

Earthquake Report - JAIF

We have been reporting a status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station by summarizing news aired by NHK, which is Japanese national broadcasting company. We regard it as most credible news among many news sources and we are happy to say that NHK's English website has gotten enriched and now you can see movies and English scripts at <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/daily/english/society.html>. Given this situation, we decide to simply place these scripts as it is for the record in case that it will be deleted from the website later, rather than summarizing news as we did.

No. 96: 18:00, May 29

NHK news regarding status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station yesterday and today.

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **No.5 reactor temperature rises after pump failure**
- **Fukushima prepares for heavy rain**
- **Cooling systems restored for fuel pools**

(Other news)

- **Radioactive materials found off Miyagi and Ibaraki**
- **Soil decontamination tests start in Fukushima**

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●No.5 reactor temperature rises after pump failure

The operator of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says temperatures in the Number 5 reactor and its spent fuel storage pool have risen due to pump failure. The reactor has been in a state of cold shutdown.

Tokyo Electric Power Company says it found at 9 PM on Saturday that a pump bringing seawater to cooling equipment for the reactor and pool had stopped working.

TEPCO says temperatures have been rising since then.

The water temperature in the reactor rose by about 24 degrees Celsius to 92.2 degrees at 11 AM on Sunday. The temperature in the fuel storage pool increased to 45.7 degrees from 41 degrees.

On Sunday morning, TEPCO installed a new pump that started operating shortly after noon.

The company suspects failure in the pump motor caused the malfunction. It is now working to detect the cause of the failure while monitoring temperatures in the reactor and pool.

Sunday, May 29, 2011 13:08 +0900 (JST)

●Fukushima prepares for heavy rain

The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is preparing for an approaching powerful typhoon by piling up sandbags and moving cranes to a safe place.

Japan's Meteorological Agency says heavy rain is expected in the area around the power plant beginning on Sunday night. In some areas, torrential rain and strong wind are expected from Monday to Tuesday.

Tokyo Electric Power Company is piling up sandbags around electric facility buildings and sealing the doors to keep rainwater out.

The company says if rain and wind become intense, all operations except for patrolling will stop.

The level of contaminated water in the turbine buildings of the Number 2 and 3 reactors and tunnels has been rising.

The company says it will closely monitor the level to prevent contaminated water from overflowing and seeping into ground water and the sea.

The utility is also studying ways to stop radioactive substances deposited on debris and buildings from being washed away by rain and flowing into the sea via gutters.

Sunday, May 29, 2011 10:08 +0900 (JST)

●Cooling systems restored for fuel pools

The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has now successfully restored cooling systems to the spent fuel pools of reactors 1, 2, 3 and 4.

On Saturday, TEPCO injected about 5 tons of water to the spent fuel pool of reactor 1 on a test basis. It was the last system to be restored.

The power company is also working to install new water-circulating systems that will more efficiently cool all the fuel pools. The new systems for reactors 1

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through 4 are scheduled for completion by July.
Sunday, May 29, 2011 05:08 +0900 (JST)

●Radioactive materials found off Miyagi and Ibaraki

Japan's science ministry has detected extraordinarily high levels of radioactive cesium in seafloor samples collected off Miyagi and Ibaraki Prefectures.

Experts say monitoring should be stepped up over a larger area to determine how fish and shell fish are being affected.

The ministry collected samples from 12 locations along a 300-kilometer stretch off Fukushima prefecture's Pacific coast between May 9th and 14th. It hoped to get an idea about the spread of nuclear contamination caused by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Radioactive substances were found in all locations, including those off Miyagi and Ibaraki Prefectures, which had not been previously investigated.

Radioactive cesium 137, measuring 110 becquerels per kilogram or about 100 times the normal level, was found in samples collected from the seabed 30 kilometers off Sendai City and 45 meters beneath the surface.

Samples collected from the seabed 10 kilometers off Mito City and 49 meters beneath the surface measured 50 becquerels or about 50 times the normal level.

Professor Takashi Ishimaru of the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology says plankton most probably absorbed the radioactive substances carried by the current near the sea surface, and then sank to the seabed.

He said monitoring must be stepped up over a larger area, as radioactive materials in the seabed do not dissolve quickly, and can accumulate in the bodies of larger fish that eat shrimp and crabs that live on the seafloor.

Saturday, May 28, 2011 22:21 +0900 (JST)

●Soil decontamination tests start in Fukushima

The Japanese government has started experiments aimed at removing radioactive material from farmland around the disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Agriculture ministry officials on Saturday explained the experiments to people in Iitate Village. They are designed to test several ways of decontaminating soil.

One experiment would be to swamp rice paddies with water in the hopes that it would wash away radioactive substances.

Another idea would be to plant sunflowers and amaranthus that are known to absorb radioactive substances from the soil.

Agriculture minister Michihiko Kano told participants that he hopes the methods will be effective in decontaminating farmland and that, if any prove to be effective, they will be introduced immediately.

The minister and officials later sowed sunflower and amaranthus seeds at experiment sites.

The plants will be tested in August to measure how much radioactive material has been absorbed.

Saturday, May 28, 2011 22:21 +0900 (JST)

End