

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. 112: 18:00, June 14

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **TEPCO begins testing cesium absorption device**
- **TEPCO begins operating seawater treatment system**
- **Additional 23 workers exposed to high radiations**
- **Plant worker forgets face mask filter**
- **Joint survey of high radiation areas in Date**
- **Farmland in Fukushima no-go zone to be inspected**

(Other news)

- **Tap water deemed safe by health minister panel**
- **Nearly half of Japanese want less nuclear power**

Earthquake Report - JAIF

●TEPCO begins testing cesium absorption device

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has begun testing a device to process highly radioactive water, after a 4-day delay.

Early on Tuesday, Tokyo Electric Power Company began using the US-made equipment, which can absorb cesium, on low-level radioactive water.

Leaking pumps and a mistakenly closed valve delayed the start of the operation since last Friday.

Workers checked for signs of leakage during the 4-hour test-run on Tuesday morning.

The equipment is part of a planned water treatment facility that will also include an oil separator, a decontaminator and a desalination device.

More than 105,000 tons of highly radioactive water is building up within the nuclear plant, and TEPCO says it may run out of space to store it in about 2 weeks.

The utility is hoping to shorten the test-runs by one day and begin operating the treatment facility from Friday.

Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:19 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO begins operating seawater treatment system

Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, has begun work to reduce the level of radioactivity in seawater near the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The company began full-fledged operation of 2 filtering devices on Monday after a series of test-runs.

The devices are installed near the water intakes of the Number 2 and Number 3 reactors, where high radiation levels have been detected.

The devices are designed to first pump up seawater and then absorb radioactive cesium using the mineral zeolite. The water is returned to the sea as the final step. TEPCO says each device is capable of treating up to 30 tons of seawater per hour. Tests showed the machines reduced cesium levels by 20 to 30 percent. The company says it will find ways to increase filtering capability.

The devices have been installed inside submerged fences set up near the intakes. The fences were installed in April to prevent radioactive water from spreading to the sea. However, radiation levels higher than government safety standards are being detected outside the fences.

Monday, June 13, 2011 17:11 +0900 (JST)

●Additional 23 workers exposed to high radiations

The health ministry says that another 23 workers at the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant may have been exposed internally to over 100 millisieverts of radiation.

The ministry on Tuesday told plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company to immediately release the workers from duty.

The ministry said keeping the employees at the plant may push their exposure over the temporary-set limit of 250 millisieverts. The government relaxed the

Earthquake Report - JAIF

limit for plant workers from 100 millisieverts after the nuclear accident in March as an emergency measure.

The ministry also instructed TEPCO to have the 23 workers undergo medical exams.

TEPCO previously announced that 2 employees were exposed to over 600 millisieverts. On Monday, the firm said that 6 more workers were thought to have been exposed to up to about 500 millisieverts.

TEPCO is screening about 3,700 workers at the plant for exposure. The tests for about 600 have not been completed.

The ministry is urging the firm to finish the tests by June 20th and submit the results.

Tuesday, June 14, 2011 13:37 +0900 (JST)

●Plant worker forgets face mask filter

A worker at the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant apparently worked outdoors without putting a filter in his full-face mask to prevent the inhalation of radioactive particles.

Tokyo Electric Power Company says it will examine the worker for possible internal radiation exposure and look into whether inadequate safety management can be blamed for the incident.

The utility disclosed that the worker, a man in his 60s, worked outside the No.2 reactor building for 2 hours on Monday morning. He realized only afterward that he had forgotten to put on a filter in his face mask.

TEPCO says the worker was exposed to 0.5 millisieverts of external radiation.

Monday's disclosure comes after 2 workers at the plant were found to have been exposed to twice the government-imposed emergency radiation limit last Friday.

Monday, June 13, 2011 18:39 +0900 (JST)

●Joint survey of high radiation areas in Date

City authorities and the central government jointly checked radiation concentrations on Monday in an area of Date City, Fukushima Prefecture. The estimated levels of accumulated radiation have already exceeded state evacuation standards set in April in some areas of the city.

Date is about 60 kilometers from the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The central government announced earlier this month that the accumulated radiation levels at 3 locations in the city's Ryozen area are estimated to exceed 20 millisieverts for the year that ends next March. People living in areas receiving this amount of radiation are urged to evacuate within a month. Date is not a designated evacuation zone, but some residents fearing high radiation levels have already left voluntarily.

The joint survey on Monday was conducted in response to a request from the city. Officials conducted measurements in Kamioguni, a district of Ryozen, where high radiation levels had been discovered earlier. The new sampling covered about a 20 meter radius, one meter above the ground.

On Monday, the prefecture measured 2.91 microsieverts per hour in the district.

Earthquake Report - JAIF

If people stay in such an environment all day for 15 days, the radiation level exceeds 1 millisievert, the long-term annual limit for ordinary people, as recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

An official of Date said that as the city has been able to confirm locations of radiation and how to measure them, it will continue conducting surveys on its own to assess the situation fully.

Monday, June 13, 2011 17:11 +0900 (JST)

●Farmland in Fukushima no-go zone to be inspected

The national and prefectural governments are to begin inspecting farmland in the no-entry zone around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant next month.

Fukushima Prefecture says rice planting has been suspended in all areas within the 30-kilometer radius from the power plant. Shipments of agricultural produce from within the 20-kilometer radius no-entry zone also remain halted.

State and prefectural authorities say they decided to study soil in paddies and farmland within the no-go zone in response to growing calls by the residents who say they want to know what's become of their farmland.

The authorities have been carrying out inspections of soil samples within the 30-kilometer zone, but have refrained from checking the soil within the no-entry zone.

Fukushima Prefecture says the results of the inspections will be utilized to determine whether farming can be resumed in these areas once the ongoing crisis at the power plant is contained.

Monday, June 13, 2011 15:53 +0900 (JST)

●Tap water deemed safe by health minister panel

A health ministry panel studying radiation levels in tap water in Japan's northeast and areas near Tokyo has concluded that it contains no safety risks for the time being.

The panel was launched after radioactive iodine, exceeding Japan's safety limit for infants, was detected in tap water in Fukushima and Ibaraki prefectures soon after the nuclear power plant accident in March. Since that time, tap water in those areas has remained within safety limits.

The panel, which includes doctors and radiation experts, agreed that the tap water is safe as long as the situation at the nuclear power plant does not dramatically change.

But they noted that more radioactive materials from the power plant will fall during the ongoing annual rainy season and typhoon season that will follow.

They agreed that authorities should maintain their regular safety inspections for several more months.

Monday, June 13, 2011 18:39 +0900 (JST)

Earthquake Report - JAIF

● Nearly half of Japanese want less nuclear power

An NHK poll shows that nearly half of Japanese people want fewer nuclear power plants in the country.

The weekend poll of 1,685 randomly selected voters asked about attitudes to nuclear power generation, which provides 30 percent of the country's energy supply.

47 percent said they want fewer nuclear plants. The figure is 4 percentage points higher than in last month's poll.

18 percent said Japan should abandon nuclear power, while 27 percent want to maintain the current level of nuclear energy supply.

Only one percent said they want to have more nuclear power stations.

Asked about the government's response to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, 17 percent said they somewhat approve of it and 2 percent highly approve.

But 31 percent said they strongly disapprove of the government's work and 44 percent said they somewhat disapprove. The disapproval figures were up by 10 percent from the previous survey.

Tuesday, June 14, 2011 06:20 +0900 (JST)

End