

March 3, 2020

Dear Minister Hiroshi KAJIYAMA
Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry
Tokyo, Japan

Members of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) are keenly interested in the aftermath and recovery from the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, including the cleanup from the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

We understand, from the February 2020 Report of the Subcommittee on Handling of the ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) Treated Water, that storage space for ALPS-processed water from the Fukushima recovery is running out and that the ALPS subcommittee has recommended re-purifying and then releasing the re-purified water (with dilution) into the ocean or air. ANS recognizes that all nuclear facility-related processes result in emissions or other by-products that require disposal, that such materials can be and are routinely managed and disposed of in a safe and responsible manner, and that it is a role of national governments to establish regulations that ensure protection of people and the environment while carrying out such disposals.

Several senior members of the ANS technical leadership reviewed the ALPS subcommittee report and determined that it provided balanced and highly credible recommendations that are consistent with current regulatory standards in Japan (and around the world). If the current recommendations are followed, then the public exposure from the release of the re-purified and diluted water would be many orders of magnitude less than the exposure from natural radiation per year.

We very much appreciate the efforts of the ALPS subcommittee to address this difficult issue. We encourage you to continue this open and transparent dialogue as you move forward. ANS's diverse membership of engineers, scientists, educators and others from the United States and around the world stands ready to offer whatever support we can provide to your efforts, today and in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if ANS can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Kray
President of the American Nuclear Society

cc: Atomic Energy Society of Japan