

## **TEPCO Begins Ground Deformity Investigations at Kashiwazaki Kariwa**

**Starting in mid-October, the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) has been undertaking ground deformation investigations and fault inspections at the site of its Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Station (NPS) and the surrounding vicinity, in order to evaluate the extent of ground subsidence.**

The company has already started investigations of surrounding land and water areas, as well as a geological survey within the NPS site. The current investigations will evaluate the extent of ground subsidence and liquefaction at the site, and the results will be reflected in repair work to be undertaken from now on. Other investigations to be conducted include studies of the ground deformation and geological fault studies in the vicinity of the plant site as well as in the Nagaoka fault zone. Those results will be applied in the evaluation of the seismic safety as well.

The ground deformation studies will involve boring at 11 sites, surface elastic wave (seismic) exploration at one site, backfilling excavation (boring) at one site, the measurement of underground water levels at 50 sites, an aerial photographic survey over an area of 6km by 4km, and global positioning system (GPS) measurements at 33 sites. In the backfill excavations, samples will be taken of areas in which liquefaction may have occurred. Also, the surface of walls will be inspected to check whether the ground stratum has liquefied. All the investigations are scheduled to finish in mid-January 2008.

*Editor: Noriyuki Ishii, JAIF*