

## Japan to swap nuclear waste with Britain

*Shipping waste around the world doesn't make sense, whatever the waste is though high-level waste is very small volume.*

UPI

May 23, 2006

Japan will swap low-level nuclear waste for a smaller amount of high-level nuclear waste from Britain to reduce disposal costs, Tokyo's economic ministry said.

The deal will reduce Japan's waste disposal costs from \$2.86 billion to \$762 million, the Jiji Press reported Tuesday.

Japan's waste, generated by power plants, is transuranic, or TRU, waste from spent nuclear fuels. It has a low level of radioactivity but is hard to dispose of because of its long radioactive half-life.

Japan consigns TRU waste-reprocessing to Britain and France, and Britain had planned to return the reprocessed waste to Japan over the years from 2013, the report said.

Instead, Japan has agreed to transport high-level nuclear waste from Britain for disposal at Japanese storage sites. The British waste will be transported in a single shipment, while an estimated 37 shipments will be needed to transport Japan's waste, the report said.