Japan's embattled utility Tokyo Electric Power Co now expects the compensation costs after the Fukushima nuclear disaster to be more than $57 billion, the government confirmed Tuesday.

It approved the latest rehabilitation plan drafted by TEPCO, which put the total cost for compensation alone after the 2011 tsunami-triggered accident at 7.08 trillion yen ($57.19 billion).

The new higher estimate means the government will have to provide fresh public money of 950 billion yen ($7.68 billion), the eighth additional assistance on top of billions of dollars already allocated in previous years.

A massive earthquake and tsunami wrecked Fukushima's cooling systems in March 2011, sparking reactor meltdowns and radiation leaks and causing tens of thousands of local residents to be evacuated.