

EIA in the Nuclear Field in Japan

FNCA Study Panel

Session 3: National perspective on EIA for nuclear
energy-related activities

(National Perspective: Japan)

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MIYAMORI, Seiji
Hitotsubashi University

Legal Framework (Overview)

○ Environmental Law

- Basic Environment Act (1993), Article 20
- Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIAA) (1997)

○ Nuclear Law

- Electricity Business Act (EBA) (1964)
- Nuclear Reactor Regulation Act (NRRA) (1957)

Changes of EIA System in Japan

○ Development of EIA System in Nuclear field in Japan is divided into the following three stages.

- Before EIAA (-1993)
- After EIAA (1993-)
- After the Fukushima Daiichi Accident (2011-)

Process of EIA and Safety Regulations

Siting

Environmental Impact Assessment
(EIA)

Design

Safety Assessment of Nuclear
Reactor

Construction

Reactor plan approval

Before the enforcement of EIAA

○ Decision of Ministry International Trade and Industry (1977)

“About reinforcement of EIA on the Siting of NPP”

→Implementation of EIA

according to Ministry Decision

(✕not based on legal framework)

After the enforcement of EIAA ①

○ Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIAA) (1997)

- All NPPs fall under class-1 Project.

○ Amendment of Electricity Business Act (1997)

- provisions that correspond to EIAA

After the enforcement of EIAA ②

○ EIAA Article 52 (1) (Exemption)

- "The provisions of this Act shall not apply to air pollution, water pollution, ... or soil pollution caused by radioactive substances."

☆ Assumed that Safety Assessment according to NRRA is stricter than EIA according to EIAA.

After the Fukushima Daiichi Accident ①

○ After Fukushima Daiichi Accident, the Siting, design, construction of NPP are not discussed about in Japan.

○ Discharge of Radioactive materials to general environment

- Deletion of EIAA Article 52 (1) (2013)
⇒ "Radioactive materials in general environment" became a object of EIAA.

After the Fukushima Daiichi Accident ②

- Revision of “Basic Matters” (2014)
 - As the immediate issues, the practice of the following projects are assumed.
 1. Conducting the projects in evacuation order zones.
 2. Construction etc. of NPP and Final Disposal Plant.

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NuclearPlant Accident

Thank you for your kind attention.