

Construction of Ohma NPS to Start in May

On March 17, the Electric Power Development Co. (J-Power) filed a document with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to delay the start of construction of the Ohma NPS (Full-MOX ABWR; 1,383MW) to May 2008.

The delay, which involves a revision in the official application for permission to install a reactor, was the result of a prolonged seismic safety examination by the Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC). However, the NSC's expert committee virtually completed deliberations on March 12, sufficient to confirm the new start of construction.



Conceptual drawing of the Ohma NPS

In August 2007, J-Power announced the second delay in the start of the plant's construction, saying that a new schedule would be announced after it had confirmed the progress of the examination.

The main items in the written revision include the following: (1) a delay in the start of construction from August 2007 to May 2008, (2) better descriptions related to geological and seismic design, (3) a reflection of the revised examination guide for fire disaster prevention, and (4) renewed data on the use of MOX fuel in boiling water reactors (BWRs).

The official application for permission to install the Ohma NPS had been filed in March 2004, and METI referred it to the NSC in June 2005. It took the NSC about three years for the examination, partly because it was the first such examination after revisions were made to the Safety Examination Guidelines for Seismic Design.

Although the start of construction has now been delayed about two years from the original intended date, J-Power is considering ways to speed up the construction work. Thus, it has left the original target for commissioning unchanged, at March 2012.

Editor: Noriyuki Ishii, JAIF