

Joint Statement on the International Meeting for Safety Assurance of Fuel Cycle Industries

a. Today, the representatives of

BNFL,
Westinghouse (part of BNFL group)
COGEMA,
GE Nuclear Energy,
Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute
Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute
Japan Nuclear Fuel Co., Ltd.,
Mitsubishi Materials Corporation,
Mitsubishi Nuclear Fuel Co., Ltd.,
Nuclear Fuel Industries, Ltd.,
Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.

have met together and reviewed the JCO accident in Tokaimura. We, participants, noted the peculiar character of the event, where human factors played a major role in inviting the accident. We must draw the lesson that any misconduct occurring at any organizational level brings about a deterioration of safety culture and, eventually, this can result in the collapse of safety assurance systems within facilities. Consequently, we are determined to cooperate in order to preclude any possible pitfalls and enhance the high safety levels in all nuclear fuel cycle facilities.

b. We recognize that the importance of nuclear safety is common to all the nuclear fuel cycle industry in the world and agree to the necessity of reinforcing universal safety culture, which should be shared by all those concerned.

c. We will discuss further how to cross-fertilize the universal nuclear safety culture in nuclear fuel cycle facilities through the exchange of experiences among different entities in different countries.

Tokyo, December 6, 1999