

Plant Testing at Monju Now 20% Complete

On November 2, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) reported on the progress of plant function confirmation tests at FBR Monju (280MW) at a meeting of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Subcommittee's working committee on Monju safety, under the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy.

Thus far, some 20% of the items (31 of 141) subject to confirmation have been confirmed. The tests, which began on August 31, 2007, are regarded as the final stage prior to a return to criticality, and are expected to be completed in August 2008. The functioning of equipment -- excluding items that were remodeled -- is being confirmed system by system, both while the plant is shut down and while it is in operation. Also planned are confirmation of the functioning and performance of the entire plant, including the remodeled parts.

JAEA will test a total of 141 items, including the operation of the primary circulation pump, the functioning of the control rod drive mechanism, the soundness of heat-transfer piping of the steam generators, and the overall sealing of the reactor vessel. Progress has been steady. As of November 1, 31 items had been completed.

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