

25 February, 2015
Nuclear Regulation Authority, Japan

Possible Flow of Contaminated Water to the Outside of the Controlled Area of Fukushima Daiichi NPS

On 22 February 2015, the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) received a report from TEPCO required by law regarding an incident at Fukushima Daiichi NPS. The report delineates the incident in which contaminated water was detected in the drainage. The drainage leads to the port which is outside of the controlled area of the plant. Monitoring activities have been intensified at the drainage and the port. (Updated information on page 2)

Note: Publicly released by TEPCO:

“The Temporal Rise of Radioactive Data in the Drainage at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station”

http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/handouts/2015/images/handouts_150222_03-e.pdf

”Location of drainage gate and side gutter drainage radiation monitor”

http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/handouts/2015/images/handouts_150222_01-e.pdf

NRA’s actions

Nuclear safety inspectors of the NRA Regional Office confirmed that the drainage gate was closed, and instructed TEPCO to investigate the cause of this incident and to strengthen its monitoring activities.

The NRA will continue to be vigilant about TEPCO’s cause-finding and prevention measures.

Summary of the incident at Fukushima Daiichi NPS according to TEPCO's report and updates to the NRA

- Monitoring instruments (Lines A and B) at the side gutter drainage sounded a “High” alarm at 10:00, followed by an ‘Extremely High’ alarm at 10:10 on 22 February, 2015. Peak values were 5.63×10^3 Bq/L at 10:30 for Line A, and 7.23×10^3 Bq/L at 10:40 for Line B. The “High” alarm was set at 1.5×10^3 Bq/L, and “Extremely High” at 3.0×10^3 Bq/L – all the values are for Total Beta.
- Multiple drainage gates including one downstream were subsequently closed.
- No leakage from tanks was observed, and monitoring posts at the site boundary showed no abnormalities.
- Confirming that the radioactivity in the water in the drainage returned to its normal range, the drainage gates were reopened to avoid the risk of water overflowing from the drainage, penetrating soil, and flowing into the ocean in an uncontrollable manner.
- The drainage leads to the port which is outside of the controlled area of Fukushima Daiichi NPS. In light of the detection of contaminated water in the drainage, the frequency of monitoring at the drainage and at the port will be intensified .

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