

PRI-12-15

Press Release Information	Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
Confirmation of radioactive contamination outside the radiation controlled areas of Fukushima-Daini Nuclear Power Station, owned by Tokyo Electric Power Company	

March 27, 2012

NISA/METI

Today (March 27, 2012), Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) received a report from Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) in accordance with the “law for the regulation of nuclear source material, nuclear fuel material and reactors”, regarding the confirmation of radioactive contamination outside the radiation controlled area of the service building for Units-3 and -4 of Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Station.

Locations where radioactive contamination was confirmed were either decontaminated or zoned.

As there is a possibility that the transportation method of contaminated materials may have failed to conform to the necessary technical standards, NISA ordered TEPCO to report the status of transportation in accordance with article 67, paragraph 1 of the “law for the regulation of nuclear source material, nuclear fuel material and reactors“

1. Report submitted by TEPCO

Fukushima-Daini Units-3 and -4 were under shutdown. At around 11:20 today (March 27, 2012), it was found that a desk on which tanks containing sample water used in analysis were placed had become soaked during acceptance of the tanks (see Attachment). The desks were located in a non-radiation controlled area of the service building for Units 3 and 4, and the sample water had been transported from Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

Measurement of the radioactivity at the location of the spill was approximately 206Bq/cm², and it was therefore confirmed that radioactive contamination occurred outside of the radiation controlled area.

Therefore, the top of the desk where contamination was found and some other locations that may have been contaminated with radioactive material were zoned in order to prevent the spread of the contamination.

As a result of an investigation into the transport route of the tanks into the service

building, seven contaminated locations were found that were in the non-radiation controlled area. These locations were either decontaminated or zoned to prevent the spread of the contamination.

Seven tanks were used to transport the sample water, and it was confirmed that the lid of one of the tanks was loose.

No workers were exposed to radiation.

2. Actions taken by NISA

When the event occurred, local nuclear safety inspectors rushed to the site to confirm plant safety.

The report was received by NISA in accordance with article 62-3 of the “law for the regulation of nuclear source material, nuclear fuel material and reactors“ and article 19-17 of the “rules for the installation and operation, etc. of commercial power reactors.”

In accordance with all applicable laws, NISA will continue to rigorously check the investigation into the cause of and corresponding countermeasures against possible recurrence of the event, as carried out by the company.

As the transportation route of the materials may have failed to conform to technical standards when the tanks were transported from Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Station to Fukushima-Daini Nuclear Power Station, NISA ordered TEPCO to report the status of transportation of the tanks in accordance with article 67, paragraph 1 of the “law for the regulation of nuclear source material, nuclear fuel material and reactors”. In future, NISA will base its response to this situation on the report received from TEPCO.

Results of provisional INES (*) event rating at event occurred

Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Level
-	-	1	1

Rating basis: In this event, although radioactive material leaked in the non-radiation controlled area of the facility, if it is assumed that all of the sample water from one tank had leaked, this event would be classed as “a lot of” leakage as stipulated in the INES User’s Manual. Therefore, the event was rated as INES level 1 “anomaly”.

(*) Evaluation under the INES User’s Manual 2008 Edition

INES (International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale) is an indicator used to promptly communicate the safety significance of a reported nuclear and radiological incident or accident. Events are evaluated based on 3 rating criteria (namely, criterion 1: people and the environment, criterion 2: radiological barriers and controls at

facilities, and criterion 3: defense in depth) and the highest level among 3 ratings is adopted as the INES rating level of the event. The INES levels range from Level 0 (no safety significance) to Level 7 (major accident). Level 1 means the breach of operating limits at a nuclear facility, and corresponds to an event such as a slight malfunction occurring in safety equipment with adequate safety protection layers remaining.

Contacts:

Nuclear Incident Response and Nuclear Emergency Public Relations Office, NISA/METI

Director: Mr. Toshiyuki Koganeya

Persons in charge:

Messrs. Saito and Asada

Phone: +81-3-3501-1511(Ext.) 4911

+81-3-3501-1637(Direct)

Nuclear Fuel Management Regulation Office, NISA/METI

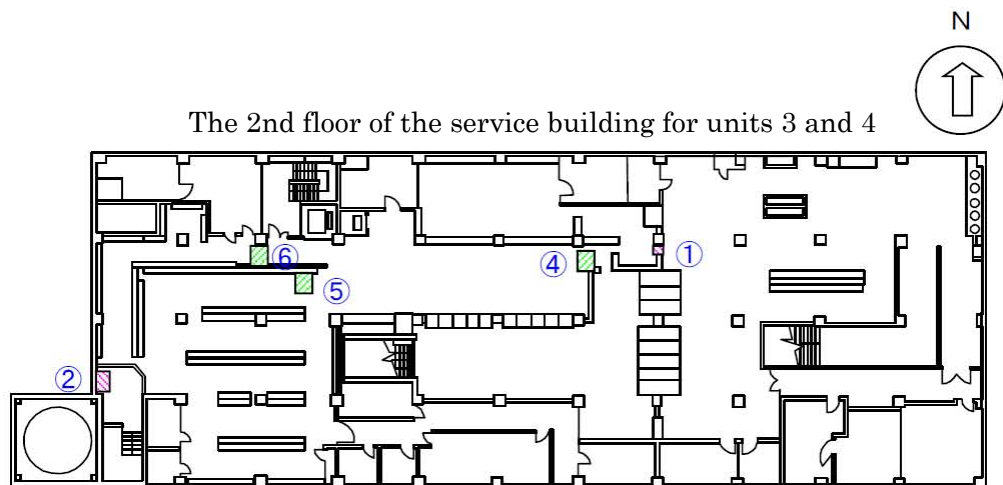
Director: Mr. Syuhei Kojima

Persons in charge:

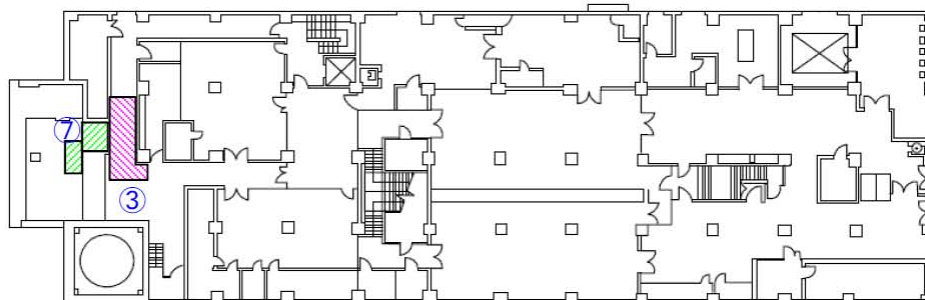
Messrs. Oyamada, Yamauchi and Matsuda

Phone: +81-3-3501-1511(Ext.) 4886

+81-3-3580-6158(Direct)



The 1st floor of the service building for units 3 and 4



① approx. 0.35 m²

② approx. 3 m²

Areas where contaminations were removed

Areas where zoning was carried out



Schematic of implementation status of zonings etc. of the contaminated areas in the service building for units 3 and 4 of Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Station

Polyethylene tank for transporting the sample water



Photographed on March 27, 2012