

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. 131: 12:00, July 3

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- TEPCO improves circulation cooling system
- TEPCO uses robot to clean No.3 reactor
- TEPCO shows footage of robot's cleaning work
- TEPCO: Nuclear fuel pool cooled to stable level

(Other news)

- Higher radiation detected on fields than asphalt

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●TEPCO improves circulation cooling system

The operator of the troubled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant says the reactor cooling system is now fully recycling its water.

Tokyo Electric Power Company said the system no longer requires fresh water input, and no contaminated water is being released.

Previously, the system required 2 to 3 tons of fresh water per hour.

Water recycling resumed on Saturday evening after being suspended while the plant's operator installed stronger piping to prevent leaks.

Tokyo Electric Power Company had switched off the plant's cooling system for a day and a half after a series of problems.

The operation started a week ago, but was twice halted because of leaks. A water-decontamination device in the system also had to be shut down due to human error.

TEPCO cited a lack of preparation due to the speed of installing the system, which consists of Japanese and foreign devices.

The utility has set a target of July 17th to complete the first stage of its plan to bring the facility under control.

Sunday, July 03, 2011 07:56 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO uses robot to clean No.3 reactor

For the second day in a row, a robot has been sent into one of the damaged reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

It checked radiation levels after a robot on Friday removed radioactive-contaminated dust and rubble from the No. 3 reactor building.

The move was taken before nitrogen is injected into the reactor to prevent another of hydrogen explosion.

Tokyo Electric Power Company has already injected nitrogen into the containment vessels of the No. 1 and 2 reactors. It hopes to complete the injection of nitrogen into the No. 3 reactor by July 17th.

But radiation levels in the No.3 reactor are still too high for workers to safely enter.

On Friday, TEPCO used a US-made robot to begin cleaning inside the building. The robot removed contaminated dust and rubble near the entrance using a strong vacuum cleaner.

A second robot on Saturday checked the radiation levels. Officials say the levels were lower than before the cleaning.

TEPCO is studying data obtained by the robot.

Sunday, July 03, 2011 03:11 +0900 (JST)

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●TEPCO shows footage of robot's cleaning work

Tokyo Electric Power Company has made public video footage of a robot cleaning the inside of the No. 3 reactor building on Friday. The footage was taken by a camera mounted on a second robot. The footage shows the robot moving around the building and using a vacuum cleaner as it collected radioactive dust and debris. The debris was then sent to drums outside the building through a 40-meter hose. TEPCO says the vacuum collected enough dust and debris over a 5-hour period to fill 3 drums.

Sunday, July 03, 2011 09:01 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO: Nuclear fuel pool cooled to stable level

The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has reported progress in its work to stabilize the facility's spent fuel rods. Tokyo Electric Power Company says the cooling system that began operating at the No.3 reactor on Thursday has brought the temperature of the nuclear fuel storage pool of the reactor to just below 40 degrees Celsius from the previous level of 62 degrees. TEPCO says the temperature of the pool was 39.9 degrees as of 5 AM on Saturday. As cooling has progressed faster than initially expected, TEPCO says the temperature will likely stabilize at around 30 degrees in a few days. The temperature of the spent fuel pool of the No.2 reactor has already declined to that level. As for the No.1 and No.4 reactors, the utility plans to begin operating cooling systems by the end of this month. Until then, the company needs to inject cooling water on a regular basis. TEPCO is concerned about possible difficulty in installing the cooling system at the No.4 reactor. A hydrogen explosion in March damaged piping necessary for the system and debris left there is hampering construction work. The company says there may be a delay in its installation plan.

Saturday, July 02, 2011 13:22 +0900 (JST)

●Higher radiation detected on fields than asphalt

A government survey has found higher levels of radiation on fields and forests than on asphalt pavements in towns about 10 kilometers from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The Cabinet Office and the ministry of science monitored radiation for more than 10 days from June 13th at 400 locations in Namie and Tomioka towns, which fall within a 20-kilometer no-entry zone. The survey centered on JR Namie station, about 8 kilometers from the plant, and

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JR Tomioka station, about 10 kilometers from the plant. Measurements were made at one centimeter and one meter above the ground.

The highest level in Tomioka was detected on an unpaved road 2 kilometers northwest of the station, where the reading at the one-centimeter point was 39.1 microsieverts per hour.

In Namie Town, 25.4 microsieverts was detected at the one-centimeter point in a forest about one kilometer west of the station.

Readings were generally lower -- around several microsieverts -- on roads and parking lots covered by asphalt and higher on fields and forests.

Radioactive substances are believed to be easily washed away by rain on asphalt but adhere to soil and plants.

The government plans to monitor radiation at more than 3,400 locations in no-entry zones and evacuation advisory zones by the end of August.

Measurements will be taken at gardens of private homes and roof gutters, where radiation tends to be high, as well as roadside ditches.

Saturday, July 02, 2011 11:05 +0900 (JST)

End