

TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN:

**Petition to freeze the operation of the Rokkasho Nuclear Reprocessing Plant in order to stop the radioactive contamination of the ocean and air:**

The Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant began active test operations in March 2006. Ever since, the plant has emitted radiation into the ocean and air. If full-scale operations begin as planned during 2009, the annual emission of radiation will be "180 times more than that of a conventional nuclear power plant" (according to a statement made in March 2009 by the head of the Japanese government's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in response to Diet-member questioning).

There are already 240 cubic meters of high-level radioactive liquid waste accumulated at the plant. The high-level radioactive liquid waste is extremely toxic, containing 23.4MCi(Cesium-137) of radiation. Hydrogen gas build up in the waste must be constantly removed, and the waste must be cooled constantly or it would reach boiling point and could explode, resulting in catastrophe.

In January 2009, 150 liters of high-level radioactive liquid waste spilled inside the plant. The spillage was left unnoticed for 2 weeks. In April, the Nuclear Safety Commission, aware of the gravity of this situation, directed Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. to investigate the cause of the five areas that are in violation of safety regulations, and, to take preventative measures.

In May 2008, several geomorphologists reported the existence of an active fault directly under the plant and warned that the fault could cause a M8-class earthquake. If such an earthquake were to occur, it could trigger an irrevocable accident with leakage of coolant water from the spent nuclear waste pools, power outage resulting in suspension of cooling, and, leakage of high-level radioactive liquid waste into the environment.

In light of the serious issues surrounding this plant, we demand the following in order that we may continue to live in peace on this land.

- 1. Freeze the operation of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant.**
- 2. Following the principle of prevention, take all measures in order that high-level radioactive liquid waste will not be released into the environment even under a worst-case scenario.**

Name	Address

Please send all completed petitions to the following organization:

**Iwate no Kai (Fumio Nagata) 6-36-8 Yamagishi, Morioka, Iwate, 020-0004 JAPAN**

Deadline for petition submission: November 30, 2009. The petition will to be submitted to the Japanese government in December. Anyone who agrees with the content of this petition is eligible to sign.

Personal information given in this petition will not be used for any other purpose.