

Roadmap towards Restoration update:

On July 19th, TEPCO and the Japanese government announced that their goal for Step 1 of their 'Roadmap towards Restoration' of achieving stable cooling of the Fukushima reactors has been achieved, as scheduled, by mid-July. A further reported success of phase one is that the injection of nitrogen gas into the reactors to avoid any further hydrogen explosions has been achieved.

The main goal of Step 2 of the 'Road Map' is achieving cold shutdown of the reactors with a target date of between October and January. Also announced was that it may be possible for evacuated residents to return home upon successful completion of Step 2.

The Roadmap that was first released in April has been updated in this week's announcement to include further information on strategy and timeline. One added point that was included is that officials expect it to take around 3 years to get through the Mid-term issues, which include maintaining a continuous cold shutdown condition, the removal of the fuel from the reactors, installation of full-fledged water processing facilities, etc.

For further information, please visit here:

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/roadmap/pdf/110719_nps_03.pdf

Also released was a summary of the progress to date of the Roadmap, available here: http://www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/roadmap/pdf/110719_assistance_01.pdf

Second Supplementary Budget for FY 2011

The Japanese government is expected to pass Monday, the Second Supplementary Budget for FY2011 to help the country recover from the events of 3/11 and evolving nuclear situation. The breakdown of the ¥2 trillion budget is available (only in Japanese) here:

http://www.mof.go.jp/budget/budger_workflow/budget/fy2011/sy230705/hosei230705c.pdf