

Fukushima I-5 Stopped Manually to Check Suspect Valve

On August 21, it was discovered during regular testing of the “B” core spray system at Tokyo Electric Power Co.’s Fukushima I-5 NPS (BWR, 784MW) that the flow required from the system could not be ensured while the unit was in constant operation at rated thermal output.

As the other systems were functioning normally – namely, the “A” system and the low pressure coolant injection system – TEPCO suspected some irregularity in a flow-control valve used exclusively for the regular testing of the “B” system. Since that valve could not be inspected during plant operation, TEPCO manually stopped the unit on Aug. 22 to carry out a detailed investigation.

Reactor core spray systems from one link in the emergency core cooling system. Consisting of “A” and “B” systems, they are intended to spray cooling water from the upper part of the reactor core to prevent damage to fuel and fuel cladding tubes in case of overheating during loss-of-coolant accidents. Low-pressure coolant injection systems (also “A” and “B”), meanwhile, maintain a certain level of water in the reactor during emergencies.

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