Press Release

September 28, 2012
Nuclear Regulation Authority

The Nuclear Regulation Authority received a report from Tokyo Electric Power Company Inc. (TEPCO) on the result of the root cause analysis relating to the noncompliance to the Operational Safety Program.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) had directed TEPCO to investigate the root cause* and to take measures against recurrence relating to the following two noncompliance to the Operational Safety Program.
(Already announced on March 2, 2011 and May 23, 2012 by NISA.)

(1) “Regarding the noncompliance to the Operational Safety Program on instruments and equipment being not inspected at the proper inspection period at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS, Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Dai-ni NPSs, TEPCO (Direction)” (March 2, 2011)
(2) “Regarding the noncompliance to the Operational Safety Program on inadequate maintenance management at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station, TEPCO (Direction)” (May 23, 2012)

Today, NRA received a report from TEPCO responding to the above directions. NRA will verify the submitted report in accordance with the “Guideline by the regulatory authority for evaluating the root cause analysis of the operator”.

*Root cause: not only direct cause but also all organizational factors are extracted to identify the cause of the incident.

1. Course of Events

(1) The development concerning “the noncompliance to the Operational Safety Program on instruments and equipment being not inspected at the specified timing of inspection at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS, Fukushima Dai-ichi and Fukushima Dai-ni NPSs”

NISA confirmed in the 3rd safety inspection of 2010 that there were instruments not being inspected at the proper inspection period and later inspected in Units 2 and 3 at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS. From the results of TEPCO’s inspection of their all nuclear power stations, NISA confirmed that there were incompliance*1 to the Operational Safety Program and NISA directed TEPCO to examine the root cause and to take
prevention measures against recurrence, and to report NISA by June 2, 2011. (Already announced on March 2, 2011). After several times of TEPCO’s request for extending the deadline due to the effects of the earthquake, today, the report relating to this matter was submitted.

*1: After finding measurement control equipment being not inspected at the proper inspection period at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS, the subsequent examination revealed that many instruments were not inspected at the proper inspection period at Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Dai-ni as well. From the inspection results conducted by TEPCO, NISA found that maintenance management was not adequately conducted, including not appropriately formulating and revising long-term inspection plans and nonconforming control, etc. and there were many instruments being not inspected at the proper inspection period. Therefore, NISA judged that the required items of the Operational Safety Program were not adequately satisfied.

(2) The development concerning “the noncompliance to the Operational Safety Program on inadequate maintenance management in Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS”

In the 4th safety inspection in 2011, NISA confirmed the implementation status of Special Maintenance Plan*2 in Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS, and confirmed that measurement control equipment of Units 2, 3, and 4, suspended since Niigataken Chuetsu-oki Earthquake, had not been inspected at the proper inspection period. As a result of detailed examination, NISA judged that it was noncompliance*3 to the Operational Safety Program and directed TEPCO to investigate the root cause, take prevention measures against recurrence, and report the results to NISA by July 23 (Already announced on May 23, 2012 by NISA). After several times of TEPCO’s request for extending the deadline, today, the report relating to this matter was submitted.

*2 Special Maintenance Plan: Stipulated by Article 50, Section 2 of Regulations for Enforcement of the Electricity Business Act, in Clause 42 of the Electricity Business Act, when maintenance with long-term suspension due to earthquakes or accidents, etc. is conducted, the maintenance method and implementation period are established as a special measure suitable for the conditions of the nuclear reactor facilities.

*3 NISA examined the report submitted from TEPCO in detail, and confirmed that maintenance management was not adequately conducted including the lack
of inspection plans of instruments of the measurement control facilities, which was noncompliance to quality assurance and maintenance management of the Operational Safety Program.

2. Actions conducted by NRA

NRA will evaluate these reports in accordance with the “Guideline by the regulatory authority for evaluating the root cause analysis of the operator”.


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