

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. 340: 12:00, February 7

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **Temperature remains high at damaged reactor**
- **Temperature at No.2 reactor remains high**

(Other news)

- **Nuke plant operators paid \$2 bil. to localities**
- **Govt to create more decontamination bases**

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● Temperature remains high at damaged reactor

An unknown rise in temperature at one of the reactors at the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant is troubling its operator. Tokyo Electric says the temperature hasn't gone down even after it increased the volume of cooling water on Tuesday.

One of the thermometers at the bottom of reactor No. 2 at the Fukushima Daiichi plant gradually rose to about 70 degrees Celsius since January 27th. It had stayed around 45 degrees before.

In an effort to lower the temperature, the operator increased the amount of water sprayed on the nuclear fuel by 3 tons to 13.5 tons per hour Tuesday morning.

But Tokyo Electric said readings were down only about 3 degrees after some 5 hours of operation, hardly showing signs of improvement.

The utility said the flow of water in the reactor may have changed after plumbing work in late January, causing difficulties in cooling part of the melted nuclear fuel.

It added that no temperature rise has been observed at 2 other thermometers in the same reactor and that it will continue to carefully monitor the reactor.

TEPCO has been unable to visually confirm conditions inside the reactors since the nuclear disaster last March because of high radiation.

Tuesday, February 07, 2012 13:05 +0900 (JST)

● Temperature at No.2 reactor remains high

Attempts to cool the temperature in the No. 2 reactor of the disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have only partially succeeded despite the injection of more cooling water.

The temperature in the reactor has gradually risen from about 45 degrees Celsius registered on January 27th.

In the past 4 days, the temperature has climbed more than 20 degrees to above 70 degrees.

The plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company began pumping more water into the reactor at around 1:30 AM on Monday. But at 7 AM, the temperature stood at 73.3 degrees and at 5 PM, 69.2 degrees.

The utility firm says 2 other thermometers elsewhere in the reactor gave readings of about 44 degrees.

TEPCO says the rise in temperatures indicate that the flow of water in the reactor may have changed direction after plumbing work, and is no longer able to properly cool down the melted down nuclear fuel.

However, the utility says radioactive xenon has not been detected in gases around the reactor, and that nuclear criticality is not taking place.

The government and TEPCO announced in December that the 3 troubled reactors at the Fukushima plant had reached a state of cold shutdown with their temperatures below 100 degrees. But the situation inside the reactors remains unclear.

New regulations established after the state of cold shutdown was achieved require the utility to keep temperatures inside the reactors below 80 degrees.

TEPCO says it will increase the amount of water being injecting into the reactor

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to see if the temperature in the reactor drops.

The government's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency says there is a need for a comprehensive study to determine whether the reactor is actually in a state of cold shutdown. It says a brief reading of over 80 degrees on one of the thermometers does not necessarily mean there is trouble in the cooling system.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Nuclear Safety Commission, Haruki Madarame, says that a recurrence of nuclear criticality is unlikely.

But he criticized TEPCO and the nuclear safety agency for their handling of the matter. He says they are failing to properly explain the state of the reactors to the people.

Monday, February 06, 2012 20:48 +0900 (JST)

●Nuke plant operators paid \$2 bil. to localities

Newly disclosed documents show that nuclear power plant operators in Japan have paid more than 2 billion dollars to local authorities hosting their facilities over the past 4 decades.

NHK obtained information about the payments from 44 prefectures and municipalities based on the information disclosure system.

The information shows that the payments have reached 2.1 billion dollars since construction of nuclear plants began in the late 1960s.

Of the amount, Tokyo Electric Power Company which operates the disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant paid nearly 460 million dollars. Other utilities have continued making payments ever since the accident at the plant.

Power companies pay the money to promote the construction of nuclear plants. Some local governments ask for donations to invest the money in the regional economies.

The utilities view the payments as part of the cost of generating power and pass the expense on in utility fees.

But an economy ministry panel said last week that the payments should not be counted as a cost.

Host communities have spent the money in various ways. They include public works projects, events and scholarships as well as statues of animation characters and promotional videos.

The host communities also receive subsidies from the central government, but the payments decrease in stages. Until 2003, they were only allowed to use the money to construct public facilities.

The payments are apparently convenient for some communities that are struggling to find ways to maintain the facilities.

Monday, February 06, 2012 19:22 +0900 (JST)

●Govt to create more decontamination bases

The Environment Ministry plans to decontaminate more public facilities in Fukushima Prefecture to use them as bases for cleaning up radioactive substances. The government wants to decontaminate no-entry and evacuation zones around the damaged Fukushima Daiichi plant. It hopes to create a safe environment so

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that residents can return to the area.

The ministry has designated 16 facilities, including schools and assembly halls, as bases for decontamination. Four municipal offices were cleaned up in December.

The operation is to be completed next month.

The government plans to begin radiation monitoring in these zones in a few months, and begin the decontamination process this summer.

Monday, February 06, 2012 11:48 +0900 (JST)

END