

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. 412: 12:00, April 26

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

(Other news)

- **Cesium contaminated fish found in Tone river**
- **Residents to be briefed on Ohi plant restart plan**
- **NISA OKs anti-tsunami measures at Hamaoka plant**
- **Japan's last online reactor to shut down**

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●Cesium contaminated fish found in Tone river

Radioactive cesium exceeding the new legal limit has been found in fish in the Tone River, which passes north of Tokyo. Authorities have taken measures to stop the shipment of fish caught in the river.

Chiba prefectural officials say a silver crucian carp caught in the river contained 110 becquerels of radioactive cesium per kilogram. The new limit is 100 becquerels per kilogram.

The Tone River is the river with the largest drainage area in Japan. The town where the contaminated fish was caught is located about 180 kilometers from the disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The prefecture has asked 10 municipalities along the river and 6 fishery cooperatives not to ship fish from the river to market.

Last month, fish and shellfish pulled from a pond near the river were removed from circulation because of radiation levels above the legal limit.

Prefectural officials say they will check other types of freshwater fish for radioactivity.

Thursday, April 26, 2012 08:34 +0900 (JST)

●Residents to be briefed on Ohi plant restart plan

Residents of a town hosting the Ohi nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture will gather a meeting on Thursday to hear about the Japanese government's plan to restart the plant's 2 reactors.

Ohi town officials say they will decide whether to approve restarting the reactors after hearing what the residents have to say.

The meeting is in response to a request by Ohi Town, following calls by industry minister Yukio Edano earlier this month for understanding on the need to restart the reactors.

Senior Vice Minister Mitsuyoshi Yanagisawa will explain how the 2 reactors have met the government's safety standards for resuming operations, and why they need to be restarted.

The meeting will be open only to local residents. More than 700 people are expected to attend.

All 50 of Japan's nuclear reactors will be offline when the last reactor still online in the northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido is shut down for regular inspections early next month.

If the government goes ahead and restarts the Ohi reactors, they will be the first to resume operations since the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Thursday, April 26, 2012 07:46 +0900 (JST)

●NISA OKs anti-tsunami measures at Hamaoka plant

Japan's nuclear safety agency says anti-tsunami measures for the Hamaoka nuclear power plant on the Pacific coast in central Japan are appropriate.

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The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said on Wednesday that the nuclear plant in Shizuoka Prefecture would be safe if it were hit by a 21-meter high tsunami. The agency came to this conclusion after examining a report submitted earlier this month by plant operator Chubu Electric Power Company.

The report came after a government panel last month revised upward its prediction for the likely intensity of a major earthquake expected along the Nankai Trough in the Pacific Ocean. It also raised to 21-meters the maximum tsunami height that could be triggered by such a mega-quake.

Chubu Electric started building an 18-meter high breakwater at the plant last year. The operator's report said that if cooling functions of its offline reactors are lost after a tsunami strikes, it would take at least 6 days for fuel rods to be exposed, allowing the company enough time to recover cooling functions at a pump on higher ground.

The agency instructed the utility to carry out comprehensive drills to inject water into reactors in the event of emergencies.

The agency also urged the company to re-assess a possible impact by a tsunami and revise its countermeasures if the government panel produces detailed verification about a possible major earthquake in the region.

Thursday, April 26, 2012 02:26 +0900 (JST)

●Japan's last online reactor to shut down

Japan's only online commercial nuclear reactor in the northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido is to be shut down for regular inspections early next month.

Hokkaido Electric Power Company released on Wednesday its regular inspection plan for the Number 3 reactor at the Tomari nuclear power plant.

The utility says it will begin reducing the reactor's power output on May 5th and complete the procedure the following day.

With the shutdown, all 50 commercial reactors in Japan will be offline if none of the reactors now halted for regular checks are allowed to resume operations.

Earlier this month, four damaged reactors at Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant were officially removed from the list of the country's commercial reactors.

The central government has been seeking the cooperation of local communities for the resumption of two offline reactors at the Ohi nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture. The government says the reactors meet the government's new safety standards for resuming operations.

But it is unclear whether any of the reactors around the country now halted for inspections, including those in Fukui, can be restarted.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 20:36 +0900 (JST)

End