

Original

## History and Issues Concerning Decontamination in the Difficult-to-return Zone

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●**Summary**● This study analyzes the history of policies concerning decontamination and the lifting of evacuation orders and organizes the area and the number of residents and households of the Difficult-to-Return Zone and the progress of decontamination in the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Base. Then, it discusses understanding of municipalities regarding decontamination in Difficult-to-Return Zone based on the results of questionnaires and interviews with seven municipalities that the Difficult-to-Return Zone has been designated, and points out issues concerning decontamination. This study identifies implementation of decontamination of forests, rivers and reservoirs and implementation of follow-up decontamination and re-decontamination as issues concerning decontamination in the areas designated as the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Base. It also identifies handling of decontamination of land and buildings of residents who have no intention to return their homes and handling of land that existing systems do not cover as issues concerning decontamination in the areas outside of areas designated as the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Base.

**Key Words:** difficult-to-return zone, decontamination, lifting of evacuation order, municipality, Fukushima

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