

## **JNFL Suspends Operation of One Uranium Enrichment Unit in Rokkasho**

On November 30, Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. (JNFL) halted operations of the RE-2A, one of the three units currently operating at its Rokkasho Uranium Enrichment Plant in Aomori Prefecture. The unit had commenced operations in FY1997, and has an annual capacity of 150,000SWU.

Although JNFL's original capacity goal for its entire uranium enrichment plant was 1,500,000SWU per year, with seven additional units to be constructed having an annual capacity of 150,000SWU each, the latest suspension has brought the capacity of the plant down to just 300,000SWU annually, with only two of its units running. (See also the November 24 article, "JNFL President Talks about Enrichment and Reprocessing at Press Conference")

JNFL is now working on the development of a new type of centrifugal separator. Should everything progress smoothly, it will be able to set up a manufacturing framework able to produce 1,500,000SWU/y by 2020, allowing it to meet the target laid forth by the original plan.

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