



The Radioactive Material Leak Accident at the Hadron Experimental Facility of J-PARC

June 21, 2013

First External Expert Panel

J-PARC Center
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Issues with respect to the Accident

- ① Release of radioactive material to the outside of the radiation controlled area and to the environment outside of the Hadron experimental hall (HD hall)
- ② Delays in reporting to the relevant authorities, the local communities and the media
- ③ Internal radiation exposure on workers who inhaled contaminated air in the HD hall
- ④ Failure in timely disclosure of information

What is J-PARC?

- Jointly built and operated by Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) and High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK)
- Opened for researchers in the world to study a wide range of research fields from the origin of the universe to the development of new medicine

**Linac
(JAEA)**

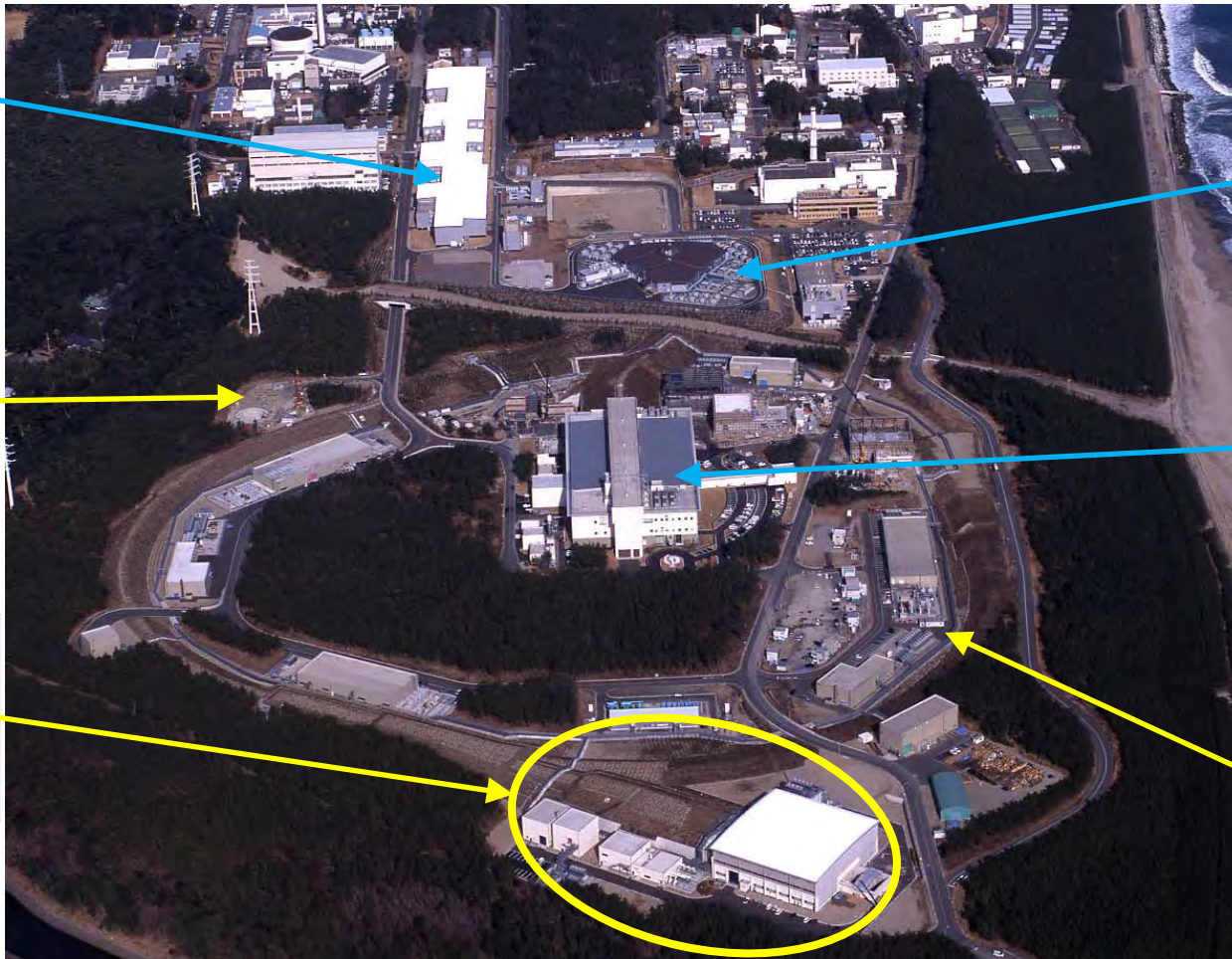
**3 GeV
Synchrotron
(JAEA)**

**Neutrino
Experimental
Facility
(KEK)**

**Materials and
Life Science
Experimental
Facility (MLF)
(JAEA)**

**Hadron
Experimental
Facility
(KEK)**

**50 GeV
Synchrotron
(KEK)**

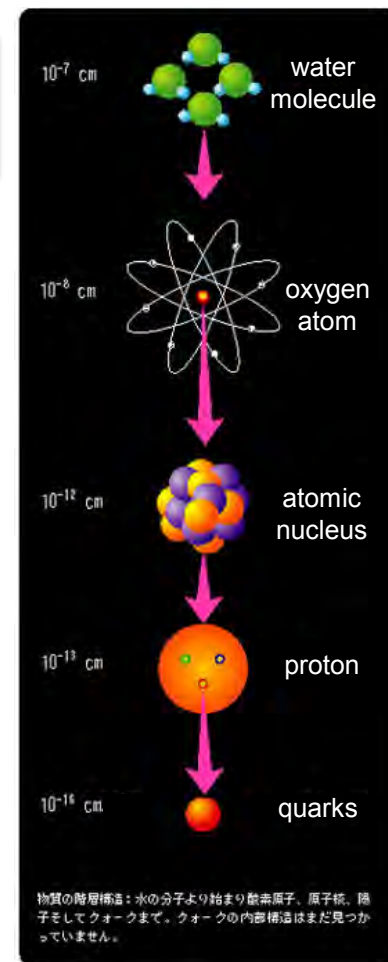


Hadron Experimental Facility

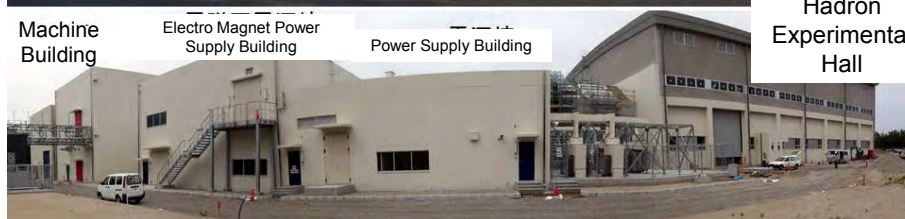
A research facility for elementary particle and nuclear physics

- to investigate the fundamental components of matter
- to explore how they interact and constitute matter

Construction began in 2004 and was completed in January 2009. After commissioning, the users experiments started in January 2010.



Hadron Experimental Hall



Hadron Experimental Hall:

The building is 56 m long, 60 m wide, 16 m roof height with 6 m deep semibasement structure to accommodate experimental instruments.

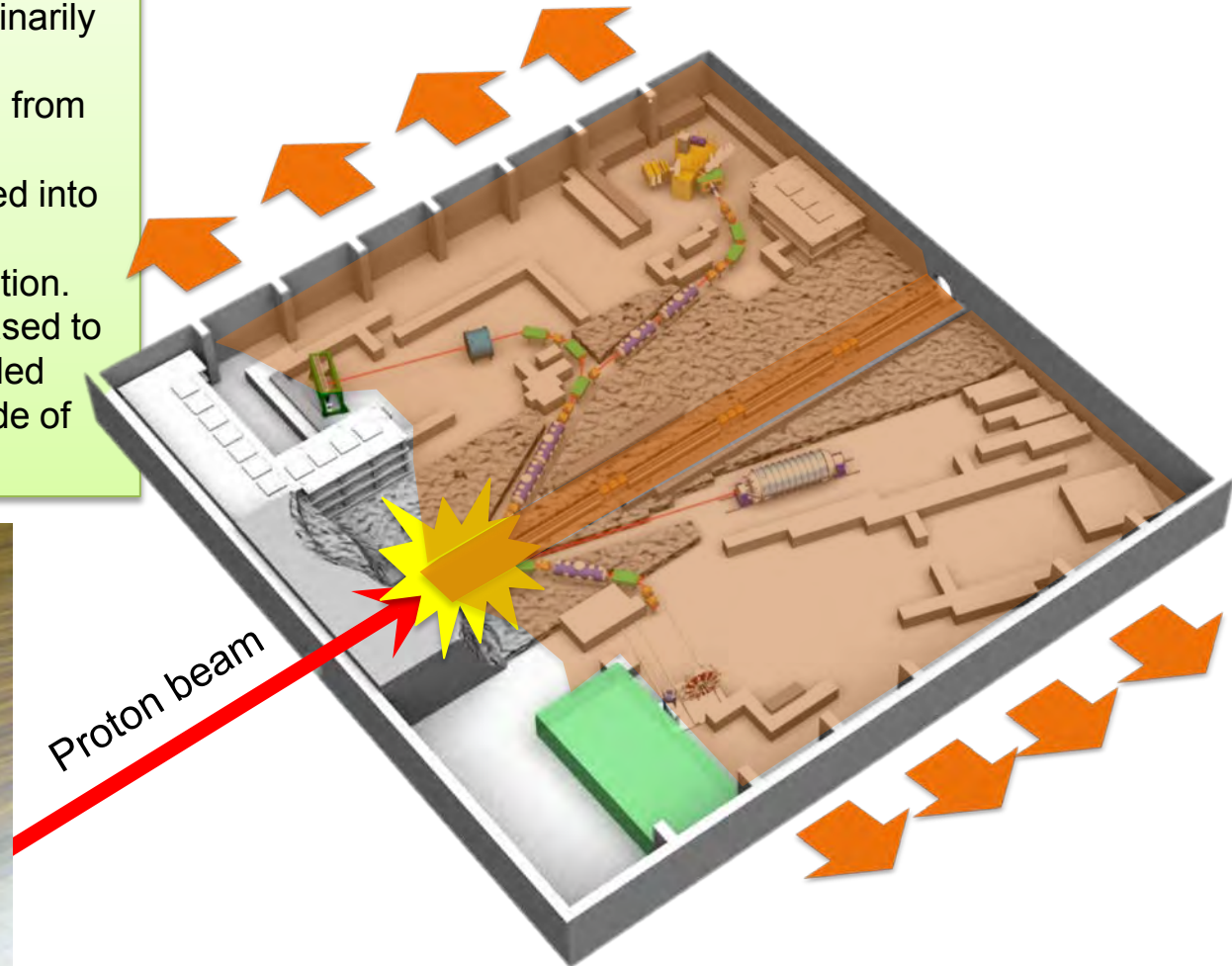
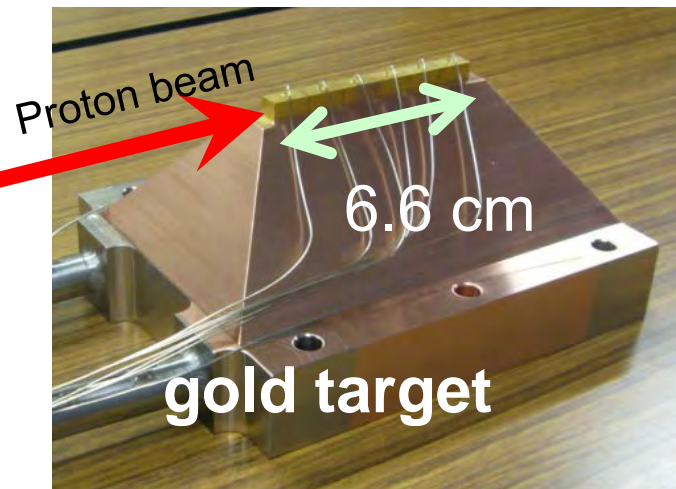
Hadron Experimental Facility:

It consists of the Hadron experimental hall and associated machine and power supply buildings, etc.

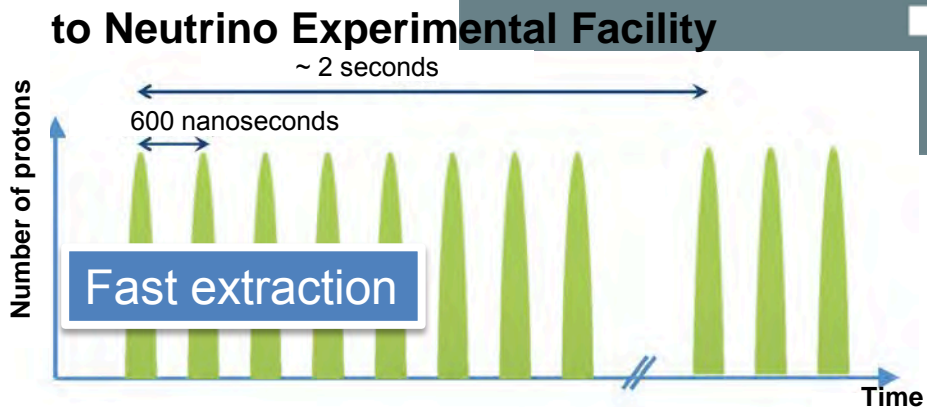
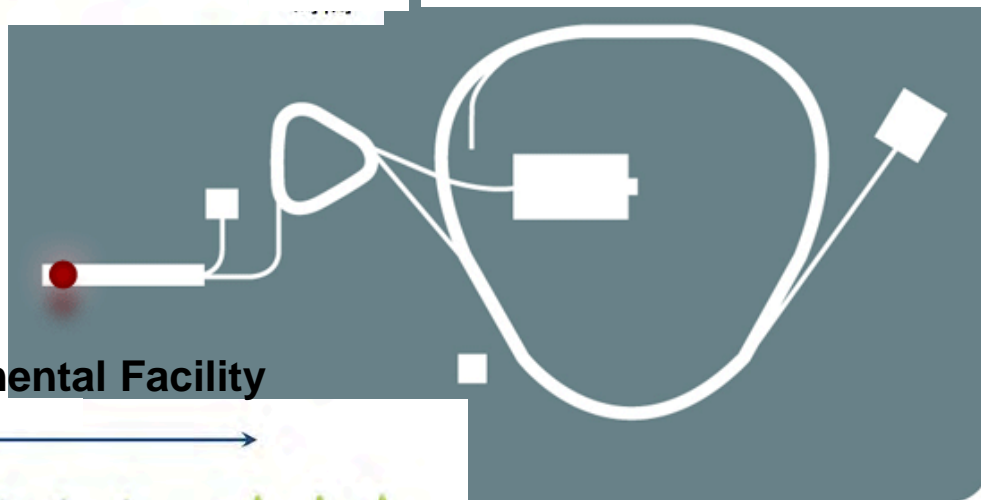
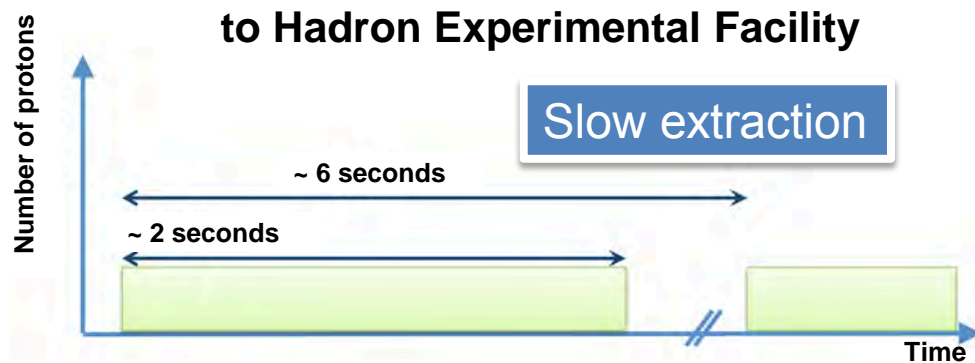
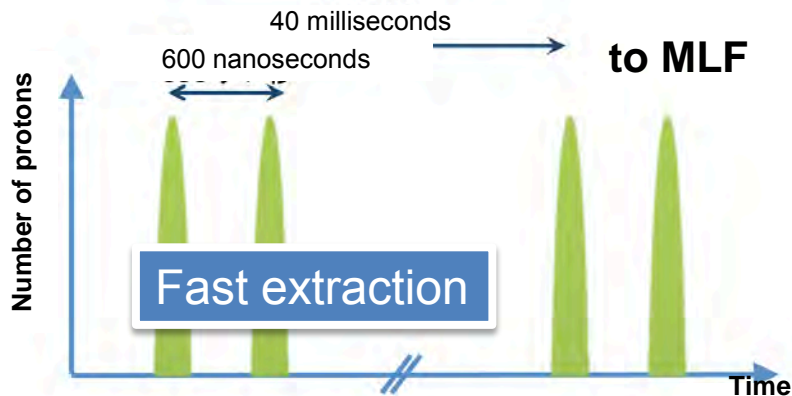
Outline of the Accident

11:55 on May 23

- An abnormal proton beam was injected to the gold target.
- The target heated up to an extraordinarily high temperature.
- Radioactive material was released from the target.
- The radioactive material was leaked into the HD hall.
- Workers were exposed to radiation.
- The radioactive material was released to the outside of the radiation controlled area and to the environment outside of the HD hall.



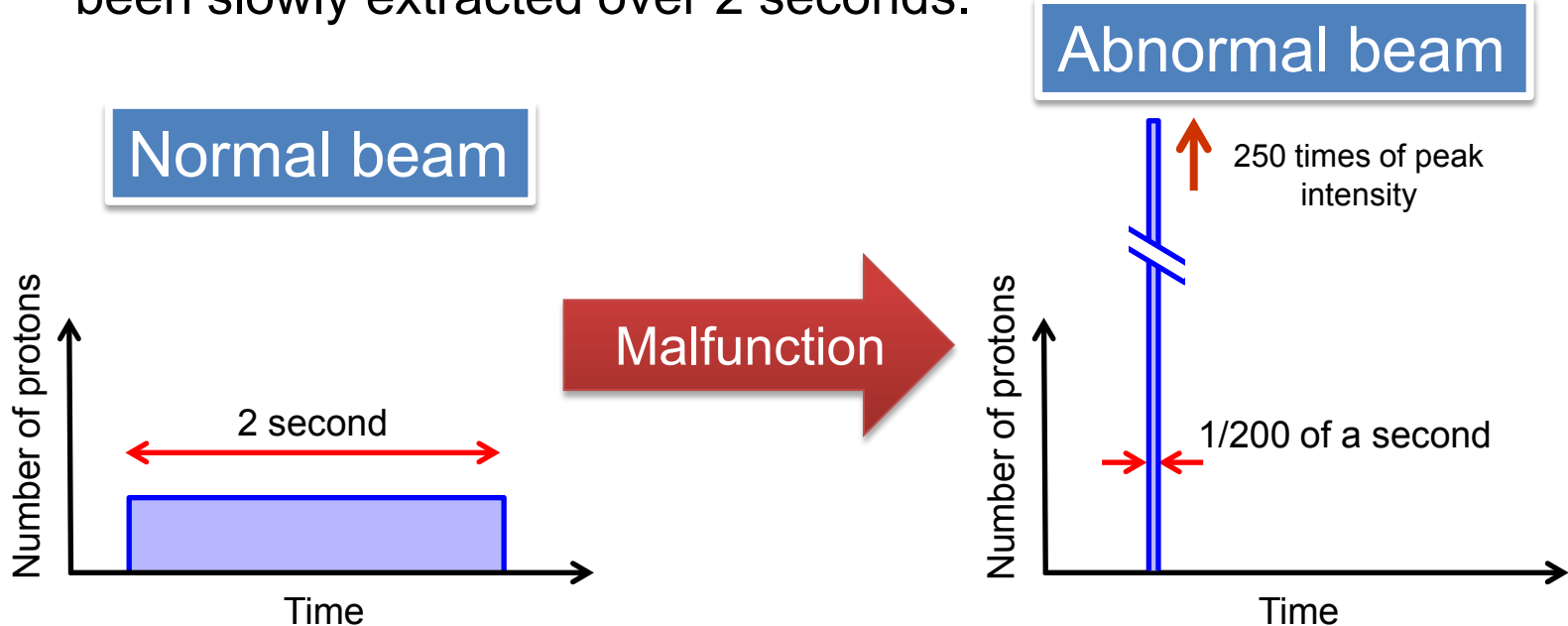
J-PARC Accelerators and Beam Extractions



Time structure of the proton beams

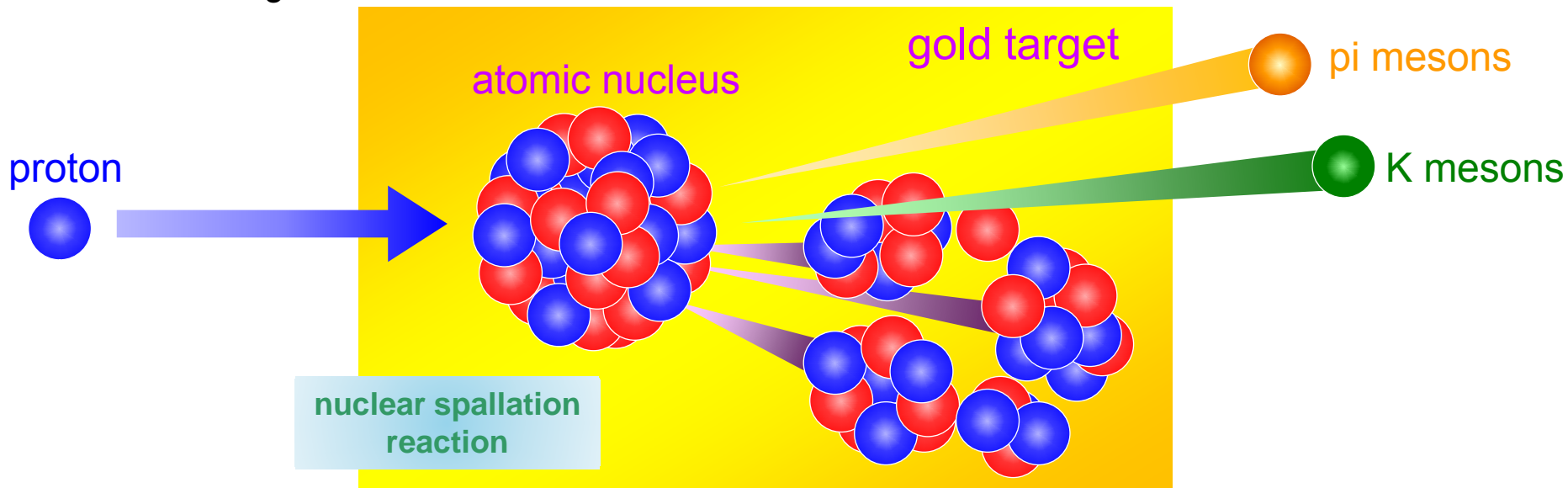
Abnormal Beam

- At around 11:55 on May 23, the power supply system of a special magnet in the 50 GeV Synchrotron malfunctioned.
 - 2×10^{13} protons were extracted in a very short period of 5 milliseconds, while in normal operation 3×10^{13} protons should have been slowly extracted over 2 seconds.



Purpose of the Gold Target

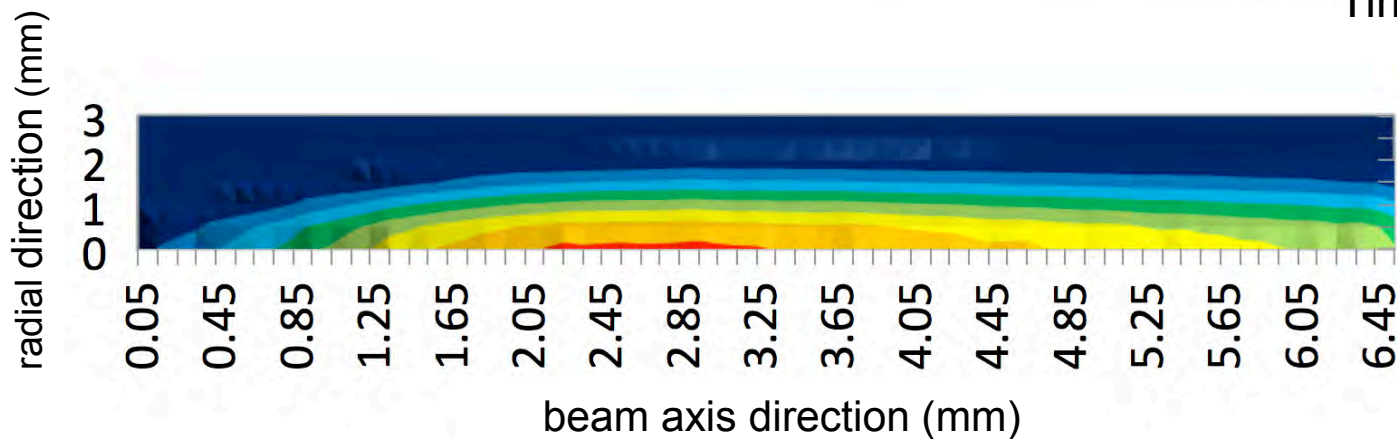
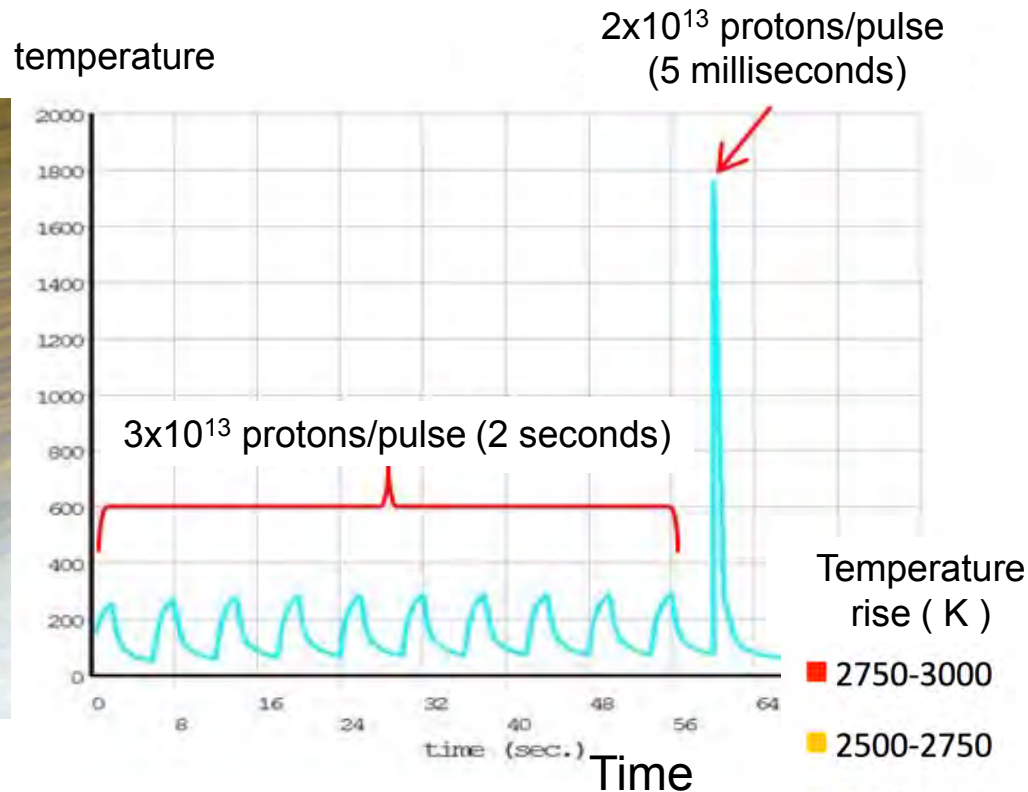
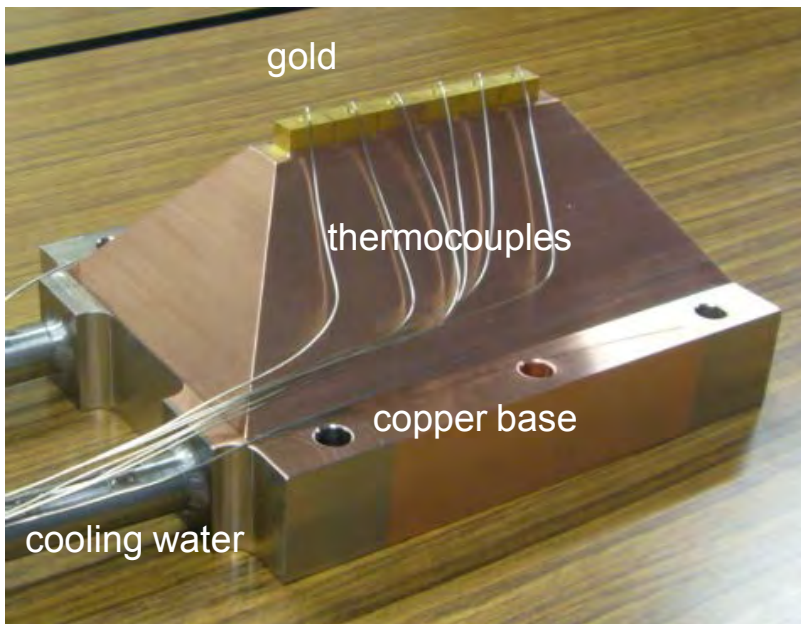
- The target, when bombarded by high-energy protons, produces secondary particles (mesons), which then will be used for research
 - Radioactive material is produced by nuclear spallation reactions.
 - In normal operation the radioactive material stays in the gold target.
 - When the proton beam operation is stopped, nuclear spallation reactions stop and no new radioactive material is produced. Radioactive material decays within the target.



Gold, unlike uranium, is not a radioactive material.

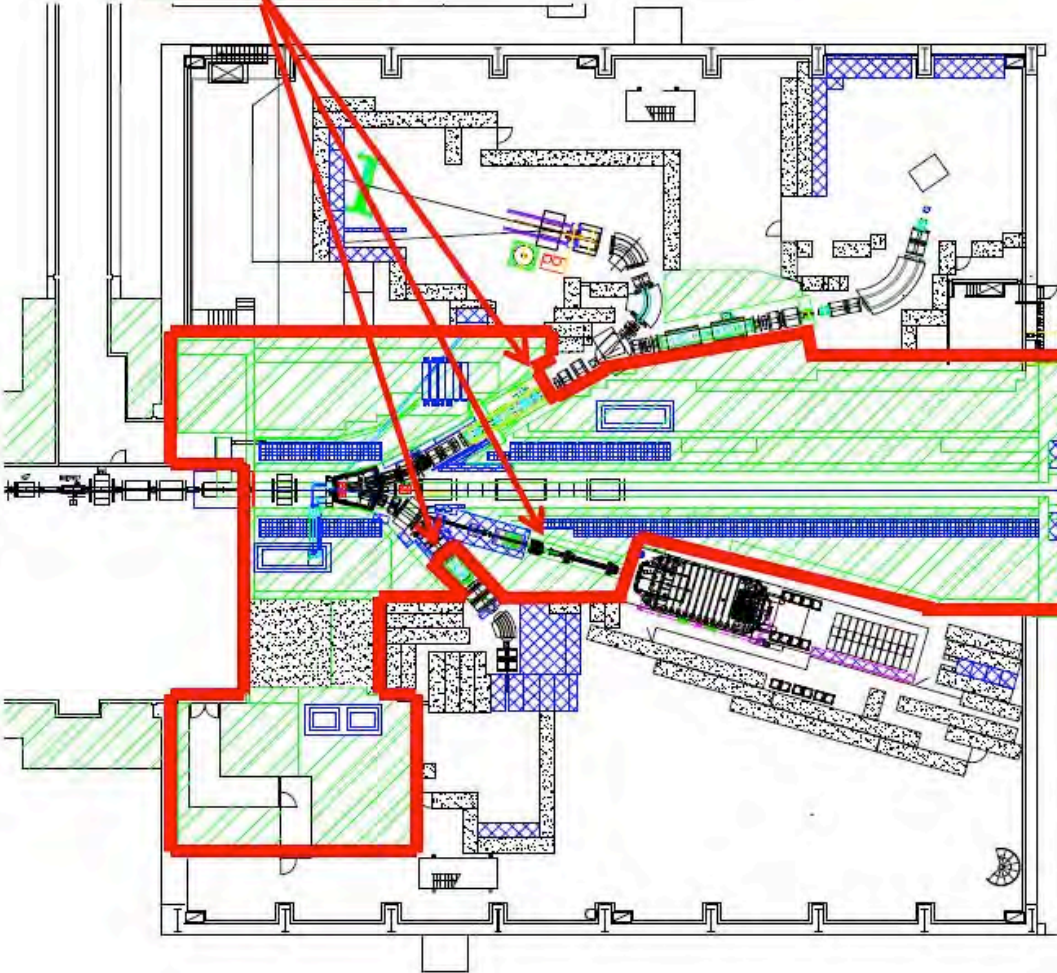
- No nuclear chain reaction occurs.
- However radiations come out from radioactive material produced in nuclear spallation reactions induced by the proton beam in the gold target.

Target Temperature (Simulation Results)

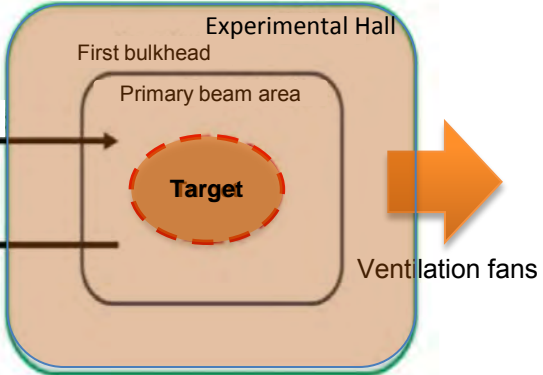


Hadron Experimental Hall

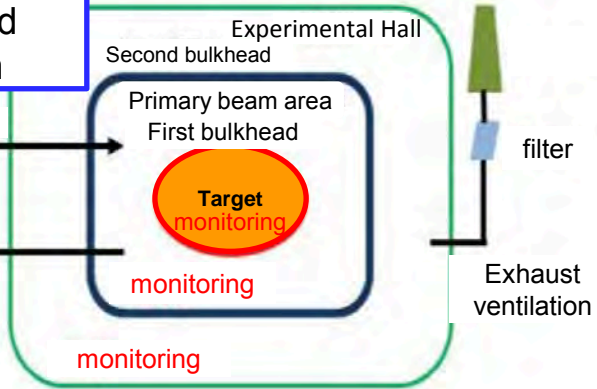
Apertural areas for secondary beam transport lines



Present status



Status after proposed revision



Chronological Sequence of Events

May 23, 2013

- 11:55 Delivery of proton beam from 50 GeV Synchrotron (MR) was halted by Machine Protection System (MPS).
- 12:08 MPS was reset following the regular resetting procedure after discussing with relevant people and delivery of proton beam for users' experiments was resumed.
- 13:30 Increase in radiation dose rate of an area monitor in the HD hall was acknowledged. The maximum value of 4 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$ is ten-fold of the normal value.
- 15:15 Ventilation fans were turned on. Further decrease in ambient dose rate was acknowledged.
- 17:00 Radiation survey of the HD hall found areas with high dose rate were localized.
- 17:30 Ventilation fans were turned on to reduce airborne radiation dose rate in the HD hall.
- 23:30 Completed evacuation and full-body radiation surveys of all workers in the radiation controlled area. Access to the HD Facility was restricted.

May 24, 2013

- 10:00 Members on the right held a meeting to discuss the situation. It was not considered this incident to be one for escalated reporting.
- 17:30 J-PARC Center received inquiry from Nuclear Fuel Engineering Laboratories concerning increased radiation levels recorded by their monitoring posts
- 18:00 Data logs of gamma-ray area monitors on the boundaries of the controlled area of the HD Facility were examined. Found increased radiation levels at around 15:00 and 17:30 on May 23. Found that the increased dose rates coincide with the operations of ventilation fans in the HD hall.
- 21:10 Reported to an emergency post of the Nuclear Science Research Institute. Response headquarters was established.
- 22:40 As required by law, the first report to Nuclear Regulation Authority was transmitted by facsimile transmission.
- 22:40 As required under the terms of relevant agreements, the first report was faxed to Ibaraki Prefecture, Tokai Village and other authorities.

May 25, 2013

- 01:00 Found out that the maximum total exposure dose of the workers in the HD hall was 1.7 mSv.

Effects on the Environment 1/2

- **Evaluations based on measurements:**

1. Increases of the radiation dose rates at monitoring stations of Nuclear Fuel Cycle Engineering Laboratories
2. Nuclides and radioactivities found in the airborne sample from the HD hall
3. Direction and velocity of the winds at the time of release of radioactive material on May 23

- **Two kinds of calculation methods used in estimations:**

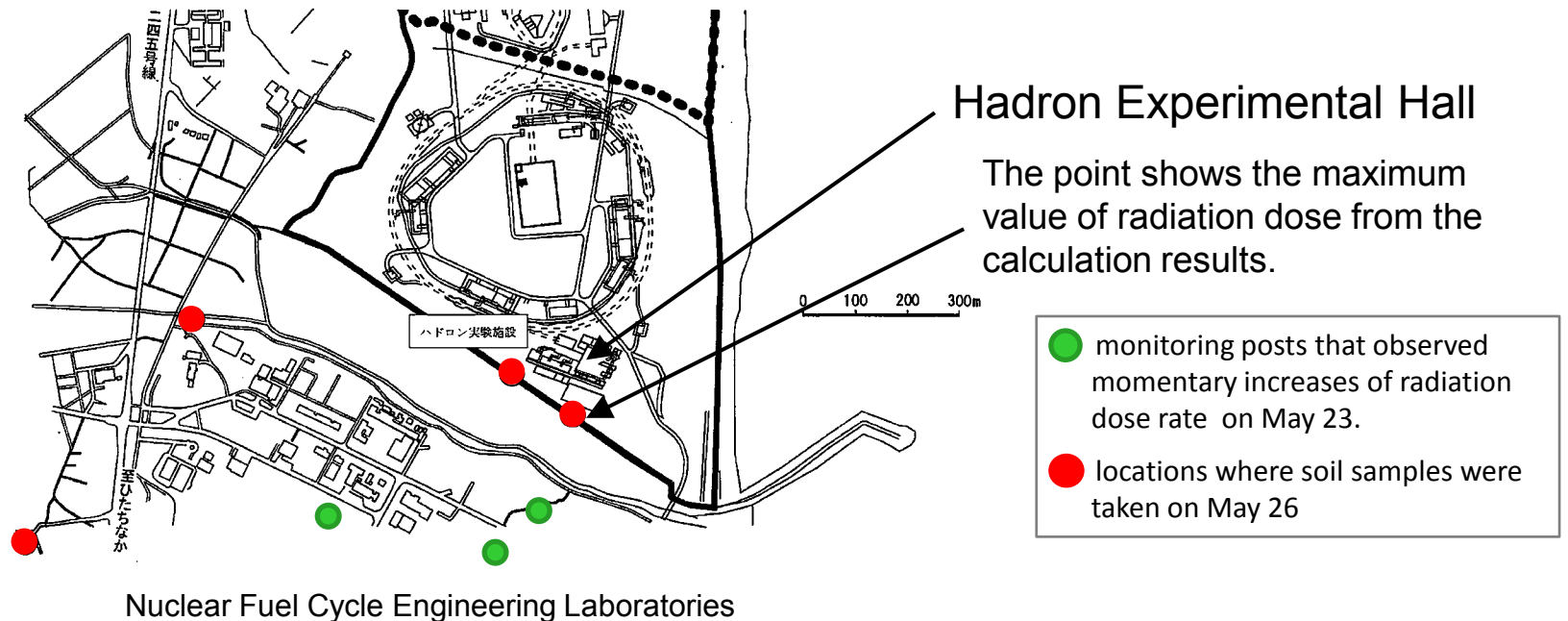
1. Analytical method based on diffusion equations for radioactive material
2. The WSPEEDI-II code

| nuclei | half life | radioactivities (Bq) |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| ^{43}K | 22.3 hours | 64.0 |
| ^{24}Na | 15.0 hours | 63.5 |
| $^{199\text{m}}\text{Hg}$ | 42.6 min. | 61.0 |
| ^{197}Hg | 64.9 hours | 39.5 |
| ^{76}Kr | 14.8 hours | 32.4 |
| ^{131}I | 8.02 days | 28.6 |
| ^{82}Br | 35.3 hours | 19.5 |
| $^{195\text{m}}\text{Hg}$ | 41.6 hours | 18.4 |
| ^{123}I | 13.3 hours | 17.2 |
| ^{95}Nb | 35.0 days | 9.10 |
| total amount | | 353 |

Radioactive material in the 500 ml airborne sample collected from the Hadron experimental hall.

Effects on the Environment 2/2

- The released radioactive material distributed within a narrow area of the west from the HD hall.
- The maximum integrated radiation dose at the site boundary is estimated to be $0.29 \mu\text{Sv}$ at a location close to the HD hall.



- Examination of soil samples from four locations.
 - No radioactive material originating from the accident was detected at any of these locations.

Delays in Reporting and Announcing

【May 23】

Our investigation indicates the following:

- A part of the gold target was damaged. Radioactive material leaked into the HD hall and contaminated the floor, etc.
- Workers in the HD hall may have been exposed to internal radiation.
 - ← The leaders considered that contaminations were limited to a radiation controlled area and the exposure dose was below what was expected in normal operation. Hence they considered that this incident would not have to be reported as an accident.

【May 24】

Small increases of the dose rates were found at around 15:00 and around 17:30 on May 23, in coincidence with the operations of ventilation fans on that day.

- The leaders determined that radioactive material had leaked to the area outside the radiation controlled area and they reported to an emergency post of Nuclear Science Research Institute.

Radiation Exposure

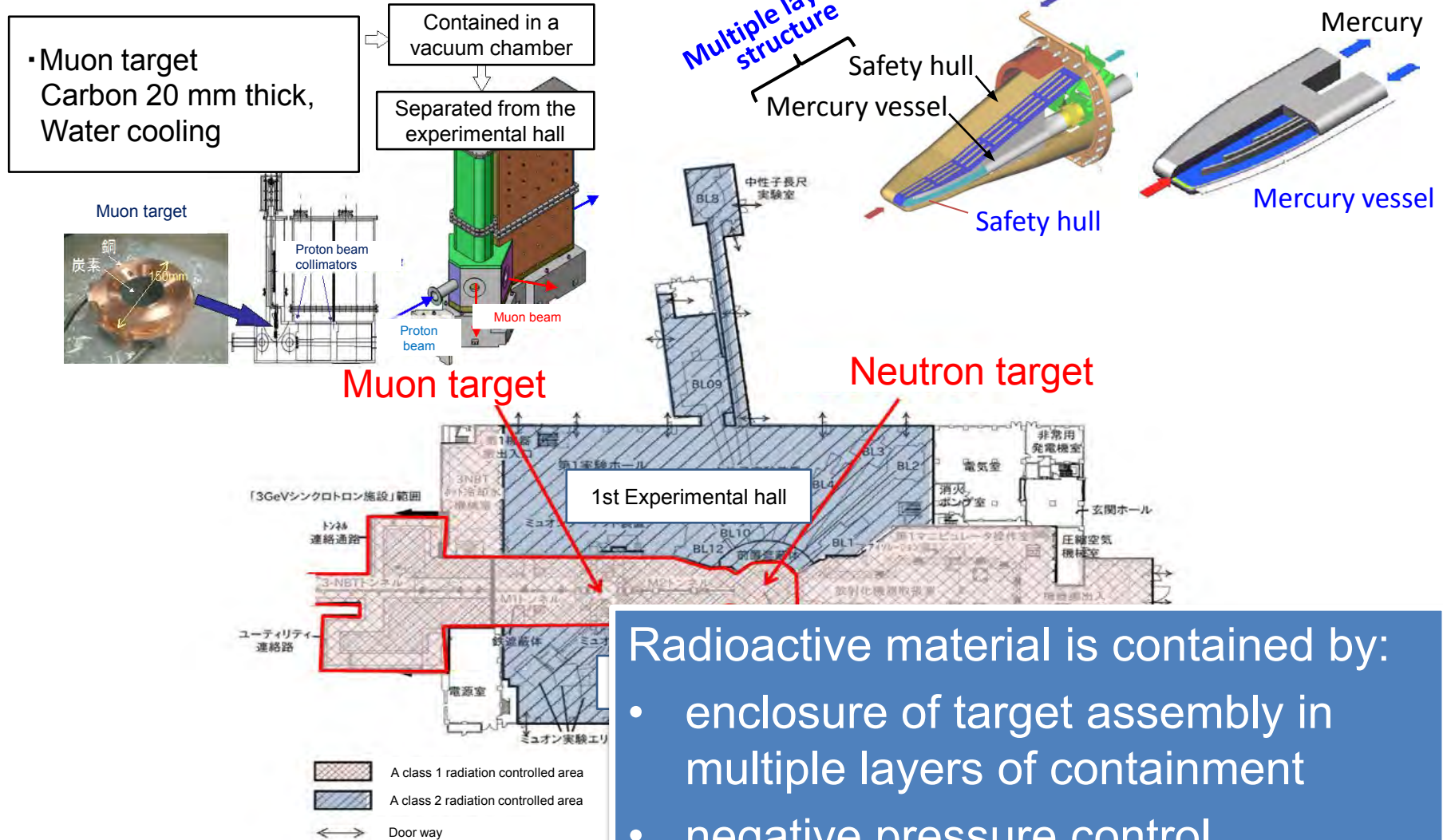
Measurement on internal and external radiation exposure doses of all the persons who entered the radiation controlled area of the HD Facility after the accident:

- Total number of personnel: 102
- Number of personnel with detectable dose: 34
Note: All are registered radiation workers. Individual doses are in the range of 0.1–1.7 mSv.
- Number of personnel with no detectable dose: 66
The remaining two, who were from overseas, had their whole body counter measurements at home later, and have been found to have no detectable dose.

An aerial photograph of the J-PARC (Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex) site. The image shows a large industrial and research facility with numerous buildings, parking lots, and roads. A prominent feature is a large, curved concrete structure, likely a tunnel or a large-scale experimental facility, extending from the bottom left towards the center. The surrounding area includes green fields, some residential or commercial buildings, and a coastline with waves visible in the bottom right corner. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

Other Facilities at J-PARC

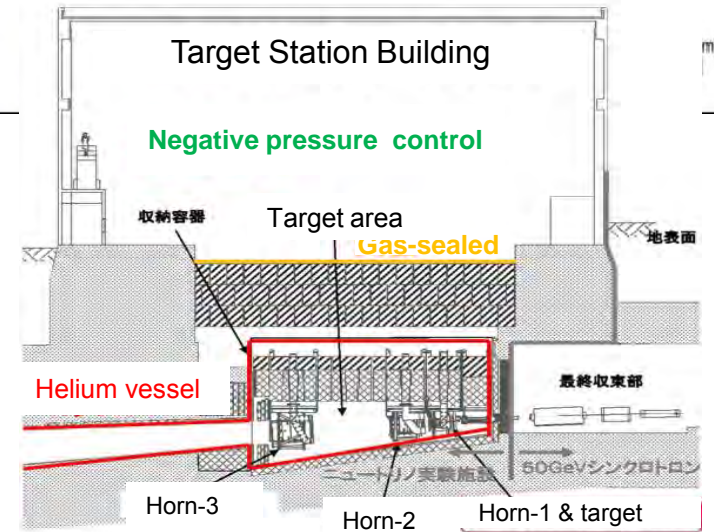
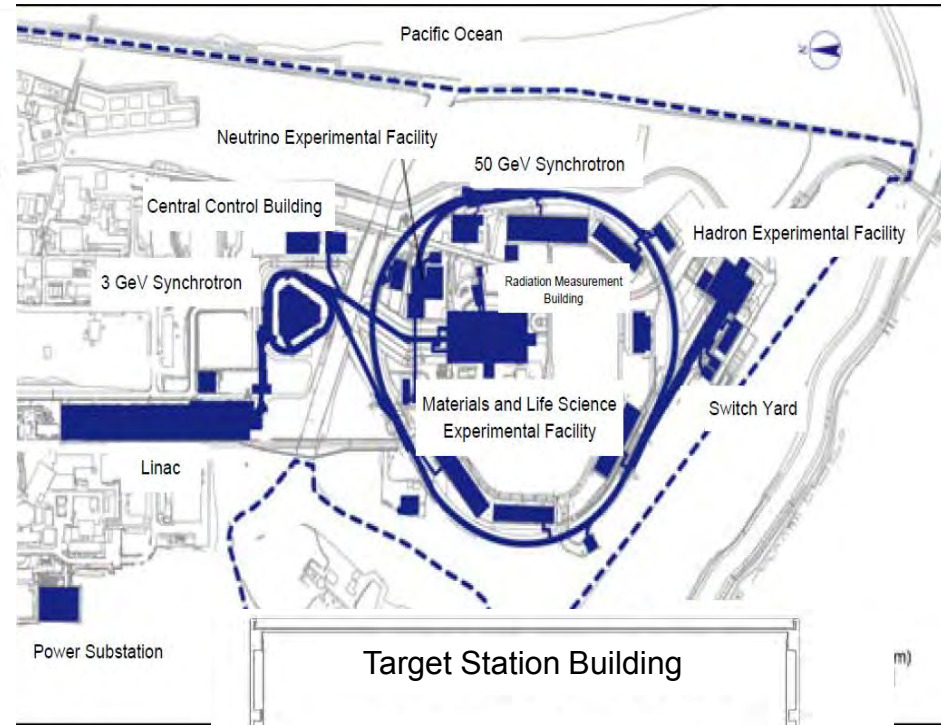
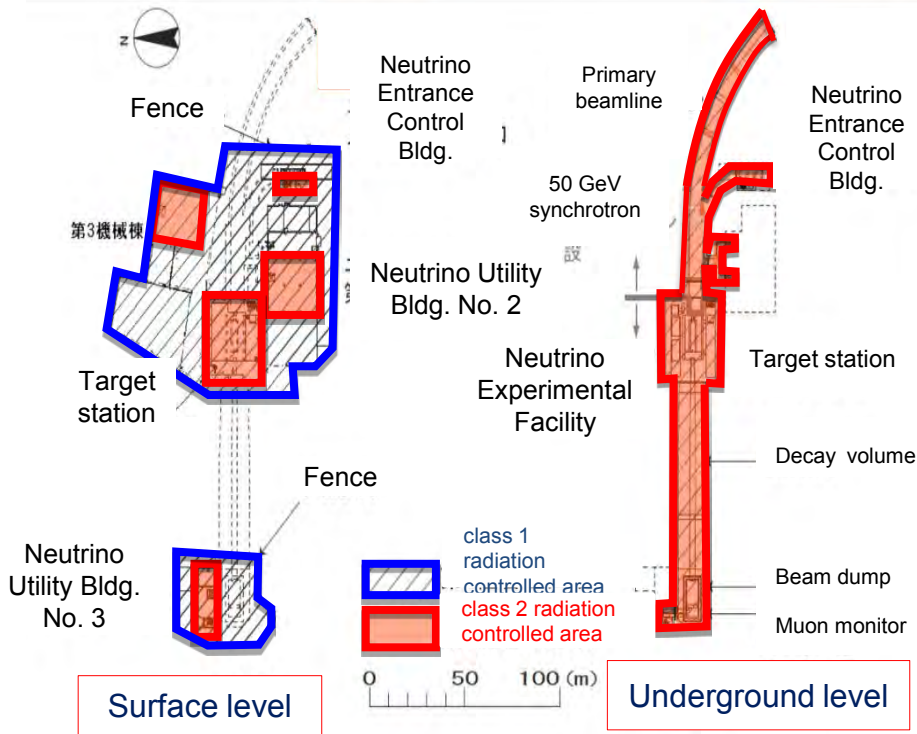
Materials and Life Science Experimental Facility



Radioactive material is contained by:

- enclosure of target assembly in multiple layers of containment
- negative pressure control

Neutrino Experimental Facility

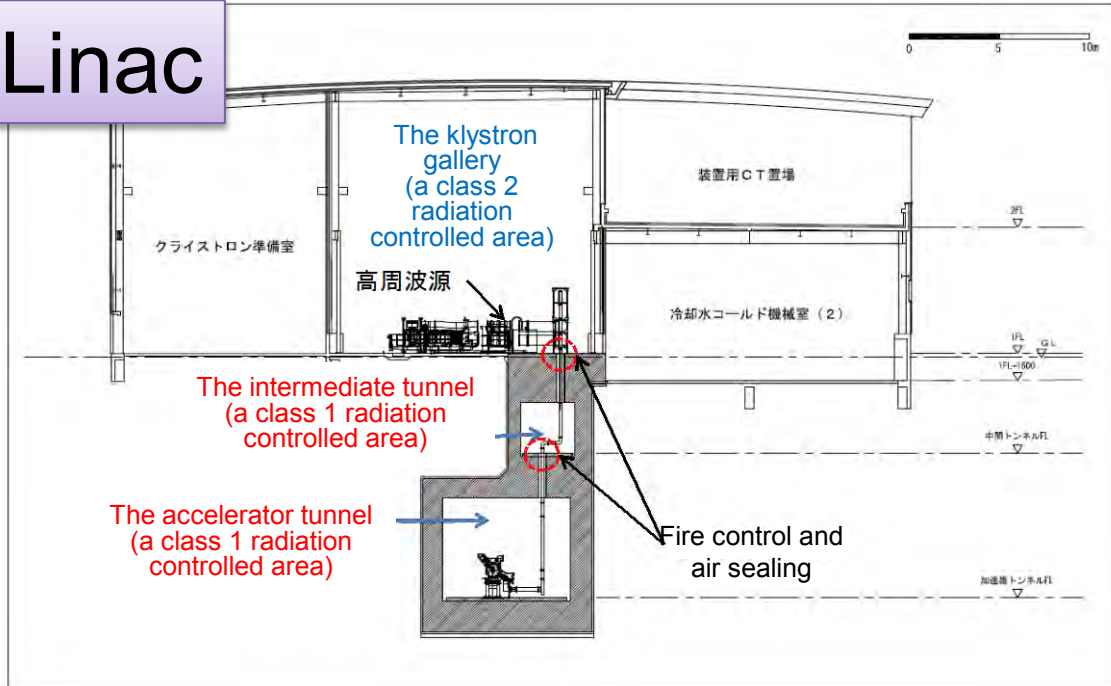


Radioactive material is contained by:

- filtered exhaustion of interconnection areas
- negative pressure control

Accelerator Facility Complex

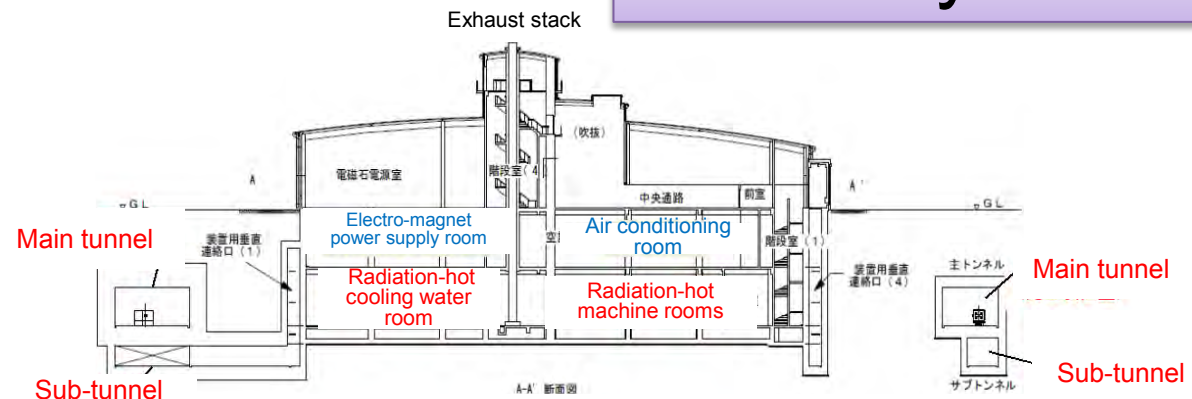
Linac



Radioactive material is contained by:

- two-layered containment
- filtered exhaustion of interconnection areas

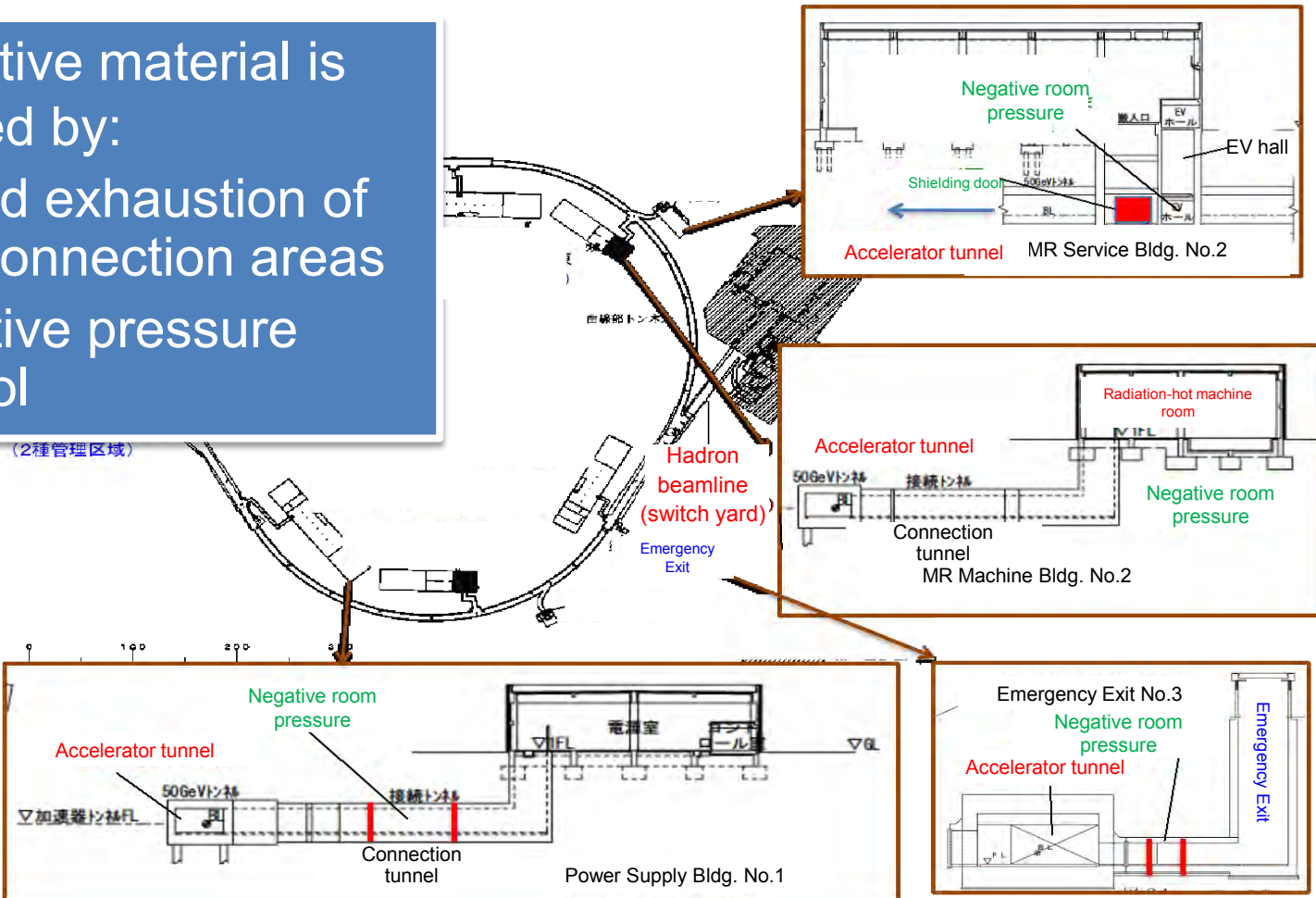
3 GeV Synchrotron



Accelerator Facility Complex

Radioactive material is contained by:

- filtered exhaustion of interconnection areas
- negative pressure control



50 GeV Synchrotron

Plans for the Near Future

- Continued investigation of facilities and instruments
 - Target area of the HD Facility
 - Power supply unit which experienced the malfunction causing the abnormal beam extraction

Determination of the causes and development of preventive measures

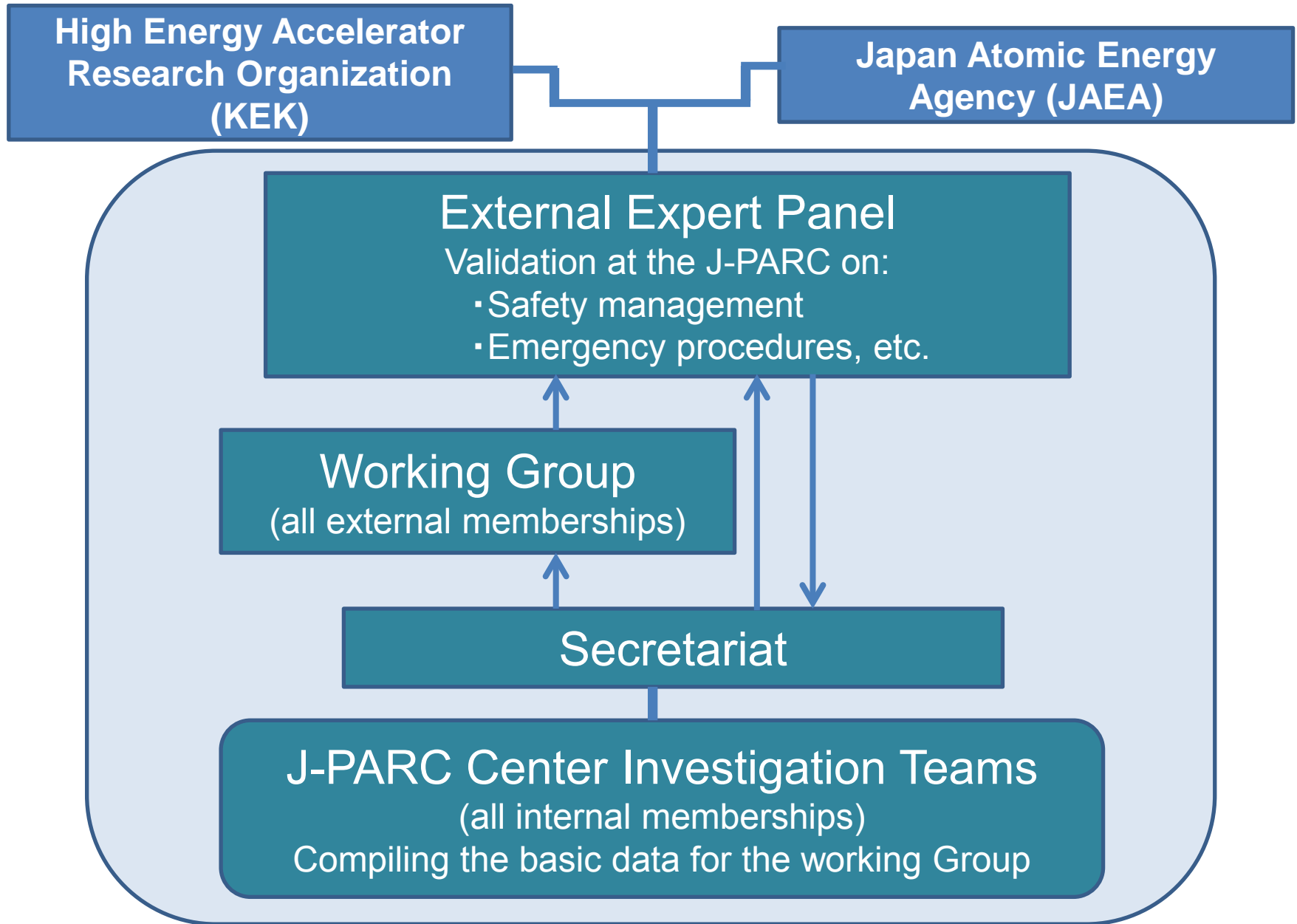
- Evaluation of the total amount of radioactive material released from the HD Hall to the environment
 - Detailed analysis of the air sample which was collected at the HD hall
 - Simulation to reproduce the radiation dose rates observed in the HD Facility

Evaluation of the effects on the environment

External Expert Panel: Viewpoints of Evaluation

- Evaluation of overall response to the accident, including the organizational framework
 - Investigation of causes of the accident, analysis of contamination, radiation exposure and environmental impact
- Evaluation of countermeasures
 - Revalidation of safety management system including developing preventive measures against recurrence of similar accidents and review of radiation controlled areas in the J-PARC facilities
- Organization of J-PARC
 - Relationships between the accident and the organization and operation of the J-PARC center that is jointly managed by KEK and JAEA
- Efforts to promote the safety culture, etc.

Organization of the External Expert Panel



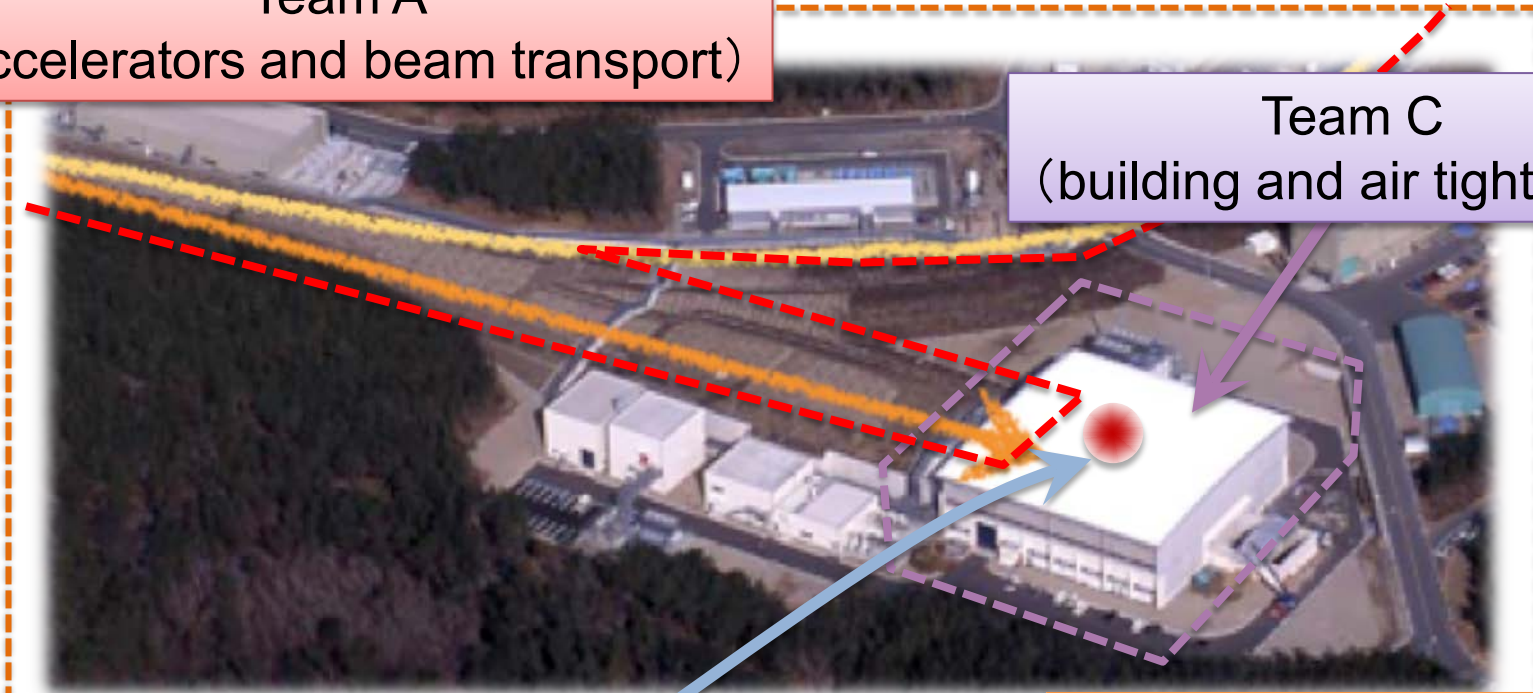
Investigation Teams

Team A
(accelerators and beam transport)

Team C
(building and air tightness)

Team B
(target system)

Team D
(control and safety)



Examination of Timeline of Incidents

Timeline of incidents, judgements and actions

Serial numbers in red are listed events in the "Chronological Sequence of Events" of the 1st Official Report .

| Timeline serial number | Date | Beam | Incident | | Who took action: | Who made a judgement on what and why |
|------------------------|---------|------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | Time | Source of information | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Date | | | | | |
| 1 | 5/23/13 | | ~11:55 zlog HDlog | | | |
| | | | | Hadron operation was scheduled for 24 hours this day. Three out of the four beamlines at the HD experimental hall was conducting beam experiments, while the remaining one was preparing the experimental setup. | | |
| | | | | MPS set in to stop beam operation (Detected signals) - MR-EQ "over voltage", "tracking error" - MR-RQ "over current" - MR-BLM - HD experimental facility BLM | | |
| 2 | | | ~12:06 zlog Hearing | | Acc. Shift Leader Mag. PS staff | Magnet power-supply staff considered that the PS returned to its normal status. |
| | | | | Acc. Shift Leader asked for Mag. PS's opinion concerning the EQ anomaly. The Magnet power-supply staff immediately checked the control screen of EQ at CCR. While this was the first occurrence of a tracking error on EQ, the MPS status of the PS was able to reset with the standard procedure. EQ over-voltage is a relatively familiar status, and usually it can be reset without problems. | | |
| 3 | | | ~12:06 zlog Hearing | | | |
| | | | | Magnet power-supply staff reset the MPS status of RC "over-voltage" is a relatively familiar error condition, and it can be restarted without problems. This time, the magnet restarted without problems, too. | | |
| 4 | | | ~12:06 zlog Hearing | | | |
| | | | | Acc. Shift Leader reset the MPS status of MR-BLM on the consideration that it was due to miss-firing of the fast extraction kicker, since the BL-MPS was associated with abrupt beam loss of the MR. | | |
| 5 | | | ~12:06 zlog HDlog Hearing | | | |
| | | | | HD Shift Leader checked the status of magnet PS current vacuum in the proton beam line, and reported them to the Manager of Radiation Generator of HD, who were in the After consultation, HD Shift Leader reset the BLM MPS reported to Acc. Shift Leader that the beamline is in a state. | | |

Incident, Action, Judgement, and Reason

- Incident of abnormal beam
- Damage of the gold target?
- Contamination in the hall
- Release of radioactive material
- Delays in reporting the incident, suspending accelerator operation, and stopping ventilation fans

Summary

- Overview of the accident
 - occurrence, hall contamination, exposure, leakage of radioactive material to the outside of the radiation controlled area and responses after the accident
- Status of the other facilities
- Status of the investigation
 - hardware aspects (facilities and instruments)
 - software aspects (safety management system)
 - the Working Group, secretariat and investigation teams