

## **Periodic Inspections Hit Peak, Helping Push Capacity Factor Down to 56% in October**

**According to a survey by the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum (JAIF), the capacity factor of the nation's 55 nuclear power plants (NPPs) was only 56.3% for the month of October 2007, down 5.4 points from the 61.7% registered the month before (a low figure in itself).**

The reasons include the stoppage of operations at all the units at the Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Station (NPS) owing to the July 16 Niigata-Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake, as well as the beginning of periodic inspections at some NPPs. It was the first time in three years – since October 2004 – that the rate had dipped below 60%. The reason at that time was the accident at the Mihama-3 NPS. The total amount of generated electricity for October 2007 was 20.7TWh, down 8.9% from the same month in 2006.

Broken down by reactor type, a striking difference was seen between boiling water reactors (BWRs) and pressurized water reactors (PWRs), with the former experiencing a utilized capacity of just 41.2%, and the latter 79.7%.

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