

TEPCO Releases Report on Tsunami that Hit Fukushima NPS: Height of Wave Three Times Higher than Projected in Plant Design

On April 9, the Tokyo Electric Power Co., Inc. (TEPCO) released a detailed report on the tsunami that struck its Fukushima Daiichi and Daini Nuclear Power Stations (NPSs) following the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11.

At the heavily-damaged Fukushima Daiichi NPS, the inundation height from base sea level was about 14 to 15 meters, or almost three times the assumed 5.7-meter tsunami. Given that ground level is 10 meters at Units 1 through 4 and 13 meters at Units 5 and 6, Units 1 through 4 were inundated by about 4 to 5 meters of water, with Units 5 and 6 being inundated by up to one meter.

The inundated area includes the entire ocean side where the seawater pumps were installed, and most of the main building area where the reactor buildings and turbine buildings were located.

At the Fukushima Daini NPS, the inundation height was about 6.5 to 7 meters, higher than the assumed tsunami height of 5.2 meters. Although the ground level at the site is 12 meters above sea level, the run-up height of the wave in the main building area reached about 14 to 15 meters on the south side of the Unit 1 buildings, with flooding of about 2 to 3 meters (see photo).



Source: TEPCO

The total area on the ocean side, where seawater pumps were located, was inundated. In addition, within the area containing the reactor and turbine buildings, only the parts around the Unit 1 and 2 buildings and the south side of the Unit 3 buildings were flooded by seawater, but not elsewhere.

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