

## **Chugoku Electric Applies for Permission for MOX-use Program**

On October 23, the Chugoku Electric Power Co., upon receipt of the preliminary consent from both Shimane Prefecture and Matsue City for its filing of an application for permission to change a reactor installation in association with the program to use MOX fuel at its Shimane-2 NPS (BWR, 820 MW), filed an application with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) on the same day.

Also on October 23, Chugoku Electric Pres. Takashi Yamashita visited Shimane Gov. Yoshinobu Sumita at the prefectural government office in Matsue, to receive the preliminary consent, and later visited Matsue Mayor Masataka Matsuura at the Shimane City hall for the same purpose. Shigeo Suehiro, the power utility's vice president and chief director of power supply, submitted the application to METI.

The prefecture said it was "basically" giving its preliminary consent, but would reserve final judgment on an application until a safety examination was completed by the government. It would then decide after confirming the results of the examination. The city, in contrast, agreed that the utility could submit its application to the government, and would present its final decision after the safety examination by the government. It also posed seven questions, including one referring to emergency shutdown at the time a major earthquake.

Shikoku Electric had submitted petitions as early as September 2005 to the prefecture and city for their preliminary consent. Establishing a special committee on MOX fuel, the prefecture discussed the matter, and in June 2006, Gov. Sumita expressed his intension to grant preliminary consent, waiting thereafter to integrate the opinions of the prefectural assembly and Matsue City.

A maximum of 228 MOX-fuel assemblies will be loaded at the Shimane-2 NPS, out of a total of 560 assemblies.

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