

EPDC Delays Start of Construction of Ohma NPS

On October 24, following the revision of the examination guide for the aseismic design of nuclear facilities, the Electric Power Development Co. (EPDC) submitted a supplementary document to the head of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), revising a portion of its application for permission to change a reactor installation for the Ohma NPS (ABWR, 1,383MW). At the same time, the scheduled date for launching construction of the reactor was pushed back from August 2006 to March 2007.

Changes associated with the revised examination guide include the following:

- (1) Reevaluating faults active since the late Pleistocene epoch, as regards seismic design.
- (2) Including additional details about geological and stratal structure around the site.
- (3) Including mention of the standard ground acceleration (Ss) and elastic design ground acceleration (Sd).
- (4) Combining the conventional As and A classes into the S class, and classifying the degree of importance in seismic design into three levels (rather than the conventional four).

The active faults since the late Pleistocene epoch have been reevaluated, and none seems to be a cause for further concern. The EPDC had been conducting geological investigations in parallel with the revisions being made to the examination guide, so a new supplementary investigation was unnecessary, the company said. Stating that standard ground acceleration Ss was 450gal horizontally, and 301.5gal vertically, EPDC said that its detailed study showed the horizontal 450gal was the same as the conventional S2.

The start of construction has been delayed because the safety examination by the government was extended as a result of the supplementary filing. Despite the delay in construction, commercial operations will still start on March 2012, as before.

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