

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. 154: 12:00, July 26

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **New decontamination unit to arrive at Fukushima**
- **Contaminated water on increase at Fukushima plant**

(Other news)

- **Govt to buy back beef with excessive cesium levels**
- **IAEA chief says cooling operation going as planned**
- **IAEA chief visits Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant**

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●New decontamination unit to arrive at Fukushima

A new system to decontaminate radioactive water will arrive at the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on Tuesday. The current system, the key to cooling the reactors, has been plagued with problems.

The new equipment, SARRY, consists of 14 cylindrical tanks containing minerals. It is designed to reduce radioactive substances in water, such as cesium, to less than one millionth.

The first shipment of tanks and parts left a port in Iwaki, Fukushima on Monday. The existing device at the plant was hit with problems from Sunday to Monday. It's operating rate has been reduced to 53 percent, far below the goal of 90 percent.

The plant's operator Tokyo Electric Power Company plans to use the new system, along with the existing one.

The utility will bring the remaining components to the Fukushima plant in 2 more shipments. It then aims to begin operating the new system around early August.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 07:16 +0900 (JST)

●Contaminated water on increase at Fukushima plant

Tokyo Electric Power Company is injecting fresh water from a nearby dam to make up for the shortage of water in its system for cooling the reactors at the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The system decontaminates radioactive water that has accumulated in the plant and circulates it.

TEPCO halted the process of removing salt from contaminated water after an alarm went off around noon on Sunday due to a problem with the installation of the desalination equipment. It resumed the operation in the evening after installing another device.

The new device is only able to treat half the amount of water. The amount of contaminated water has been increasing since the problem occurred.

TEPCO began using the new circulatory water injection system late last month. Last week, the government and the utility announced the completion of the first stage of the plan to stabilize the cooling of the reactors.

NHK's reporter points out that as a result of Sunday's trouble, the amount of contaminated water is increasing. He adds that the recycling of cooling water, a key element of bringing the accident under control, cannot be maintained.

TEPCO is investigating the cause of the problem. The utility says the decontamination system as a whole is not operating stably and it needs to improve its reliability.

Monday, July 25, 2011 14:12 +0900 (JST)

●Govt to buy back beef with excessive cesium levels

The Japanese government says it will buy back beef containing radioactive cesium that has already reached the distribution chain.

The measure, announced on Tuesday, is designed to allay rising concerns about the safety of beef.

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Consumers have been rattled by reports of cattle fed with rice straw containing cesium in excess of the government-mandated limit.

NHK has learned that more than 2,800 head of cattle allegedly fed with such straw have been shipped to 46 of Japan's 47 prefectures, excluding Okinawa.

Excessive levels of cesium have been detected in beef in 6 of the prefectures, including Fukushima, where work continues to contain a nuclear plant accident.

Some of the beef that reached the markets has yet to be tested. The government will seek inspections of all such beef, and buy the meat back if higher-than-permissible cesium is detected.

The government plans to eventually pass on the buy-back costs to Tokyo Electric Power Company, the operator of the disabled nuclear plant.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 09:58 +0900 (JST)

●IAEA chief says cooling operation going as planned

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency says operations to bring the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant under control are going as planned.

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano visited the plant on Monday, one day after he arrived in Japan. This is his first visit to Fukushima Daiichi since the March 11th disaster triggered the nuclear accident there.

Amano later told reporters that he wore protective clothing and toured the plant on a bus, while being briefed about damage to reactor buildings and other facilities by the head of the nuclear station.

Amano said he inspected the cooling operation to check on the progress of the stabilization plan.

He said he also visited the plant's headquarters to talk with workers there about the content and the environment of the stabilizing operations.

Amano said steps are being carried out systematically and that he believes the prospects are bright.

Amano added that IAEA knowledge and know-how could be helpful for future operations at the plant, such as removing radioactive materials and taking out spent nuclear fuel rods.

He said he wants to discuss possible cooperation with the Japanese government.

Monday, July 25, 2011 19:00 +0900 (JST)

●IAEA chief visits Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is visiting the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to see how the reactors are being cooled down.

This is his first visit to the plant since the March 11th nuclear disaster.

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano arrived in Japan on Sunday and traveled to Fukushima by train on Monday morning.

Amano told reporters that he wants to identify how the IAEA can cooperate with Japan to contain the situation.

He also said he wants to listen to the personnel who are working in severe

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conditions, to find out what they think and feel about the difficult tasks they are carrying out every day.

Amano wore protective gear to inspect the damage at the plant and to check the progress of the "road map" drawn up by the Tokyo Electric Power Company.

Monday, July 25, 2011 12:23 +0900 (JST)

End