

No Damage to NPPs as a Result of Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake

According to the Tohoku Electric Power Co. and the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), none of the nuclear power plants in operation during the Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake of 2008 suffered any damage that could interfere with operation, and all continued in normal operation.

Nuclear reactors at Tohoku Electric Power Co.'s Onagawa NPS in Miyagi Prefecture and Higashidori NPS in Aomori Prefecture, incurring no damage that could interfere with operation, continue in normal operation with the exception of those units undergoing periodic inspections. There have been no changes in data readings at monitoring posts, and no leakage from spent fuel pools at the plants. Other facilities are now being inspected.

At TEPCO's Fukushima-I and Fukushima-II NPSs, reactors other than those undergoing periodic inspections remain in operation, having suffered no damage that would impede such operation. According to the results of TEPCO's inspections, no damage to electrical facilities such as generating or distribution systems has been found. There was, however, some leakage at the Fukushima-II NPS: a total of four liters of water of very low radioactivity (equivalent to the concentration of radon in a hot spring) was found inside the reactor buildings at Unit 2 (1,100 MW) and Unit 4 (1,100 MW), and 15 liters was found inside the site bunker where radioactive solid waste is kept. In no case did such water leak outside of the facility.

No release-related alarms were triggered at any other nuclear facility experiencing the quake, including Japan Nuclear Fuel's Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant, the enrichment facility and the low level radioactive waste disposal center in Aomori Prefecture. It has been also confirmed that there was no water leakage from the spent fuel storage pool at Rokkasho, or any other abnormality.

Similarly, no release-related alarms were triggered at nuclear facilities in Tokai area including the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Tokai Reprocessing Facility.

The Meteorological Agency released the data on the Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake on June 14 as follows:

- Date and time of occurrence: 8:43 a.m., June 14, 2008
- Place of occurrence and depth: 39.0N, 140.9E, about 8 kilometers below the surface (inland, southern part of Iwate Prefecture)
- Magnitude: 7.2 (provisional)
- Seismic intensity: 6+ (Oshu City in Iwate Pref. and Kurihara City in Miyagi Pref.)
- Mechanism: Reverse fault with pressure from WNW to ESE

Editor: Mio Kimuro, JAIF