader writer)

#### 2) PR activity using media (2009-2010)

- TVCM, newspaper/magazine advertisement, website



[TVCM]



[Magazine advertisement]



[website]

## 3) Real-scale exhibit to offer virtual experience

- Set up graphic theater in Science Museum to offer virtual experience of geological disposal
- Exhibit real-scale display at PR facilities of utility, etc.

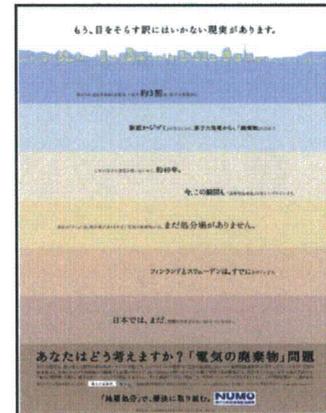


【Virtual geological exploration tour】

## 4) Nationwide campaign in 2009

- PR expansion: focus on October 26<sup>th</sup>, “Atomic Energy Day”
- Commercial Messages : TVCM, newspaper, website, posters, transport advertisement, etc.
- Special TV programs:
  - Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>: 22:00 - 23:15 (Fuji TV)
  - Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>: 17:00 - 17:55 (BS Fuji)
- Symposium: Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>

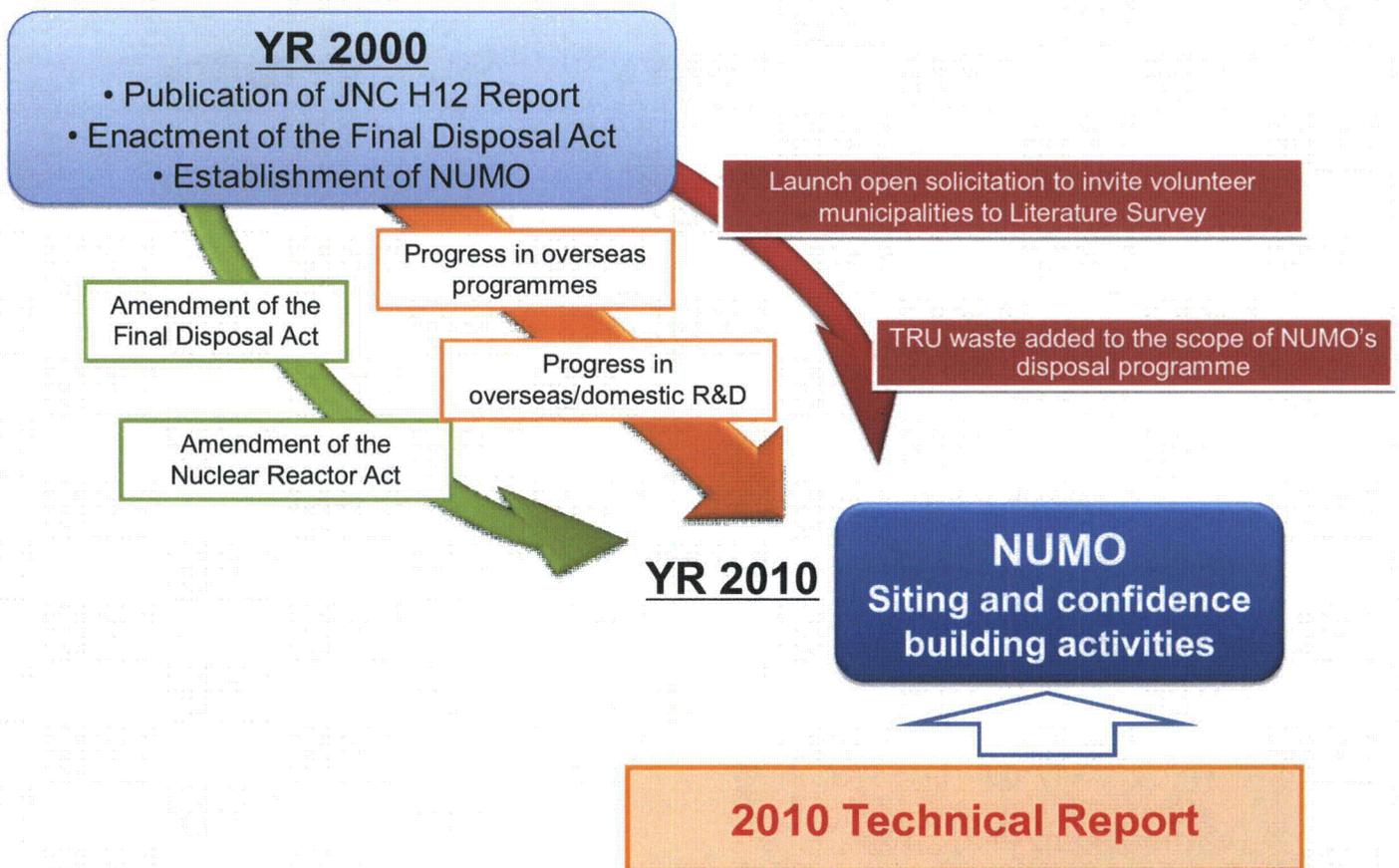
【Display example in PR facility】



【Newspaper advertisement】

## 6. NUMO's 2010 Technical Report

# Background of 2010 Technical Report



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## 2010 Technical Report

- Clarify NUMO's safety approach (precedent publication in 2009):
  - Specify the safety policies and measures
  - Draw up 'Safety Road Map'
- Demonstrate advancement of the technologies to support NUMO's geological disposal project focusing on the past 10 years
  - Compile outcomes of NUMO's R&D and Government's fundamental R&D activities

- A tool to backup confidence building activities -

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## Major relevant reports translated in English

- H12: Project to Establish the Scientific and Technical Basis for HLW Disposal in Japan (compiled by Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute in 2000)  
[http://www.jaea.go.jp/04/tisou/english/report/H12\\_report.html](http://www.jaea.go.jp/04/tisou/english/report/H12_report.html)
- NUMO Technical Reports  
<http://www.numo.or.jp/en/publications/main.html>
  - Development of Repository Concepts for Volunteer Siting Environment (NUMO-TR-04-03)
  - Evaluating Site Suitability for HLW Repository (NUMO-TR-04-04)
  - The NUMO Structured Approach to HLW Disposal in Japan, (NUMO-TR-07-02)
- Second Progress Report on Research and Development for TRU Waste Disposal in Japan (compiled by Japan Atomic Energy Agency and Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan in 2007)  
[http://www.jaea.go.jp/04/be/docu/tru\\_eng/tru-2e\\_index.htm](http://www.jaea.go.jp/04/be/docu/tru_eng/tru-2e_index.htm)

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Thank for attention

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