

Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Councils working for a renewable, safe and peaceful future



UK & Ireland NFLA Secretariat

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FAO Their Excellencies

Wednesday 15 March 2023

The Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida
The Minister of the Environment, Akihiro Nishimura
The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Taku Etō
The Minister in charge of the Response to the Economic Impact caused by the Nuclear Accident and Minister of State for the Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation, Hiroshi Kajiyama

C/p The Cabinet Public Affairs Office, Cabinet Secretariat,
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 – 8968, Japan

Your Excellencies,

At this time when the international community joins the Japanese people in marking the twelfth anniversary of the Fukushima Daichii Nuclear Power Station disaster, I am writing to you as Chair of the UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities to register our condemnation of the most regrettable plan by the Japanese Government and nuclear operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) to discharge into the Pacific Ocean over one million tons of radioactive water which has accumulated since the disaster.

My predecessor, Councillor David Blackburn, wrote to you in similar vein last year. I wish to reaffirm that we are opposed to this proposal because the Advanced Liquid Processing System, which shall be used to treat this water, will not filter out tritium and other toxic industrial chemicals and contaminants prior to its release into the sea. Radioactive tritium is toxic to fish and seafood populations and ultimately to the humans who consume them.

The discharge of the water will have a disastrous impact upon the livelihoods of Japanese fisherfolk and it will also contaminate tide-washed coastal pastures, affecting dairy and meat products from animals reared on them. In addition, during storm surges, contact with and inhalation of water particles will be dangerous to humans; such contact can occur up to ten miles inland. Scientists have also predicted that the contaminated water will spread throughout the entire Pacific Ocean within ten years blighting the region.

The NFLA joins our partners in Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan, nuclear activists everywhere, the Japanese domestic fishing and farming industries, the Pacific Islands Council, and Pacific regional governments in condemning this plan. I am authorised to register our protest with you and urge you to halt this plan which will cause irreparable harm to the Pacific Ocean marine environment and to the livelihoods of all of those who are reliant upon it.

Please direct any response by email to NFLA Secretary Richard Outram at richard.outram@manchester.gov.uk Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Councillor Lawrence O'Neill,
Chair, UK/Ireland NFLA Steering Committee