

# 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. 42: 20:00, April 4**

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

## ●GE offers help at Fukushima

The chief executive of General Electric says his company will help address the problems at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Jeffrey Immelt met with Japanese economy minister Banri Kaieda on Monday, along with Hitachi President Hiroaki Nakanishi. General Electric and Hitachi are partners in the nuclear power industry.

Immelt offered condolences to those affected by what he called an unprecedented disaster, and said the US conglomerate is willing to provide whatever assistance is necessary to deal with the situation.

He told Kaieda that GE hopes to help restore the cooling functions at the plant and neutralize the radioactivity once the plant is stabilized.

General Electric is the manufacturer of the No. 1 and No.2 reactors at the Fukushima plant.

Immelt suggested that his company is ready to supply power generation equipment to Tokyo Electric Power Company to help the utility address electricity shortages.

He told reporters after the meeting that General Electric wants to create a support system with the utility and Hitachi.

Monday, April 04, 2011 18:25 +0900 (JST)

## ●Low radioactive water to be released to sea

Tokyo Electric Power Company plans to release radioactive wastewater into the sea from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant as part of efforts to stabilize the troubled plant.

The utility told a news conference on Monday that it hopes to start releasing 11,500 tons of wastewater from Tuesday at the earliest and that the operation will continue for several days.

The company says the level of iodine-131 in the wastewater is about 100 times the legal limit. But the plant operator says if people ate fish and seaweed caught near the plant every day for a year, their radiation exposure would be 0.6 millisievert. It adds the annual permissible level for the general public is one millisievert.

Wastewater will be released to make room for highly contaminated water from the No.2 reactor complex.

Radioactive water 100,000 times the normal level in an operating reactor has

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been found in the turbine building. This is also hampering efforts to cool the damaged reactors.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano says the government approved the operation plan, as removing the water from the No.2 reactor is a more urgent matter.

Edano calls the operation an emergency measure to ensure the safety of the plant. He adds that the government told the utility to monitor radioactivity in the seawater and closely track the environmental impact.

Monday, April 04, 2011 18:17 +0900 (JST)

## ●Edano: Radiation leak into sea must be stopped

Japan's top government spokesperson says the leak of radioactive water into the ocean from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant must be stopped as soon as possible.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano expressed concern on Monday about the cumulative effects on the sea of possible long-term radiation leakage from the plant.

He said he is urging Tokyo Electric Power Company, the plant's owner, to act quickly to prevent the spread of contamination in the sea.

Edano said he has instructed the utility to undertake multiple operations to stem the leak, including blocking the leakage route on the ground and containing the radioactive water from the ocean side.

Monday, April 04, 2011 13:16 +0900 (JST)

## ●TEPCO still trying to identify leak

Tokyo Electric Power Company is still not sure how highly radioactive water is flowing into the ocean from its damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex.

TEPCO had thought it was coming from a crack in a concrete pit at the facility.

On Monday workers poured a white liquid into a tunnel leading to the pit. The operation was undertaken to determine the exact route the water is taking from the pit near the plant's Number 2 reactor to the ocean.

But the utility firm says the white liquid did not flow into the pit and that the contaminated water must be following other routes.

As a temporary measure, the utility firm is considering setting up silt barriers near a water intake pipe for the Number 2 reactor to prevent radioactive elements from spreading in the ocean.

The utility company has also been removing radioactive water from the basements of the turbine buildings for two of the plant's reactors.

The radioactive water in the condensers for the two reactors is being transferred to storage tanks. As soon as the condensers are emptied, the water from the reactor will be drained into them to allow work to begin to restore the reactors' cooling systems.

Work to remove the water began on Sunday at reactors Number 1 and 2. A similar operation will start at the Number 3 reactor on Monday.

Monday, April 04, 2011 12:26 +0900 (JST)

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## ●Radiation levels drop or remain flat

Radiation levels continue to drop or remain flat on Monday morning in many locations around the disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

In Fukushima City, about 65 kilometers northwest of the power plant, 2.51 microsieverts per hour of radiation was detected. The reading in Koriyama City, also in Fukushima Prefecture, stood at 2.21.

Both figures are higher than the normal levels of 0.04 to 0.06 microsieverts per hour, but lower than that on Sunday.

The reading stood at 0.49 microsieverts per hour in Kita-Ibaraki City and 0.07 microsieverts per hour in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture.

Higher-than-usual levels of radiation were also observed in other locations, including Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward and main cities of Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures.

Authorities say these levels of radiation do not pose health risks.

Monday, April 04, 2011 13:16 +0900 (JST)

## ●Govt did not reveal high level radiation estimate

It has been learned that the Japanese government withheld the release of computer projections indicating high levels of radioactivity in areas more than 30 kilometers from the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The estimates were made on March 16th following explosions at the plant by an institute commissioned by the government using a computer system called SPEEDI. The system made its projections on the assumption that radioactive substances had been released for 24 hours from midnight on March 14th, based on the available data.

But the government was reluctant to reveal the SPEEDI projections, and did not release them until March 23rd.

The released data showed that higher levels of radioactive substances would flow over areas to the northwest and southwest of the plant.

The estimates showed that the radiation would exceed 100 millisieverts in some areas more than 30 kilometers from the nuclear plant if people remained outdoors for 24 hours between March 12th and 24th.

That is 100 times higher than the 1 millisievert-per-year long-term reference level for humans as recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

The Nuclear Safety Commission says it did not release the projections because the location or the amount of radioactive leakage was not specified at the time.

Professor emeritus Shigenobu Nagasaki of Nagasaki University, says the government should release more data about the dangers of possible radiation exposure and draw up evacuation plans and other measures together with residents.

Monday, April 04, 2011 12:38 +0900 (JST)

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## ●TEPCO to examine route of radioactive water leak

Tokyo Electric Power Company has tried to stop the leakage of radioactive water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the sea by obstructing the route of contaminated water. But no improvement was reported on Sunday. The company is going to make another attempt to block the stream on Monday.

Highly radioactive water was found leaking directly into the sea from a crack in a concrete pit on Saturday.

On Sunday, TEPCO poured a polymer absorbent into a duct leading to the pit in the hope of blocking the leak. The polymer material expands when it absorbs water.

But TEPCO didn't see much change in the amount of water flowing into the sea.

On Monday morning, TEPCO said workers have started pouring a colored liquid into a tunnel linked to the pit, so they might be able to retrace the exact route of the contaminated water.

The company says it will make another attempt to block the flow of the water.

The company is also considering hardening the area around the cracked pit using chemicals if its next efforts fail.

Monday, April 04, 2011 06:49 +0900 (JST)

## ●NISA: Stemming leak will take months

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said a full-scale recovery of cooling systems at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is needed to stem the leakage of radioactive substances, but that work will take several months.

A senior official of the agency, Hidehiko Nishiyama, made the comments at a news conference on Sunday.

Highly radioactive water was found inside turbine buildings and also in tunnels under the plant. The radioactive water is flowing directly into the sea.

The agency said it will take several months to remove the contaminated water in the turbine buildings and to take measures to protect workers from radiation.

At a news conference on Sunday, the independent Nuclear Safety Commission also pointed out that it will take months to stem the leakage and restore cooling systems.

The commission said rubble and high radiation levels in some parts of the plant will hamper work.

Monday, April 04, 2011 05:27 +0900 (JST)

## ●GE chief promises support for TEPCO

The chief executive of General Electric has agreed to offer maximum support to Tokyo Electric Power Company, the owner of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Jeffrey Immelt met TEPCO chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata in Tokyo on Sunday.

TEPCO told reporters that this is Immelt's first visit to Tokyo since the March 11th earthquake and tsunami.

TEPCO said Immelt offered assistance as a representative of the company that provided the basic design for the plant's Number One reactor so the Japanese company can handle the situation better.

Katsumata told Immelt that the Tokyo area faces electricity shortages this summer. He sought help from the US side to restore damaged thermal power

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plants and to build more facilities to supply enough electricity.

TEPCO said Immelt agreed to help the company.

Immelt will meet Economy minister Banri Kaieda on Monday to discuss the Fukushima plant problem.

Sunday, April 03, 2011 22:14 +0900 (JST)

## ●Radiation levels gradually decreasing

Radiation levels on the ground have gradually decreased or have stabilized in many locations around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Experts say these readings do not pose a threat to human health.

The highest reading in Fukushima City, 65 kilometers northwest of the plant, was 2.56 microsieverts per hour on Sunday morning, and 2.28 microsieverts per hour in Koriyama City, to the west of the plant.

These are higher figures than the normal levels of 0.04 to 0.06 microsieverts per hour.

At Sendai City in Miyagi Prefecture, a reading of 0.08 microsieverts was detected on Sunday afternoon.

In Ibaraki Prefecture, the highest readings were 0.52 microsieverts per hour in Kita-ibaragi City and 0.17 microsieverts per hour in Mito City.

Experts say these levels are not harmful.

Sunday, April 03, 2011 20:15 +0900 (JST)

## ●Edano wants inquiry into Fukushima accident

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano has indicated that an independent body should be set up to investigate the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The top government spokesperson was asked about the accident at a news conference on Sunday. Edano replied that an objective investigation should be carried out as soon as possible to prevent a recurrence.

He said experts from the Nuclear Safety Commission and other Japanese organizations have been working on the problem. He added that the government wants to quickly launch an inquiry that will not interfere with the efforts to bring the situation under control.

Edano said he believes that the inquiry should be conducted by a third-party institution with a high level of objectivity and independence. He said it should involve the government, the plant's operator and the Nuclear Safety Commission.

Sunday, April 03, 2011 18:39 +0900 (JST)

## Fukushima to check industrial goods for radiation

The government of Fukushima Prefecture will begin free monitoring of local industrial products for radiation following the leaks from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The prefecture said on Sunday that there is growing public concern about the impact of radiation on industrial products as well as farm and marine produce.

It said more countries are moving to restrict imports from Japan even though they are free from radioactive contamination.

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The radiation monitoring will start on Monday in an industrial park in Koriyama City and will cover all industrial products made in the prefecture.

Fukushima Governor Yuhei Sato urged the central government to quickly lift shipping restrictions on farm and marine products when radiation levels fall below the government-set limits. He said the government was slow in responding even after radiation levels declined.

A central government official said it will increase the number of organizations monitoring radiation, and will instruct the related ministries to take quick action when lifting shipping restrictions.

Sunday, April 03, 2011 17:46 +0900 (JST)

End