

Ikata Town Council Approves MOX-fuel Use at Ikata-3

On September 29, at a regular meeting of the Town Council of Ikata Town in Ehime Prefecture, council members unanimously approved the program by the Shikoku Electric Power Co. to use MOX fuel at its Ikata-3 NPS.

The town council's special committee for nuclear power measures, having discussed various issues including public understanding and safety, expressed its opinion that public understanding had deepened thanks to public hearings held by the national and prefectural governments and to door-to-door visits by Shikoku Electric representatives. Also, as far as earthquake safety measures were concerned, the committee reached the judgment that since the MOX-use program would not alter the structure of the nuclear reactor, there would be no direct influence on it. The committee had submitted a report to the town council in favor of the plan, and the council also approved the report.

Mayor Kazuhiko Yamashita of Ikata Town said that he would respect the judgment of the special committee and the town council, and expressed his expectation that the town would render a final judgment in favor of the program. Also, Ehime Gov. Moriyuki Kato has been saying for a long time that he would base his overall judgment on the opinions of Ikata Town and the prefecture's environmental safety committee, which adds even more weight to the town council's recent decision in favor of the program.

The national government had already approved the MOX-use program for Ikata-3 earlier this year, in March.

Editor: Noriyuki Ishii, JAIF