

PRI-07-30

Press Release Information	Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
Status of checks of damages by "the Niigataken Chuetsu-oki Earthquake in 2007" at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station, Tokyo Electric Power Company.	

July 19, 2007

NISA/METI

On July 17, 2007, Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (hereafter called "NISA") received instruction from Mr. Amari, Minister of Economy Trade and Industry, and dispatched officials from NISA (Mr. Shigeharu Kato, Deputy Director-General for Nuclear Power, Mr. Mizuno, Special Nuclear Facility Supervision Officer, and two Nuclear Safety Inspectors, in total four officials) to conduct a safety check of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station. Together with the Nuclear Safety Inspector at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Nuclear Safety Inspector office, following investigations were carried out.

1. Subjects of investigation

- (1) Checking of the series of facts and circumstances behind the occurrence of the fire up to the complete extinction of the fire at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station Unit 3.
- (2) Checking of the series of facts which led to the leakage of radioactive materials at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station Unit 6.
- (3) Checking of the leakage and damages to other equipment by the earthquake.

2. Investigation results

- (1) Checking of the series of facts and circumstances behind the occurrence of the fire up to the complete extinction of the fire at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station Unit 3.

a. Confirmed facts

As the initial responding organization, which was to take in charge of reporting and communication tasks of Tokyo Electric Power Company at the occurrence of the earthquake, four personnel were on holiday duty, three including a manager were inside the power station and another at the PR center (service hall).

On the event of fire, the personnel on holiday duty had been supposed to call the in-house fire fighters. Regarding to the initial actions against the fire, however, it was confirmed that the personnel on duty was too busy in contacting the concerned sections following the shutdown of nuclear reactor, which makes difficult to grasp the situation of the fire inside the station. Consequently, the personnel did not call in-house fire fighters at an early stage.

It was also identified that the shift supervisor instructed the person who discovered the fire to extinguish the fire. As the result, fire fighting activities were carried out without wearing fire fighting materials of power station, such as fire protection suit.

b. NISA's evaluation and future actions

NISA estimates that there are several points to be improved regarding to the initial responding organization of the fire fighting activities by Tokyo Electric Power Company. NISA will therefore examine the results of investigations presently under way and those submitted in the future as well as the reoccurrence preventing measures, which will be proposed later by the licensee to give adequate and opportune instructions to the licensee

0/10

for establishment of more adequate initial responding organization .

(2) Checking of series of facts which led to the leakage of radioactive materials at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station Unit 6.

a. Confirmed facts

It was confirmed that the materials was leaked from a terminal box situated at ceiling area of medium third floor in the uncontrolled areas, directly under the operating floor in the reactor building. Leakage was collected in the non-radioactive storm drain sump (hereafter called "NSD") through the drain (funnel) on the third floor via the medium third floor. Leaked material was then discharged from the pump into the sea.

It was also confirmed that the leakage at the medium third floor is currently collected in a container and the measure is being taken to prevent the automatic start-up of the pump which discharges water from NDS into the sea.

As for the delay of report, it was confirmed that prompt actions could not be taken because it was right after the earthquake and therefore organization of radiation protection officials who normally carry out collection of samples to radioactive measurement, could not organize themselves to carry out the measurement. Another reason is that the concerned personnel carried out several times the same measurements in order to confirm their measurement results, because erroneously believed that the leakage was from the non-controlled areas and the liquid contained no radioactivity.

b. NISA's evaluation

NISA estimates the investigation should be further conducted to identify the route of leakage and gave such instruction to Tokyo Electric Power Company. NISA will therefore examine the results of investigations presently under way and those submitted in the future as well as the reoccurrence preventing measures, which will be proposed later by the licensee to give adequate and opportune instructions to the licensee for identification of the route of leakage and establishment of more adequate reporting organization .

(3) Check of damages to other equipment and leakage by the earthquake.

a. Confirmed facts

1) Confirmation of damages to the equipment

As checking of damages to the power plant equipment by the earthquake, NISA examined of the status of the plants reported to NISA by Tokyo Electric Power Company. NISA confirmed the scattering of pool water at the operating floor of the reactor building of unit 1 to unit 7, water leakage from the filtration water tank, displacement of a duct connecting at the main stack. Adding to these, check was carried out on safety-significant equipment in the reactor containment.

2) Confirmation of the observation position of earthquake and the records

NISA confirmed the status of the installation of earthquake meter at the reactor building and also confirmed that the values of acceleration amplitude was identical to those released by Tokyo Electric Power Company.

3) Confirmation of the detection of iodine and other materials from the main stack of unit 7

As for the monitoring of the discharge of radioactive gaseous wastes from the main stack, the concentration of rare gases is being measured regularly and continuously. Iodine and particulate radioactive materials are being measured regularly (weekly) by sampling. As a result of the investigation of this time, it was confirmed, from the monitoring data of the sample, that iodine and other materials were detected.

Although NISA confirmed the measurement chart of the concentration of the rare gases, which is being monitored continuously, there was no change even when the earthquake occurred, and therefore it was unable to identify the period of discharge of iodine and other materials.

It was also confirmed from the monitoring data of the samples that iodine from unit 1 to unit 6 had not been detected for a week, before and after several days of the day when the earthquake occurred.

b. NISA's action

NISA required Tokyo Electric Power Company to conduct the investigation particularly on the causal relationship between the earthquake and the detection of radioactive materials including iodine at stacks.

Nuclear Safety Inspectors at Onsite Nuclear Safety Inspector Office will continue attending on the spot the confirmation of the integrity of equipment after the earthquake and the confirmation of the current status of surrounding supervised area by Tokyo Electric Power Company, and engaged to confirm the situation of damages and release information on eventual new findings.

Contacts:

Mr. Nei

Nuclear Power Inspection Division, NISA/METI

Phone: +81-3-3501-1511(Ext.:4871)

+81-3-3501-9547

Mr. Imai

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Safety Inspector
Office

Phone: +81-257-23-9798

+81-257-23-8632