

Mihama-3 to Start Trial Operation in September

On July 25, the Kansai Electric Power Co. announced that it would restart its Mihama-3 NPS (PWR, 826MW) on a trial basis around the end of September.

Operation of Mihama-3 has been suspended since August 2004 when a pipe in the secondary cooling system ruptured, but in March the national government indicated its approval of a restart of the unit, and approval by the Fukui prefectural government followed in May. Inspections and other work in preparation for the restart have been under way since then.

The company began loading fuel on July 29, and an inspection of the leakage rate of the containment vessel will be carried out around the end of August. From the end of September, output will be raised in a trial operation of the unit to check the soundness of the entire facility while generating power. Early in October, the unit will be suspended again temporarily for an inspection of the entire plant. The schedule after the temporary suspension, including commercial operation, will be decided based on the results of the inspection.

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