

Capacity Factor Falls to 62% in September as Many Reactors Start Periodic Inspections

According to an investigation by the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum (JAIF), the average capacity factor in September for all 55 nuclear power plants (NPPs) nationwide was 61.7%, the lowest monthly figure in the current fiscal year. Two reasons were cited: the high number of periodic inspections starting after the peak summer supply period, and the suspension of operations due to various problems. The total amount of generated electricity was approximately 22TWh, a decrease of 11.2% from the same period in FY06.

By type of reactor, the capacity factor for boiling water reactors (BWRs) was 51.3%, and for pressurized water reactors (PWRs), 78.0%. The average capacity factor for BWRs has stayed below 60% for six months in a row now.

In the first half of the current fiscal year (April to September 2007), the average capacity factor for domestic NPPs was 64.5%, with total generated electricity at 140.1TWh or so – a year-on-year 10.1% drop.

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