

Earthquake Report - JAIF

We have been reporting a status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station by summarizing news aired by NHK, which is Japanese national broadcasting company. We regard it as most credible news among many news sources and we are happy to say that NHK's English website has gotten enriched and now you can see movies and English scripts at <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/daily/english/society.html>. Given this situation, we decide to simply place these scripts as it is for the record in case that it will be deleted from the website later, rather than summarizing news as we did.

No. 224: 12:00, October 4

NHK news regarding status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station yesterday and today.

(Fukushima NPP Site)

● **TEPCO ordered to draw up safety guidelines**

(Other news)

● **Govt energy policy reform panel**

● **Govt to check radiation levels outside 20km zone**

● **TEPCO forecast 10-meter tsunami**

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●TEPCO ordered to draw up safety guidelines

Japan's nuclear watchdog has ordered the operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant to draw up clear safety guidelines to oversee its work to get the plant under control.

Tokyo Electric Power Company is striving to bring the disabled reactors to a state of cold shutdown by next January, and then to begin preparations for their decommissioning.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency says it wants TEPCO to set down the specific post-emergency nuclear safety protocols that will direct its work over the coming 3 years.

The agency says the key objective will be to prevent any additional discharge of radioactive substances and to drastically reduce radiation levels at the plant.

It says TEPCO should identify ways to pinpoint and control radioactive hot spots, and take steps to prevent hydrogen explosions.

The agency also wants the utility to report by mid-October how it aims to secure safety while using decontaminated water to cool down the reactors.

The agency says it will ask experts to review the adequacy of the guidelines that TEPCO comes up with.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 09:34 +0900 (JST)

●Govt energy policy reform panel

A panel of the ministry of economy and industry on resources and energy has begun a thorough review of the country's energy policy in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear crisis.

The panel, which includes members from the business sector and non-profit organizations, held its first meeting on Monday.

The panel hopes to come up with a new basic plan for a medium- and long-term energy policy to replace the one compiled in June of last year.

Economy and industry minister Yukio Edano said starting with just discussing the current state of energy in the country will not help earn the public's support. He indicated that they need to begin with a clean slate.

One panel member said abolishing nuclear power would be best in view of the cost of crisis response.

Another member said Japan's pursuit of safe nuclear power generation will be a global contribution, as demand for power is increasing in emerging countries.

A third member said the panel should discuss structural issues instead of choosing between abandoning or promoting nuclear power.

Still another member said he wonders whether it is appropriate to entrust the ministry, which has promoted nuclear power in the past, to come up with a new framework for energy policy.

The panel will meet once or twice a month, and compile a basic plan for a new energy policy by summer of next year.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 05:55 +0900 (JST)

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●Govt to check radiation levels outside 20km zone

The Japanese government says it will check the radiation levels in the environment at 5 municipalities outside the 20-kilometer no-entry zone around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The decision follows a move last Friday to lift an evacuation advisory for the 5 municipalities, which are mainly located in the ring between 20 and 30 kilometers from the plant.

Many of the residents have not returned home as the decontamination process is not complete.

A government nuclear accident taskforce will conduct studies on the environment in the municipalities at their request.

The taskforce will use a device onboard a vehicle to measure radiation levels on the roads. Unmanned helicopters will be used in hilly places, where vehicles cannot enter.

It will also examine the density of radioactive substances in wells and springs at 4,000 spots, as well as in streams, rivers and reservoirs at 19 places.

The government says it will publicize the degree of decreasing radiation levels as the decontamination process continues.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 05:55 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO forecast 10-meter tsunami

Government documents show that the operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant predicted in 2008 that a tsunami over 10 meters high could hit the plant, which was only designed to withstand tsunami of 5.7 meters. But it failed to report this to the government until just before the March 11th disaster.

At the request of NHK, the government on Monday released a simulation report by Tokyo Electric Power Company.

TEPCO had predicted that waves between 8.4 and 10.2 meters high could hit all 6 reactors at the plant in the event of an earthquake similar to one that devastated the area in 1896.

But the prediction was not conveyed to the government's nuclear safety agency until March 7th, just 4 days before the plant was crippled by tsunami.

In the report, TEPCO also said it would begin examining the plant's tsunami-resistance measures in April of this year. It said it planned to deal appropriately with the matter by around October of 2012, when academics were expected to review their tsunami evaluations.

TEPCO official Junichi Matsumoto says the company did not feel the need to take prompt action on the estimates, which were still tentative calculations in the research stage.

But a Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency official says it is regrettable that TEPCO did not start work on its tsunami measures right after it made the estimate 3 years ago. He said TEPCO should have called on experts to discuss its calculations in public.

Monday, October 03, 2011 16:46 +0900 (JST)

End