

Working Committee Meets for Second Time, Visiting Kashiwazaki Kariwa NPS

On August 8, the second meeting was held of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Subcommittee's working committee on investigations and measures for nuclear facilities following the July 16 Niigata-Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake (the subcommittee being under the jurisdiction of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy). This time it met at the actual Kashiwazaki Kariwa NPS site. The working committee is headed by Professor Haruki Madarame of the University of Tokyo.



At the meeting, the working committee received an explanation from Vice President Ichiro Takekuro of the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), who has been stationed at the Kashiwazaki Kariwa NPS since the end of July, on how the power company had handled the effects of the earthquake on the NPS. The members then visited the affected site as part of preparations for their deliberations from now on.

After visiting the site, the meeting resumed and affirmed specific items to be addressed by the working group on firefighting and information communication, the working committee on seismic and structural design, and the working group on the management and evaluation of equipment and facility soundness. All three groups had been established by the working committee at the previous meeting.

Referring to the risk, following the suspension of operation of the nuclear reactors, that major power-consuming areas would suffer in the time of peak power demand in summer, Mayor Hiroo Shinada of Kariwa Village, a member of the committee, said, "I wonder how much power users really understand about nuclear power."

Editor: Noriyuki Ishii, JAIF