

**Summary of Comments Made at a Press Conference
by Tsunehisa Katsumata, FEPC Chairman, on April 21, 2006**

Today I would like to report on the active testing that began at the end of last month at the Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited (JNFL) Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant.

On the 29th of last month, JNFL concluded safety agreements with Aomori Prefecture and Rokkasho Village. I was present at the occasion, and signed both documents as a witness. Then, on the 31st of last month, safety agreements were concluded with five other municipalities in the area, and at 14:58 the same day, active testing was officially started. This marks an important milestone on the road to full operations at the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant, and I believe it is a truly significant event in the establishment of a closed nuclear fuel cycle in our nation.

I would therefore like to express my heartfelt thanks to Governor Mimura of Aomori and Mayor Yoshikawa of Rokkasho Village, as well as the residents of Aomori and many other concerned parties, for their understanding and support in helping us reach this point.

Looking back, I realize that 22 years have passed since Shoichiro Kobayashi, who was chairman of the Federation of Electric Power Companies at the time, filed an application to build a nuclear fuel cycle facility and reprocessing plant in July 1984. To those of us who are electric power suppliers, there is a sense of heightened expectation accompanied by feelings of "at last, we have come this far," and "this is a new beginning."

In line with the basic precepts of the nation's energy policy, we electric power suppliers feel a renewed commitment to maintain safety and quality as our highest priorities, and while striving to enhance open communication with the public, we will work as one with JNFL toward the start of full operations at the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant.

At the same time, all of the nation's electric power suppliers will cooperate and collaborate with one another in an effort to achieve pluthermal implementation at 16~18 plants by fiscal 2010.

In addition, to obtain the understanding and cooperation of Rokkasho Village and Aomori Prefecture residents, and to live up to the expectations they have of us, we will establish a new working group to consider how we can do our best to cooperate in promoting the development of Aomori Prefecture and sales of its agricultural and fishery products. The working group will operate under the auspices of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Promotion Liaison Committee, which is made up of vice-president class members from each electric power company. It will be headed by FEPC Senior Managing Director Norihisa Ito, and will be made up of site management and public relations department general managers from the various companies concerned.