

Earthquake Resistance of Onagawa-2 Verified

On December 22, the third meeting was held of the working committee on earthquakes and structure design, which falls under the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Subcommittee. At the meeting, members discussed a report previously submitted by the Tohoku Electric Power Co. confirming the earthquake resistance and safety of Unit 2 at that company's Onagawa NPS. On December 26, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) explained the details of the review to Miyagi Prefecture and Onagawa Town. (See the November 29 article entitled, "Verifying Earthquake Resistance at the Onagawa-2 NPS").

The members of the working committee reviewed the appropriateness of Tohoku Electric Power's report, focusing on the following three points, among others: (1) an analysis of why a recent earthquake produced seismic motion that exceeded original NPP design's structural parameters in certain instances, (2) the nature of two sets of posited Miyagi Prefecture earthquakes' seismic motions and safety-confirmation seismic motions, newly drawn up on the basis of that analysis, and (3) a safety evaluation of earthquake resistance based on those seismic movements.

In light of previous deliberations, NISA announced at the recent meeting that "the report, including the additional material, can be evaluated as appropriate, thus confirming that anti-earthquake safety has been secured for Unit 2." Upon hearing the proposal of the deliberations' results, the working committee accepted them.

In the near future, Tohoku Electric Power plans to issue a report concerning Units 1 and 3, while NISA is considering a review of the deliberations on Unit 2.

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