

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. 158: 12:00, July 30

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **Wastewater recycling partially halted at Fukushima**

(Other news)

- **Chubu Electric: NISA tried to deceive public forum**
- **Govt: Japan may face power shortage next summer**

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●Wastewater recycling partially halted at Fukushima

A problematic water decontamination system at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has forced its operator to stop pumping out radioactive water pooled in the basements of reactor buildings.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, said on Friday that a waste disposal facility where radioactive water is kept before being decontaminated is almost full because of a delay in the decontamination process.

As a result, TEPCO suspended the transfer of contaminated water to the facility from the plant's No. 2 and 3 reactor buildings.

The utility uses a wastewater system that decontaminates radioactive water and recycles it as coolant for reactors.

But since a June 17th test run of the system, it has been plagued with glitches and its operating rate has remained below the target of 70 percent.

TEPCO says, however, that the radioactive water in the basements is very unlikely to overflow since the system is working, and that the transfer can resume in 2 days.

TEPCO also reported that one of the system's pumps in a device for removing radioactive cesium has stopped working, but that the failure has not affected the system's operating rate.

Friday, July 29, 2011 16:03 +0900 (JST)

●Chubu Electric: NISA tried to deceive public forum

Chubu Electric Power Company says the government's nuclear agency asked it to make sure that questions in favor of nuclear power be asked at a government-sponsored symposium in 2007.

In a report submitted to the government on Friday, the utility said the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency requested that it gather participants and have local residents pose prearranged questions at the forum held in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan.

The utility said it refused NISA's request to arrange the questions, citing difficulties with ensuring compliance. But senior officials of the Hamaoka nuclear power plant sent e-mails to employees and visited affiliate companies in an effort to comply with the request.

An official of Chubu Electric Power Company said on Friday that his firm issued calls to the public to participate in the forum.

He said he doesn't think the act was an outright breach of the law. But he added

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that it could have led to the misunderstanding that his firm was trying to manipulate public opinion, and he offered apologies.

The revelation comes after Kyushu Electric Power Company came under fire for submitting fake e-mails in support of a restart of idled nuclear reactors in a government-sponsored meeting for local residents in June.

Following the scandal, the industry ministry ordered the 6 Electric Power Companies to conduct an internal investigation of its activities aimed at winning local support for nuclear power.

Friday, July 29, 2011 14:15 +0900 (JST)

●Govt: Japan may face power shortage next summer

Japan's government estimates that the country will face a power supply shortage of around 10 percent next summer if all of its nuclear reactors go offline.

A government panel drew up the estimate on Friday at a meeting attended by Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Cabinet members.

The panel said that if all of the country's reactors operations are suspended, the power supply will be about 10 percent short of peak demand in eastern Japan, and 8 percent in western Japan.

The panel also said additional fuel costs of around 38 billion dollars will be incurred if utilities make up for the shortage through thermal generation.

All of the reactors could be offline by next spring for safety inspections. Resuming operations is expected to take a long time because the government recently introduced additional safety checks called stress tests.

The panel called for introducing power-saving home appliances and industrial equipment to avoid rolling blackouts or mandatory power cuts.

It also stressed the need to promote renewable energy and the use of batteries and smart meters, which help households use power more efficiently.

The government is soon to draft a 3-year plan with measures to cope with expected power shortages.

It plans to include costs for the measures in a third extra budget for the current fiscal year and a draft budget for next fiscal year.

Friday, July 29, 2011 20:00 +0900 (JST)

End