1-21 Toward the Treatment and Subsequent Disposal of the Accident Waste

- An Analysis of Rubble and Trees Collected from the Site of the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS -



Fig.1-45 Concentrations of ³H and ⁹⁰Sr as functions of those of ¹³⁷Cs

(Tanaka, K. et al., JNST, vol.51, issues 7-8, 2014, p.1032-1043.)

These figures show the radioactivity concentrations of (a) 90 Sr and (b) 3 H as functions of the concentration of 137 Cs. It is clarified that the concentrations of 90 Sr did depend on those of 137 Cs, but those of 3 H did not.

After the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS (1F, The "Unit 1-6 at 1F" is abbreviated to "1F1-1F6"), huge quantities of rubble and many trees were contaminated by radionuclides, including ¹³⁷Cs and ¹³¹I, which were generated at the site of 1F. To determine a strategy for the treatment and subsequent disposal of the rubble and trees, it was essential to clarify their radionuclides in and on the rubble and trees, samples were collected at the location shown Fig.1-44.

Important radionuclides (including α -ray and β -ray emitting radionuclides, which need chemical analysis) were selected based on a safety assessment of the waste disposal. Analytical methods for the important radionuclides have already been developed by JAEA, and applied to various types of radioactive waste generated by research and industrial and medical facilities. We modified the existing analytical methods and analyzed the rubble and trees.

The ratios of the radioactivity concentrations ³H and ⁹⁰Sr to those of ¹³⁷Cs determined in this study are plotted in Fig.1-45. As shown in Fig.1-45, the concentration of ³H did not depend on the sampling location. In contrast, the radioactivity ratios of ⁹⁰Sr to ¹³⁷Cs clearly depended on the sampling location. The observed results for ⁹⁰Sr also implied that the ⁹⁰Sr/¹³⁷Cs ratio was different for each Unit of 1F. We are establishing methods for the treatment and disposal of radioactive waste on the basis of this data.

This study was sponsored by the Agency for Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) in the FY 2013 and 2014.

Reference

Tanaka, K. et al., Radiochemical Analysis of Rubble and Trees Collected from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, Journal of Nuclear Science and Technology, vol.51, issues 7–8, 2014, p.1032–1043.