

Japan: Halted N-reactors to restart?

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Kaieda Wants Halted N-Reactors to Restart in July

Tokyo, June 7 (Jiji Press)—Japanese industry minister Banri Kaieda said Tuesday that he aims for realizing the restarts in July of nuclear reactors halted for regular inspections.

At a news conference, Kaieda said he clearly recognizes that power demand in summer peaks in July.

Kaieda expressed his hope to gain understanding of nuclear plant host municipalities and local citizens so that halted reactors can be restarted early.

Power firms have found it difficult to resume the operations of nuclear reactors stopped for regular inspections. This is because host municipalities and local residents grew uneasy because of the nuclear crisis at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima No. 1 power plant and a halt to Chubu Electric Power Co.'s Hamaoka plant due to concern about a possible future earthquake.

Jiji Press, June 7, 2011

<http://jen.jiji.com/jc/eng?g=eco&k=2011060700400>

Reactor in Shimane delayed for safety work

MATSUE, Shimane Pref. — Chugoku Electric Power Co. said Tuesday it will delay the launch of commercial operations of one of its reactors now under construction in Shimane Prefecture because it has to add measures against possible tsunami.

The utility postponed the start of operations for the No. 3 reactor at the Shimane nuclear plant in the city of Matsue until after next April. It was originally scheduled for next March. The nuclear complex is located on the coast of the Sea of Japan.

The control rod driving system of the reactor core is also under inspection after a defect was found in November, Chugoku Electric said, adding this means the planned loading of nuclear fuel rods into the reactor in June will likewise be delayed.

Kyodo, June 1, 2011

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110601a7.html>

Kyushu Electric's 2 N-Plants Seen Safe from Tsunami

Fukuoka, May 31 (Jiji Press)—Kyushu Electric Power Co. said Tuesday that the firm's two nuclear power plants are considered safe from tsunami that could occur in case of a 9.0-magnitude earthquake.

If a quake with a magnitude of 9.0, the same as that for the March 11 temblor that devastated northeastern Japan, happens at a point in Pacific waters in Nankai trough off the Tokai central region to Shikoku western region, tsunami as high as 1.6 meters could hit the firm's Genkai nuclear plant in Saga Prefecture, the company said.

Based on the same assumption, the height of tsunami that may reach the firm's Sendai nuclear plant in Kagoshima Prefecture could be up to 2.5 meters, it said.

As the Genkai and Sendai plants are located 11 meters and 13 meters above sea level, respectively, both plants would be safe from the tsunami of that levels, Kyushu Electric said.

If a 9.0-magnitude quake occurs in Pacific waters closer to the plants, the anticipated height of tsunami would be 1.5 meters at the Genkai plant and 2.2 meters at the Sendai plant, Kyushu Electric said.

Jiji Press, May 31, 2011

<http://jen.jiji.com/jc/eng?g=eco&k=2011053101069>
