

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. 289: 12:00, December 13

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

● **All preconditions to declare cold shutdown met**

(Other news)

● **Edano spurns releasing radioactive water into sea**

● **Fire under control at Tsuruga nuclear plant**

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●All preconditions to declare cold shutdown met

Japan's nuclear watchdog has approved measures that will be implemented over the next 3 years to ensure stability at the troubled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Tokyo Electric Power Company's mid-term safety procedures include ways to further cool the damaged reactors, and to prevent possible hydrogen explosions at the plant. TEPCO plans to implement the steps over the next 3 years to achieve the second phase of the time table to put the plant under control.

At a meeting of the Nuclear Safety Commission on Monday, some participants pointed out that the reactors have yet to reach a stable state, and that possibilities of fresh problems remain.

Others called on the utility to monitor the durability of the equipment and facilities it is using to manage the disaster. But the members ultimately approved the safety measures planned by TEPCO.

After the decision, commission chief Haruki Madarame said the utility should implement the measures as soon as possible, as it is difficult to accurately predict what may yet happen in the damaged reactors.

The Japanese government is expected to declare later this week that a state of cold shutdown has been achieved for all the plant's reactors. The government hopes the declaration will lead to a review of current evacuation areas.

Monday, December 12, 2011 18:39 +0900 (JST)

●Edano spurns releasing radioactive water into sea

Industry Minister Yukio Edano has rejected an idea being considered by the operator of the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant to discharge low-level radioactive water into the sea.

Edano spoke to reporters on Tuesday, as Tokyo Electric Power Company considers the plan. TEPCO wants to reduce the level of radioactivity of the decontaminated water to below the level at which government standards allow it to be released into the sea.

The idea has drawn protests from fishing cooperatives across the nation.

Edano said that since March 11th, the fishing industry has been plagued by various issues, including falling sales due to unfounded rumors of radiation.

He said going ahead with the discharge of tainted water without the understanding of the industry is unacceptable.

Edano added that TEPCO should properly think about how to win the industry's understanding and make proper efforts to this end.

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 15:34 +0900 (JST)

●Fire under control at Tsuruga nuclear plant

A fire at the Tsuruga nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture, western Japan, has been brought under control. There are no reports of radioactive materials having leaked to nearby areas.

Earthquake Report - JAIF

Japan Atomic Power Company, the plant operator, says the blaze broke out at 7:45 PM on Monday. A worker had turned on a switch for a spare electrical device located at a water processing facility in the No. 1 reactor.

Workers at the plant managed to put out the fire. No one was injured.

JAPC says there is no radiation leak because the reactor had been closed for inspection.

The plant operator says there was a short circuit, and the fire may have been caused by sparks.

The cables were brought in to replace the regular power supply system, which is scheduled for inspection, with an auxiliary power source.

Three other fires have broken out at the plant between March 2010 and October 2011, when workers were welding or using gas burners for maintenance.

JAPC had submitted reports on fire prevention and safety measures to avoid this kind of accident on November 30th.

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 03:16 +0900 (JST)

End