

Canadian News

E-MAIL SHARE FONT-SIZE Tweet 0 Like 1 0

Decommissioning Of Fukushima Nuke Plant To Begin This Year

1/3/2013 7:49 AMET

The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) plans to start work on decommissioning its tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan's northeast, first by removing spent fuel rods by November this year. The decommissioning process is expected to take 40 years, Japanese media reported on Thursday.

The March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami sent three reactors of the plant into meltdown spewing radiation into the air and ocean, forcing the evacuation of more than 160,000 residents in a 30-kilometer radius of the plant. Besides, a hydrogen explosion had damaged the structure that houses a fourth reactor.

During the initial stages of decommissioning, TEPCO workers will need to remove the spent fuel and dismantle reactor buildings while keeping melted fuel cool, the NHK public broadcaster reported.

The first step in that process involves removal of 1,533 spent fuel rods stored in the pool in the reactor-4 building. It will be a delicate operation, made even more sensitive by the fact that the hydrogen explosion raised concerns about the earthquake resistance of the structure.

The work, planned to start in mid-November, is expected to finish by the end of 2014. Cranes and other heavy machinery needed for the job have been brought to the site, where high levels of radiation and other problems continued to slow down the decommissioning process.

TEPCO is also required to speed up a survey in preparation for its plan to remove the melted fuel within ten years and accelerate efforts this year to develop remote-controlled robots to assist the workers in removing the spent fuel rods.

Besides the huge expenditure involved in the decommissioning work, TEPCO, Asia's biggest power company, has to raise funds for compensating the displaced that would run into more than \$30 billion.

by RTT Staff Writer

For comments and feedback: editorial@rttnews.com

Business News

Empty text input box for comments.

Canadian News

- Reitmans Canada December Same-Store Sales Drops 3.4% - Quick Facts
TSX Ends Higher On U.S. Fiscal Cliff Deal - Canadian Commentary
IBEX Technologies Buys Bio-Research Products
TSX Extends Gains On US Fiscal Deal - Canadian Commentary
InterDigital, Research In Motion Extend Patent License
TSX Jumps At Open Wednesday
TSX Poised For Strong Open - Canadian Commentary
Euro Drops To 12-day Low Against Canadian Dollar
Int'l Mining & Infrast confirms intention to make offer for Afferro
Posco to acquire interest in ArcelorMittal Mines Canada : Bloomberg
Petrobank and PetroBakken completes reorganization - Quick Facts
Evolving Gold Issues 5.56 Mln Shares To Pinetree Capital - Quick Facts
Pacific Rubiales Energy closes acquisition of C&C Energia - Quick Facts
TSX Little Changed Amid US Fiscal Cliff Anxiety - Canadian Commentary
Petaquilla Minerals receives \$140 Mln loan facility
TSX flat at open Monday
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce reaches settlement with Lehman estate
TSX Poised For Flat Open - Canadian Commentary

18 Articles

Newsletters & Alerts

- Breaking News Alerts
Daily Market Briefing
Health
Technology
Biotechnology

SIGN UP

Follow RTT



Editor's Pick Most Read Most E-Mailed

- Al Jazeera Buys US Cable Channel To Cater American Audience
Spanish Unemployment Drops First Time In 5 Months
German December Unemployment Rises Less Than Expected
U.K. House Prices Fall As Housing Conditions Remain Fragile
China Service Sector Growth At 4-Month High
News Of Fiscal Cliff Deal Leads To Rally On Wall Street - U.S. Commentary
House Adjourns Without Acting On Hurricane Sandy Aid Bill
U.S. Construction Spending Unexpectedly Drops 0.3% In November
U.S. Manufacturing Activity Shows Modest Rebound In December
Bipartisan New Year Gift To Middle Class Americans



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Nancy Foust  
([Change](#))

Facebook social plugin

Copyright © 2013 RTTNews. All rights reserved. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#).  
[Privacy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sitemap](#)