

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. 115: 18:00, June 17

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **New road map focuses on worker health**
- **Leak source identified at Fukushima Daiichi plant**
- **TEPCO account of first 5 days**
- **Leaking water may delay decontamination**
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- **TEPCO: Opening door of No.2 reactor is safe**

(Other news)

- **Compensation proposed for nuclear evacuees**
- **Fukushima City expands radiation checks**
- **Yokohama checks school lunches for radiation**
- **Govt sets policy to handle radiation sludge**

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●New road map focuses on worker health

A revised road map for stabilizing the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will feature new measures to ensure the health of personnel working amid high radioactivity.

Tokyo Electric Power Company will release a revised version of its road map later on Friday, 2 months after the first one.

New sections on radiation management and worker health will be added to measures aimed at cooling down and stabilizing the reactors and dealing with the massive amount of radioactive water flooding the facilities.

The introduction of the new measures follows revelations that workers may have been exposed to radiation at levels beyond government-set emergency limits.

The move imposes stricter controls on working hours and creates a system that will automatically record workers' exposure to radiation. It will also increase the number of devices used to check possible internal exposure.

More medical doctors will be on duty round the clock at the site, and new rest facilities for workers will be added.

Friday, June 17, 2011 13:13 +0900 (JST)

●Leak source identified at Fukushima Daiichi plant

Tokyo Electric Power Company says that a damaged valve caused a water leak in a system to decontaminate the highly radioactive water accumulating in the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The utility is making efforts to restore the newly installed water treatment system.

The system's final test run was suspended on Thursday night after water was found leaking from a US-made device that removes radioactive cesium. The device is one of the major components of the system.

Company officials found that an air ventilation valve in one of the containers comprising the device had been damaged. They also discovered that a water valve in another container was closed.

They concluded that contaminated water inside the cesium removal device had escaped through the air valve, resulting in the leak.

The company is now replacing the damaged valve.

It plans to resume the test run as soon as possible and start full-scale operation of the decontamination system within Friday as initially planned.

Tokyo Electric says the system is essential to its efforts to reduce the amount of highly radioactive water accumulating in the plant. It is feared that the water could overflow in around 10 days.

Friday, June 17, 2011 12:48 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO account of first 5 days

Tokyo Electric Power Company has compiled a document on what happened at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant during the first 5 days after the March 11th earthquake and tsunami triggered the nuclear accident.

The approximately 50-page document chronicles in detail the events that took place at the plant, centering on reactors 1, 2 and 3, as well as TEPCO's responses. The document includes photos taken inside the nuclear complex and testimony

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by workers dealing with the accident.

It shows workers in a central control room on the night of March 11th amid a total power outage trying to secure power for their gauges using vehicle-mounted batteries.

The document describes how the need for workers to wear air cylinders and masks lengthened the task of checking the pumps in the No.2 reactor building to nearly one hour, although it normally takes about 10 minutes.

It also shows the state of the reactor buildings after hydrogen explosions and damage inside the buildings caused by the earthquake and tsunami.

The document will soon be made public.

Friday, June 17, 2011 10:05 +0900 (JST)

●Leaking water may delay decontamination

At the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant leaking water is threatening to delay full operation of a system to decontaminate highly radioactive water.

The operator of the plant, Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, had been planning to start full operation of the water treatment system on Friday. It has been carrying out a final test runs.

But a US-made device to remove radioactive materials -- such as cesium -- automatically stopped running on Thursday evening due to leaking water.

The utility company says it is examining the cause of the trouble and trying to fix the problem, but that the suspension may delay full-scale operation of the water treatment system.

Treatment of the contaminated water is key to controlling the nuclear crisis.

The highly radioactive water is building up at a rate of 500 tons a day as fresh water is being poured onto the reactors to cool them down.

The main facility to store radioactive water reached capacity on Thursday, and any delay in launching the treatment system could cause contaminated water to overflow in 10 days.

Full operation of the water treatment system is a precondition of the company's plan to use the water to continuously cool down the reactors.

TEPCO announced its road map 2 months ago to solve the nuclear crisis, and it is to review progress and the timetable on Friday.

Friday, June 17, 2011 04:55 +0900 (JST)

●Radioactive water still threatens to overflow

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant is under pressure to ensure the flawless operation of a system to decontaminate radioactive water, which threatens to overflow.

More than 110,000 tons of the highly radioactive water has accumulated in the nuclear complex.

The amount is growing by 500 tons a day as fresh water is injected into reactors to cool them down.

Tokyo Electric Power Company says it's vital to put the water treatment system into full operation on Friday, as scheduled.

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Any delay in launching the system could cause contaminated water to overflow within 2 weeks.

TEPCO admits, however, that water may leak from pipes connecting devices, even if the system works as planned.

To block leaks, preparations are under way to build more storage tanks and to install a US-made back-up filtering device.

But the tanks will not be installed until next month at the earliest and the back-up device is unlikely to be mounted before August.

TEPCO has also yet to decide how to dispose of radioactive waste generated during the decontamination process.

Thursday, June 16, 2011 20:24 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO: Opening door of No.2 reactor is safe

Tokyo Electric Power Company plans to open the doors to the reactor Number 2 building at the Fukushima Daiichi plant for ventilation, to lower humidity and start restoration work.

Tokyo Electric said on Thursday that an air purification device, which has been working since last Saturday, has reduced radioactive concentration inside the building to levels that have little impact on the nearby environment.

The utility said the concentration of radioactive iodine in the air has been reduced to about one-10th of former levels and radioactive cesium to about a quarter, as of Wednesday night.

Tokyo Electric assesses that the impact of the door-opening on the environment around the plant will be sufficiently below the permissible annual limit for ordinary people of one millisievert.

The utility plans to open the doors after obtaining approval from the government's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency and local governments.

An initial stage of the planned restoration work will include staff surveying radiation levels and adjusting gauges.

Inside the reactor Number 2 building, the humidity has been extremely high, due to moisture apparently from the containment vessel and spent-fuel storage pool, and is hampering restoration work.

Thursday, June 16, 2011 18:13 +0900 (JST)

●Compensation proposed for nuclear evacuees

A government panel is proposing that Japan's nuclear evacuees receive monthly compensation of 100,000 yen, or about 1,240 dollars, for mental suffering experienced during the first 6 months.

The panel came up with a draft plan for payments to people who were forced to evacuate by government order after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

According to the draft plan, each evacuee is to receive the full amount within the first 6 months. The panel says mental suffering is at its peak during this period.

Those deemed to be living under harsh conditions, such as gymnasiums and community centers, will receive an additional payment of about 250 dollars per

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month.

In the second 6 months, compensation will be reduced to about half. The panel says the inconveniences to evacuees will be reduced significantly during this phase as they re-establish their lives.

The panel has yet to decide what will happen after one year of payments.

People who were ordered to stay indoors by the government will receive up to 1,240 dollars a month.

Friday, June 17, 2011 10:27 +0900 (JST)

●Fukushima City expands radiation checks

Fukushima City has begun monitoring radiation levels at more than 1,000 additional sites to respond to its residents' concerns about possible contamination after the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The capital of Fukushima Prefecture is about 50 kilometers northwest of the crippled plant.

The city has been monitoring radiation levels at around 160 places, including parks and schools, and released the results on its website.

On Friday, 1,045 locations, including roads in residential areas, were added to the check list, to respond to residents' demands for more information about radiation levels.

At a road near a park, 2 officials checked radiation levels one centimeter, 50 centimeters and one meter above the ground.

They said the levels were below the official limits.

A housewife who lives near the park said the city should have checked earlier, but she is grateful for the detailed information.

The head of the city's environment division said he hopes the intensified monitoring will help to ease residents' concerns.

Fukushima City will check radiation levels again on Monday and will release the results next Thursday.

Friday, June 17, 2011 16:49 +0900 (JST)

●Govt to designate new evacuation spots near plant

Japan's government plans to help some residents in Fukushima evacuate on an individual basis. Their houses are not in evacuation areas but are located where radiation levels exceed the threshold of 20 millisieverts a year.

The government's nuclear accident task force announced on Thursday a plan to designate which houses will need to be evacuated in such areas.

The government estimates that accumulated levels of radiation in some spots in cities near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, including Date and Minami Soma, will reach the yardstick for one year.

The task force says it is not appropriate to issue an evacuation order or restrict industrial activities in entire areas.

The government plans to ask relevant municipalities for cooperation in evacuating pregnant women and children, primarily.

Thursday, June 16, 2011 19:28 +0900 (JST)

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●Yokohama checks school lunches for radiation

Yokohama City, located hundreds of kilometers from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, has begun radiation testing of vegetables for school lunches.

The city started the tests on Thursday in response to parents' concerns about whether food served in school is safe for their children, given the widespread fallout from the Fukushima plant.

Yokohama plans to test one type of vegetable per day before using it the next day. The city also plans to release the test results on its website.

On Thursday, technicians at a lab in the city cut up 2 kilograms of green peppers and put them in a machine for measuring radiation.

A city official says all food purchased by the city is safe for children, but that it decided to conduct the tests to reassure parents.

Several other municipalities in Tokyo and surrounding areas have already started or plan to soon start similar tests.

Thursday, June 16, 2011 18:09 +0900 (JST)

●Govt sets policy to handle radiation sludge

The government has announced guidelines on how to dispose of sludge that contains radioactive material.

Radioactive material has been detected in sludge from waste water treatment plants in many areas, mainly in eastern Japan, since the crisis began at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The guidelines released by the government's nuclear disaster taskforce on Thursday say disposal facilities with filters will be used to prevent radiation leaks from fumes that are created when sludge is burned or dissolved.

They say sludge containing radiation of more than 100,000 becquerels per kilogram will be stored at facilities tightly shielded by substances like concrete.

But the taskforce will continue discussions to determine how to ultimately dispose of it.

The guidelines say sludge measuring over 8,000 to 100,000 becquerels of radiation can be buried in waste disposal sites, after steps are taken to limit nearby residents' annual exposure to 10 microsieverts or lower.

They also say sludge bearing readings of 8,000 becquerels or less can be buried after thorough waterproofing measures have been taken, as long as disposal sites are not used for housing purposes.

The government has informed 13 relevant prefectures of the decision.

Thursday, June 16, 2011 18:09 +0900 (JST)

End