

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. 265: 12:00, November 15

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

(Other news)

- **Shikoku electric submits reactor test results**
- **Radioactive cesium may have reached Hokkaido**

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●Shikoku electric submits reactor test results

An electric company in western Japan has submitted to the government the results of safety tests on a reactor at its nuclear power plant. The plant has been offline since a month after the accident at the Fukushima plant.

Shikoku Electric Power Company executive Susumu Tanigawa handed the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency the results of the so-called stress test on the No. 3 reactor at Ikata nuclear plant in Ehime Prefecture on Monday.

The utility says the test results show that the reactor can withstand seismic shaking of up to 1,000 gals, around 1.9 times the assumed maximum intensity of a quake, and it can hold out against a tsunami of up to 14.2 meters.

The nuclear watchdog agency will scrutinize the test results.

A final decision to reactivate the reactor will be made by the government.

Sikoku Electric became the 2nd utility to submit stress test results after the Fukushima accident.

But prospects for the restart of idle reactors are uncertain.

Some nuclear experts voiced criticism of the reactor safety tests on Monday at the first meeting of a government panel to discuss ways to evaluate the results.

One member said the stress test should not be the only condition for restarting reactors when the cause of the Fukushima accident has not been clarified.

Some also said it will be impossible to gain public understanding if safety evaluations are conducted solely by the government-run nuclear safety agency, and stressed the need to listen to the opinions of local residents.

Disagreements within the panel lead to it putting off specific discussions on evaluating the test results of the No. 3 reactor at Kansai Electric's Ohi plant, which were submitted earlier in October.

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 06:16 +0900 (JST)

●Radioactive cesium may have reached Hokkaido

A team of researchers says radioactive cesium discharged from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant may have contaminated soil in Hokkaido and areas of western Japan more than 500 kilometers from the plant.

The international team, including researchers from Nagoya University, simulated the spread of radioactive materials. They combined global atmospheric patterns with nationwide radioactive measurements taken over one month from March 20th, 8 days after a hydrogen explosion at the Fukushima plant.

The researchers say the results suggested that some cesium-137 had reached the northernmost island of Hokkaido, and the Chugoku and Shikoku regions of western Japan.

They say the radioactive material may have accumulated in the soil due to rain.

Cesium-137 has a half-life of 30 years.

But the research team says the pollution is not high enough to require decontamination.

The radiation density per kilogram reached 250 becquerels in eastern Hokkaido, and 25 becquerels in mountainous areas of western Japan.

Nagoya University professor Tetsuzo Yasunari says the simulation suggested cesium had dispersed across a wide area. He called for a nationwide testing of

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soil, and warnings of hot spots where radiation levels are high.
Tuesday, November 15, 2011 06:16 +0900 (JST)

End