

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. 122: 18:00, June 24

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **TEPCO working to prevent overflow of toxic water**
- **TEPCO hopes to resume water decontamination**
- **Valve likely set incorrectly from the beginning**

(Other news)

- **Parents concerned about children's radiation**
- **High level of radiation exposure estimated**
- **Dosimeters will be given to 280,000 children**
- **Meeting to explain safety measures to be held**

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●TEPCO working to prevent overflow of toxic water

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant is striving to prevent highly radioactive water from overflowing the facility amid delays in restarting a key water decontamination system.

Tokyo Electric Power Company has been reducing the volume of water injected into the first 3 reactors since Tuesday to curb a further build-up of highly radioactive water at the plant.

On Friday, it further reduced the volume of water injected into the No.3 reactor by 0.5 tons to 9 tons per hour.

But limiting the amount of water could allow the temperature of the reactors to rise.

To aggravate the situation, rain is continuing to fall in the area where the power plant is located.

Last month, accumulated rainfall of 100 millimeters pushed up the water levels by around 50 to 60 millimeters.

TEPCO is plugging holes in the roofs of the turbine buildings and stacking sandbags to prevent rain water from entering the facility.

The power company is continuing test runs of the decontamination system to work out ways to ensure its optimal operation.

It says it has so far processed around 2,500 tons of radioactive water with the system. On Friday, it began work to desalinate treated water with the aim of recycling it to cool down the overheating reactors.

Friday, June 24, 2011 12:51 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO hopes to resume water decontamination

The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant hopes to resume the water decontamination process at the plant within several days.

At the nuclear power plant, a water treatment system started operation last Friday, but it ceased functioning after only 5 hours due to a sharp rise in radiation levels in US-made equipment built to absorb radioactive material.

Tokyo Electric Power Company hopes to restart the system and continue the decontamination process by pouring low levels of contaminated water into the equipment to decrease radiation levels.

The decontamination process has been halted several times due to a series of problems.

Friday, June 24, 2011 07:00 +0900 (JST)

●Valve likely set incorrectly from the beginning

The operator of the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant says it was unaware of an incorrectly opened valve that caused another disruption in its ongoing test run to filter radioactive water.

Tokyo Electric Power Company found on Wednesday that a US-made device attached to the water treatment system had lowered concentration of radioactive cesium by just 10 percent the planned amount.

The open valve meant that some contaminated water passed through only one of the system's 3 absorbent chambers. The valve is believed to have been incorrectly

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set since the device was installed.

The amount of contaminated water on site is growing by about 400 tons a day, as fresh water is injected into reactors to cool them. The rainy season threatens to raise the water levels further.

The test-run was interrupted on Tuesday after a pump to send water into French-made decontamination equipment stopped, also due to the wrong setting of a valve.

Thursday, June 23, 2011 19:40 +0900 (JST)

●Parents concerned about children's radiation

Parents and teachers in Fukushima Prefecture are skeptical about the government-set level of exposure to radiation for children, especially in relation to outdoor activities. They fear children's health may be affected by radioactive contamination from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The education ministry released a report to the Nuclear Safety Commission on Thursday concerning school yards at 55 locations where high levels of radiation had been detected. It also reported that after the top soil was removed at 41 locations, the radiation level dropped to 0.5 microsieverts per hour on average.

The report also said that all locations had radiation levels under the government-set 3.8 microsieverts per hour. The ministry has said that schools where this level is met can restart children's outdoor activities.

But many parents and teachers in the prefecture are skeptical about the standard set by the ministry.

They say exposure of 3.8 microsieverts per hour is too high compared to the long-term reference level recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

All schools continue to refrain from outdoor activities or limit them to 1 to 3 hours per day.

The Nuclear Safety Commission member Seiji Shiroya says the standard should not be set unilaterally and that it should be established at a level all, including the parents, can accept.

Friday, June 24, 2011 07:59 +0900 (JST)

●High level of radiation exposure estimated

A group of doctors has found that the estimated level of accumulated internal radiation exposure for people living in Fukushima Prefecture has exceeded 3 millisieverts.

The researchers, including doctors who have provided medical care to A-bomb survivors, conducted analysis on the food and urine of 15 residents in Iitate Village and Kawamata Town in Fukushima Prefecture. These areas are about 40 kilometers from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

They estimate that residents have been internally exposed to up to 3.2 millisieverts for about 2 months, measuring from the date of the accident in March until early May.

Three millisieverts is 3 times higher than the long-term annual limit for ordinary people recommended by the International Commission on Radiological

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Protection.

One of the researchers, Nanao Kamada, says people should refrain from eating vegetables grown in the area where high levels of radiation have been detected.

Friday, June 24, 2011 07:00 +0900 (JST)

●Dosimeters will be given to 280,000 children

Fukushima Prefecture has decided to distribute dosimeters to about 280 thousand children to monitor their radiation exposure caused by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Voices of parents expressing concern about their children's health have been growing louder.

The prefecture said on Thursday it will give dosimeters to children ranging from infants to junior high school students.

The prefecture will also subsidize cities and villages to replace top soil in the school yards or set up air conditioners in schools.

Some municipalities in the prefecture have already distributed, or decided to distribute, dosimeters to children to monitor radiation exposure.

The prefecture will provide financial help to those municipalities.

Friday, June 24, 2011 07:00 +0900 (JST)

●Meeting to explain safety measures to be held

The Japanese government will hold a meeting on Sunday in western Japan to explain to local residents about safety measures taken to resume a nuclear power plant in the area. The meeting will be the first of its kind since the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

After the accident, most nuclear power plants in Japan have halted operations.

Restarting the plant's 2 reactors, located in the town of Genkai, Saga Prefecture, has the backing of the local mayor. But the prefecture governor is maintaining a cautious stance.

At Sunday's meeting, the safety measures will be explained by officials from the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, overseen by the industry ministry. The meeting will be broadcast live on cable TV and the Internet.

The government however has been criticized for its decision to choose only around 7 residents to participate in the meeting. Many local people are saying this will severely limit the wide range of opinions needed from the prefecture.

Friday, June 24, 2011 07:00 +0900 (JST)

End