

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. 254: 12:00, November 3

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **TEPCO: Reactor may have gone critical**
- **TEPCO: Radiation levels unchanged**
- **Temperature, pressure unchanged in No.2 reactor**
- **Nuke watchdog says fresh meltdown unlikely**

(Other news)

- **Radioactive materials detected in Tokyo Bay**
- **Tokyo helps dispose of disaster rubble**
- **Genkai reactor resumes power generation**
- **SDP head criticizes Genkai reactor restart**
- **Winter electricity-saving campaign starts**

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●TEPCO: Reactor may have gone critical

The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says it found in the facility's No.2 reactor radioactive substances that could have resulted from continuous nuclear fission.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, said on Wednesday that it detected xenon-133 and xenon-135 in gas taken from the reactor's containment vessel on the previous day. The substances were reportedly in concentrations of 6 to more than 10 parts per million becquerels per cubic centimeter.

Xenon-135 was also detected in gas samples collected on Wednesday.

Radioactive xenon is produced during nuclear fission.

The half-life of xenon-133 is 5 days, and that of xenon-135 is 9 hours.

TEPCO says the findings suggest that nuclear fission may have occurred recently, not just after the March 11th accident, and that a state of criticality could have occurred temporarily in some areas.

TEPCO workers poured a boric acid solution into the reactor on Wednesday to suppress nuclear fission.

The utility says it has not found any significant change in temperature and pressure of the reactor, and that large-scale criticality did not occur.

TEPCO says the reactor's cooling process is continuing and that the firm expects to achieve cold shutdown at the plant this year as planned. But the utility also says it wants to take a close look at the situation of the plant's No.1 and 3 reactors.

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 20:37 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO: Radiation levels unchanged

TEPCO says the radiation reading taken on Wednesday near the No.2 reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant was basically unchanged from the day before.

The utility says the reading, taken at a monitoring post about 500 meters northwest of the reactor, stood at 293 microsieverts per hour at 9 AM, up only one microsievert from 24 hours earlier.

It says the radiation level near the compound's west gate, about one kilometer from the No.2 reactor, was also unchanged at 11.2 microsieverts per hour, and that no neutron radiation was detected.

Readings at 8 other monitoring posts on Wednesday were also the same as Tuesday.

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 11:41 +0900 (JST)

●Temperature, pressure unchanged in No.2 reactor

TEPCO says temperature and pressure in the No.2 reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is basically unchanged in a 24-hour period between

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Tuesday and Wednesday.

The company says the temperature at the bottom of the reactor was 76 degrees Celsius as of 5 AM on Wednesday. That was down 1.4 degrees from 24 hours earlier.

The reactor's pressure gauge registered 0.007 megapascals at 5 AM on Wednesday, down one part per thousand from the same time on Tuesday .

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 12:05 +0900 (JST)

●Nuke watchdog says fresh meltdown unlikely

Japan's nuclear watchdog says it believes another meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is unlikely, but will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency held a news conference on Wednesday, after radioactive xenon was detected in the containment vessel of the No.2 reactor. The presence of the substance indicates that nuclear fission may have briefly resumed.

The safety agency says it is unlikely that nuclear fuel has begun melting again, as the density of xenon is low and there has been no change in the reactor's temperatures.

The agency also says it will closely monitor if xenon continues to be detected after Tokyo Electric Power Company poured boric acid solution into the reactor to suppress nuclear fission.

It added that it cannot yet say how the latest development will affect the government's plan to achieve a cold shutdown of the disabled reactors by the end of the year.

Senior official Yoshinori Moriyama said it is difficult to determine the amount of nuclear fuel remaining in the containment vessel of the No.2 reactor. He said his agency will assess the situation and judge if it is still possible to stably lower temperatures in the reactor and containment vessel.

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 15:10 +0900 (JST)

●Radioactive materials detected in Tokyo Bay

Waste water discharged into Tokyo Bay from a cement plant has been found to contain radioactive cesium at much higher levels than the government-set limit for disposal.

The plant in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, uses ash from incinerators in the prefecture to produce cement.

The Chiba government says the plant operator checked waste water discharged from the plant into Tokyo Bay once in September and once in October.

It found radioactive cesium at levels of 1,103 becquerels per kilogram, and 1,054 becquerels per kilogram respectively.

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The levels are 14 to 15 times higher than the limit set by the country's Nuclear Safety Commission.

The water had been used to clean filters which remove toxic materials from ashes.

The operator stopped discharging the waste water on Wednesday. The prefectural government has launched a survey of the seawater of Tokyo Bay near the plant.

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 22:08 +0900 (JST)

●Tokyo helps dispose of disaster rubble

Piles of rubble will be transported to Tokyo for disposal on Wednesday from the quake and tsunami-hit prefecture of Iwate.

The March 11th disaster has created millions of tons of waste. The central government has been asking prefectures outside the affected areas to help with disposal. But many are reluctant, fearing the rubble is contaminated with radiation.

Iwate Prefecture has more than 4 million tons of debris. The Tokyo Metropolitan government has offered to accept 11,000 tons of it for disposal.

Work to transfer it from a temporary storage site began in Miyako City on Wednesday.

Samples were checked for possible radiation contamination before the rubble was placed in sealed containers and loaded onto trucks.

The loaded cargo was checked again, confirming that radiation levels were below the agreed level of 0.14 microsieverts per hour.

Miyako Mayor Masanori Yamamoto thanked Tokyo for helping with disposal, saying it would help accelerate the effort to rebuild.

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 13:05 +0900 (JST)

●Genkai reactor resumes power generation

A reactor at the Genkai nuclear plant in Saga Prefecture, southwestern Japan, has resumed power generation after a nearly monthlong stoppage.

The resumption at the plant's No. 4 reactor took place on Wednesday afternoon. The reactor had stopped generating power automatically on October 4th due to a procedural error.

The plant's operator, Kyushu Electric Power Company, restarted the reactor on Tuesday after getting the go-ahead from the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

Kyushu Electric plans to gradually increase the amount of power generated and return to normal operation by Friday.

The plant is the first in Japan to resume operation after the March accident at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The reactor is scheduled to be stopped for a regular inspection next month.

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Wednesday, November 02, 2011 17:01 +0900 (JST)

●SDP head criticizes Genkai reactor restart

Opposition Social Democratic Party leader Mizuho Fukushima is criticizing the government for allowing the restart of a nuclear reactor in western Japan.

The No.4 reactor at the Genkai plant in Saga Prefecture was shut down early last month in a procedural error. Kyushu Power Electric Company will restart the reactor later on Wednesday.

Fukushima told her party executive on Wednesday the government's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency and Nuclear Safety Commission can't be trusted. She called for open debate before restarting any nuclear reactors. She strongly opposed restarting the Genkai reactor saying there was no discussion about it in the Diet.

Fukushima noted the Kyushu utility has been criticized recently for trying to manipulate public opinion in favor of nuclear power. She said she can't believe the industry ministry and the agency have approved restarting the reactor.

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 16:39 +0900 (JST)

●Winter electricity-saving campaign starts

Power-saving efforts have begun in the western Japanese city of Kitakyushu due to concerns over a possible energy shortage this winter.

The city launched the 5-month electricity-saving campaign on Tuesday, calling for employees to dress warmly and use less heating.

Heaters will be set at 19 degrees Celsius at about 190 municipal facilities, including city hall and ward offices.

Workers are encouraged to keep themselves warm with cardigan sweaters, lap robes and hot drinks.

The central government will ask households and companies in the Kyushu region to voluntarily cut their electricity consumption by more than 5 percent.

All nuclear power plants operated by the Kyushu Electric Power Company will be halted for regular checkups by the end of the year.

A city official said he supports the initiative because he has heard about the tight power supply that is expected this winter.

Wednesday, November 02, 2011 17:02 +0900 (JST)

End