

Hokkaido Electric to Introduce High Burn-up Fuel at Tomari NPS

On October 14, having decided to introduce high burn-up fuel at its Tomari-1, -2 and -3 NPSs, Hokkaido Electric Power Co. submitted petitions for preliminary consent to Hokkaido Prefecture, Kyowa and Iwanai Towns, and Tomari and Kamoenai Villages, under existing safety agreements with each of those municipalities.

The purpose of introducing high burn-up fuel is to reduce the overall volume of spent fuel. Specifically, the current maximum burn-up (48,000Mwd/t) of fuel at Units 1-3 will be increased to 55,000Mwd/t, reducing the generation of spent fuel by some 20%.

The introduction of high burn-up fuel will also require an increase in the number of control rods at Units 1 and 2. In addition, vessel heads will be replaced at those two units to promote the long-term preventive maintenance on the vessel head nozzles. Highly corrosion-resistant zirconium alloy will be used as the fuel clad material.

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