

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. 182: 12:00, August 23

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

● **Japan lowers Fukushima contamination estimate**

(Other news)

● **Aerial radiation survey planned in 22 prefectures**

● **New case of cattle fed radioactive hay confirmed**

● **Radiation concern prompts review of school routes**

● **Another reactor is taken offline in Japan**

● **TEPCO plant in Niigata to close for checks**

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●Japan lowers Fukushima contamination estimate

Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission has revised downward the estimated amount of radioactive substances released from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The commission now judges that 570-thousand terabecquerels of radioactive iodine 131 and cesium 137, about 10 percent less than its earlier estimate, leaked from the plant between March 12th and April 5th.

The commission put the total at 630-thousand terabecquerels in April.

The new figure was obtained by analyzing freshly released data on radiation levels measured at monitoring posts and amounts of radioactive materials in the air.

The commission also believes that leakage of radioactive substances peaked from 1 PM to 5 PM in the afternoon of March 15th when explosions occurred at reactors No. 2 and No. 4.

The timing is not much different than the commission's initial estimate, but the new figures revise downward the amount of radioactive substances released during the period by 60 percent.

The Japan Atomic Energy Agency is expressing confidence in its new estimates, saying they are not largely different from earlier ones and are nearly consistent with changes in radiation measurements.

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 10:25 +0900 (JST)

●Aerial radiation survey planned in 22 prefectures

Japan's science ministry is conducting an extensive aerial survey to see how radiation has spread from the disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The ministry plans to measure gamma ray radiation at altitudes of 150 to 300 meters and recalibrate the readings to estimate levels of radioactive substances closer to the ground.

The survey will start by October in 22 prefectures ranging from Aomori in the northeast to Aichi in central Japan.

Among the 22, Fukushima and 3 other prefectures have already finished the survey. Three others have begun or are due to begin the operation in August. The remaining 15, including Tokyo, will follow suit in September.

The science ministry has acquired additional equipment to enable it to work quickly, as winter snow could hamper accurate monitoring. All the prefectures are due to complete the survey by the end of the year.

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 11:10 +0900 (JST)

●New case of cattle fed radioactive hay confirmed

Fukushima in northern Japan says cattle shipped from a farm in the prefecture were highly likely to have been fed hay contaminated with radioactive cesium.

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The prefecture reported the results of its investigation to the national government on Monday in connection with new reports of contaminated beef found at a food processor.

It launched its investigation on Friday, just after beef from 12 head of cattle shipped from a farmer in April was found to contain radioactive cesium at twice the government safety standard.

In response, the national government immediately put off lifting a ban on shipments of beef and cattle from the prefecture.

Fukushima says the farmer told it that he had kept imported hay in his cattle barn with no side walls before he evacuated in the wake of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

It says the farmer fed his cattle the hay a week later when a very high level of atmospheric radiation was still detected. The prefecture concluded that the hay had been contaminated with atmospheric radioactive cesium.

Fukushima plans to ask the government to lift the shipment ban as soon as possible, saying the government did so for cattle fed contaminated rice straw from other prefectures last week.

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 11:10 +0900 (JST)

●Radiation concern prompts review of school routes

Fukushima City says it will ask 80 percent of the city's elementary and junior high schools to review students' commuting routes due to higher than benchmark radiation levels.

The city is located about 60 kilometers from the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. In July, all its 72 elementary and junior high schools measured radiation levels 50 centimeters above the surface of roads used daily by their students.

City authorities say 59 of the schools, or 80 percent, detected one microsievert of radiation per hour or higher. 9 school routes measured 3 microsieverts per hour or more, with the highest reading topping 8 microsieverts.

One microsievert is the benchmark the government uses to determine whether top soil at school playgrounds should be removed with state subsidies.

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 10:25 +0900 (JST)

●Another reactor is taken offline in Japan

Another nuclear reactor has gone offline for regular inspections in Japan. Three-quarters of the country's reactors are now out of service, putting a strain on power supplies.

Tokyo Electric Power Company halted operations of the No.7 reactor at the Kashiwazaki Kariwa nuclear power plant in Niigata Prefecture early Tuesday. The regular checkup normally lasts about 3 months.

TEPCO operates 17 reactors, including those at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant. But only 2 are now in operation. Across Japan, 40 reactors are out of service, or three-quarters of the total.

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TEPCO says it can keep power output unchanged by installing additional gas turbines at thermal power plants.

The governor of Niigata has said he won't even consider allowing TEPCO's idle reactors to start up until an investigation into the Fukushima nuclear accident has been concluded.

The central government has meanwhile ordered utilities to carry out rigorous safety tests on all halted reactors, in response to the Fukushima accident.

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 09:11 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO plant in Niigata to close for checks

Tokyo Electric Power Company has begun taking steps to shut down a nuclear reactor in Niigata prefecture, on the Japan Sea coast, for regular inspections.

With the shutdown of the No. 7 reactor at the Kashiwazaki-kariwa nuclear power plant early Tuesday, 74 percent of Japan's nuclear reactors will be out of service.

The company started taking steps to gradually halt power generation at the No. 7 reactor on Monday afternoon. Power is to be halted before dawn on Tuesday.

The reactor is scheduled to be suspended for regular checkups for about 3 months.

Operation of the No. 1 reactor at the Kashiwazaki-kariya plant was stopped on August 6th.

With the shutdown of the No. 7 reactor, only 2 nuclear reactors out of 17 operated by TEPCO will be in service.

This means 40 out of 54 nuclear reactors in Japan will be inactive.

TEPCO says it will make up for the power loss by generating thermal and hydropower. At the same time, the utility is calling on consumers to continue saving energy.

Niigata Governor Hirohiko Izumida stated earlier that a decision to restart the reactors within the prefecture will be made only after results of the investigation into the Fukushima plant nuclear accident are presented.

Monday, August 22, 2011 18:04 +0900 (JST)

End