

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. 129: 18:00, July 1

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **Robot deployed at Fukushima reactor for cleaning**
- **Human error blamed for cooling system halt**
- **TEPCO to enhance manual on coolant system**
- **Another worker exposed to high radiation**
- **Circulation cooling system works again**
- **Workers enter No. 4 reactor building**
- **TEPCO moves low level contaminated water**

(Other news)

- **113 households in Date City advised to evacuate**
- **Radioactivity survey ship leaves for Fukushima**
- **Govt to warn of possible rolling blackouts**
- **Radiation detected in Fukushima children's urine T**

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● Robot deployed at Fukushima reactor for cleaning

Tokyo Electric Power Company has put a robot inside a highly radioactive facility at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to decontaminate the site.

The No.3 reactor building has been filled with highly radioactive sand, dust and rubble since it was badly damaged in a hydrogen explosion in March.

The radiation level inside the facility is 170 millisieverts per hour at its peak. The high radiation is preventing workers from going inside and taking steps to prevent fresh explosions.

On Friday, TEPCO sent a US-made remote-controlled robot fitted with a vacuum cleaner inside the building.

An operator is manipulating the robot to make it clean the floor.

TEPCO plans to send a worker into the building as early as Saturday to check radiation levels. If they are sufficiently reduced, the utility hopes to prepare a nitrogen injection to prevent hydrogen explosions.

Friday, July 01, 2011 14:48 +0900 (JST)

● Human error blamed for cooling system halt

Tokyo Electric Power Company says human error was responsible for the latest problems with a water-decontamination device at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The French-made device automatically stopped operating on Thursday afternoon after an alarm system was triggered. It resumed operation 5 hours later.

On Friday, TEPCO blamed the trouble on flawed programming of water levels in a tank that contains processed water. It says workers mistakenly set the water level at 3 percent of capacity, rather than 30 percent. As a result, water levels dropped rapidly and caused the device to stop operation.

TEPCO on Monday started the operation of a new cooling system that is expected to play a key role in stabilizing the crippled reactors.

But the system, which is designed to recycle cooling water after removing radiation from it, has been suspended several times.

Trouble has been occurring particularly frequently with the decontamination device, mainly because of human error.

TEPCO says the decontamination system had been operating just 55 percent of the time as of Tuesday.

The company said it will also take the step of improving operation manuals for the cooling system as a way of eliminating human errors.

Friday, July 01, 2011 13:33 +0900 (JST)

● TEPCO to enhance manual on coolant system

The operator of the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says it will improve the content of operation manuals for a newly introduced reactor coolant system. The move is intended to prevent human errors from causing suspension of the cooling operation.

On Monday, Tokyo Electric Power Company started using the system, which is designed to decontaminate and recycle highly radioactive water that is being used to cool all three troubled reactors. The work was suspended several times due to

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water leaks and other problems.

The company says human errors, including mistakes in handling valves, were largely responsible for the trouble.

It says that the new system was hastily built by piecing together various technologies from Japan and abroad. It added that workers have not been given enough time and training to get used to operating and maintaining the system.

The company says it will improve the content of the operation manuals with an eye toward eliminating human errors while it continues operations to cool the reactors.

Friday, July 01, 2011 11:43 +0900 (JST)

●Another worker exposed to high radiation

Tests have revealed that another worker at the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has been exposed to radiation doses exceeding 100 millisieverts. Before the accident in March, 100 millisieverts was the maximum radiation exposure permitted in an emergency situation.

Tokyo Electric Power Company, the operator of the plant, submitted a report to the health ministry on Thursday. The utility checked the radiation exposure of about half of the 4,300 people who started working at the plant in April.

TEPCO says none of the workers has been exposed to doses exceeding the legal limit of 250 millisieverts set by the government for emergency situations.

But one worker was exposed to 111 millisieverts, while the readings for 9 other people were between 50 and 100 millisieverts.

The health ministry instructed the utility to promptly carry out tests on the remaining half of the workers and report back by July 13th.

TEPCO has nearly completed checking the people who were working at the plant in March. The checks found that 3 of them had been exposed to doses exceeding the 250-millisievert emergency limit, while 4 others were suspected to having surpassed that limit.

The limit radiation exposure was raised from 100 millisieverts to 250 millisieverts after the Fukushima accident to secure enough time for workers at the plant to bring the situation under control.

Friday, July 01, 2011 10:43 +0900 (JST)

●Circulation cooling system works again

The newly installed reactor cooling system at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has resumed working after a 5-hour suspension due to mechanical trouble.

The operator of the crippled plant, Tokyo Electric Power Company, TEPCO, says a French-made water-decontamination device, which is part of the cooling system, stopped automatically on Thursday afternoon. An alarm system was set off within 10 minutes.

TEPCO says after repairing the device and doing test runs, it resumed operating on Thursday evening.

The system that decontaminates and re-uses the plant's radioactive water is considered key to the stable cooling of the reactors.

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Although the cooling system had stopped, the utility says the decontaminated water continued to pour into the reactors.

The company says the alarm device indicated the level of decontaminated water inside one tank was too low, and a gas exhaust had malfunctioned.

TEPCO is trying to find out why the alarm system was set off, and the cause of the other troubles.

Since its start on Monday, the cooling system has suffered a series of problems including leaky piping.

Friday, July 01, 2011 01:40 +0900 (JST)

● Workers enter No. 4 reactor building

Tokyo Electric Power Company says debris scattered inside the No. 4 reactor building at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant is posing an obstacle to work to bring the crippled reactor under control.

Workers entered the fifth floor of the building on Wednesday for the first time since an explosion on March 15th.

Photos taken by the workers show that most of the ceiling, except for a small part of the framework, has collapsed. Debris, steel frames, and other various things blown by the force of the explosion are scattered all over the floor.

The radiation level inside the building was less than one millisievert per hour, which TEPCO says is permissible for workers to carry out operations there.

The utility plans to install a circulatory system that will cool and circulate water inside the reactor's spent fuel storage pool. But it says one of the valves necessary to operate the system is covered by debris.

TEPCO says it will consider whether to remove the debris or attempt to work around the debris.

Thursday, June 30, 2011 20:04 +0900 (JST)

● TEPCO moves low level contaminated water

Workers at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have started moving low level contaminated water to a giant steel barge for storage.

The transfer from the plant's make-shift tanks started on Thursday afternoon to the barge called the "mega float." The barge is attached to a quay on the plant's premises.

The make-shift tanks have been almost full since Wednesday with low-level radioactive water pumped from the basement of the reactor Number 6 turbine building. The water is threatening to damage equipment and gauges and thus hamper cooling efforts.

TEPCO says the water is treated to lower the level of contamination before it is transferred to the barge. The utility also says it will do everything to ensure the stored water doesn't leak into the sea. The utility aims to pump around 8,000 tons of the water into the giant barge over three or four months.

The barge, 136 meters long and 46 meters wide, can hold a maximum of 10,000 tons of water.

But the company says it has no final plan to dispose of the water stored in the barge.

Thursday, June 30, 2011 17:51 +0900 (JST)

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●113 households in Date City advised to evacuate

The city of Date in Fukushima Prefecture sent 113 households written notices on Friday to recommend that they evacuate.

On Thursday, the central government designated the 113 households as areas with radioactive hotspots despite being outside the government-designated evacuation zone around the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The cumulative radiation is expected to reach the government standard of 20 millisieverts a year in areas that include the 113 households in 4 districts in the Ryozenmachi area. Date City is about 50 kilometers northwest of the plant.

The city is asking the 113 households if they plan to evacuate and to return their answers by July 8th.

The city says it will provide subsidies for rental accommodation, adding that about 40 municipal housing units are available.

Friday, July 01, 2011 15:19 +0900 (JST)

●Radioactivity survey ship leaves for Fukushima

A research ship has left Tokyo to survey the spread of radioactive substances into the ocean from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The ship belonging to Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology left Toyoumi Wharf in Tokyo Bay on Friday morning. About 30 specialists in ocean observation and marine biology are onboard the Umitaka-maru.

In cooperation with a fisheries research organization and other groups, the ship will collect seafloor samples off Fukushima to study the impact of radioactive substances on fish and plankton.

The research will focus on shellfish and sandworms on the seabed that are believed to be susceptible to radioactive materials.

Professor Takashi Ishimaru, the team's leader, says it's important to provide accurate information because without data, people tend to become suspicious and they might create groundless rumors.

Ishimaru says he hopes the results of the survey will help scientists learn how fish and shellfish absorb radioactive substances.

The ship is to arrive off Fukushima on Saturday and will continue its activities until July 8th.

Friday, July 01, 2011 12:19 +0900 (JST)

●Govt to warn of possible rolling blackouts

The Japanese government plans to issue a public warning that rolling blackouts may occur when peak demand for electricity is projected to reach the supply amount.

Tokyo Electric Power Company will be able to provide 53.8 million kilowatts this summer. This is lower than last summer's peak demand of 60 million

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kilowatts.

Tohoku Electric Power Company will be able to supply 13.7 million kilowatts this summer which is 1.1 million kilowatts short of last summer's peak demand. The government is asking households and businesses to cut electricity use by 15 percent compared with last year in order to avoid a massive blackout.

If it appears that electricity consumption will reach close to 97 percent of maximum supply, the government plans to issue a public warning at around 6 PM on the previous day about possible rolling blackouts.

In that case, the government will also call on households and companies to further reduce power use.

Friday, July 01, 2011 07:59 +0900 (JST)

●Radiation detected in Fukushima children's urine

A group of Japanese citizens says radioactive materials have been detected in urine of 10 children in Fukushima Prefecture, where the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is located.

The Fukushima Network for Saving Children from Radiation collected urine samples from 10 elementary to high school students in the prefecture's capital Fukushima City. The samples were analyzed by a French research organization. The group said at a news conference in Tokyo on Thursday that radioactive cesium was found in all of the samples, and that one from an 8-year-old girl contained 1.13 becquerels of cesium-134 per liter.

The group added that the children are thought to have taken in radioactive materials released from the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

The group said the test shows clearly that children living as far as 60 kilometers from the plant are suffering internal exposure. It urged the state and prefectural governments to immediately check children in Fukushima for such exposure.

The Japanese non-profit Radiation Effects Research Foundation says no health problems due to such radiation levels have been reported, and that people should not be overly concerned.

Thursday, June 30, 2011 20:12 +0900 (JST)

End