

RFS Begins Operation

On November 21, the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) and the Japan Atomic Power Co. (JAPC) established a new company, the Recyclable Fuel Storage Company (RFS), in Mutsu City (Aomori Pref.), to serve as the business entity running the interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel. By the year 2010, RFS will commence operations of the Recyclable Fuel Storage Center to be built in the city. (See the November 8 article entitled "TEPCO and JAPC Jointly Set Up Firm for Interim Storage in Mutsu".)

On the same day, following a religious service led by a Shinto priest, a ceremony was held unveiling a plaque with the name of the new company, RFS. At the ceremony, Pres. Makoto Kubo said, "RFS was launched thanks to the efforts of many people. As the first interim storage facility of its sort in Japan, it is no exaggeration to say that the future of Japan's nuclear fuel policy rides on its success or failure."

RFS was newly established to serve as the management entity and interim storage site for all the spent fuel from nuclear power plants (NPPs) owned by TEPCO and JAPC. Capitalized at ¥3 billion (80% from TEPCO and the rest from JAPC), the company will start with 45 employees. Soon detailed investigations will start that are necessary for the application to the national government for a business permit.



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