

Summary of Press Conference Comments Made by Kazuhiro Ikebe, FEPC Chairman  
on February 16, 2024

I am Kazuhiro Ikebe, Chairman of the Federation of Electric Power Companies (FEPC).

Today, I'd like to talk about two topics: 1) industry initiatives to increase safety at nuclear power plants in response to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, and 2) promotion of nuclear fuel cycle and pluthermal power generation (use of MOX fuel).

<1. Industry initiatives to increase safety at nuclear power plants in response to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake>

The Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused blackouts, especially in Ishikawa Prefecture and Toyama Prefecture. But with the Hokuriku Electric Power Group's hard work to restore power and the support of other utilities, power was restored to most areas except for a few regions such as the Wajima-shi and Suzu-shi that are difficult to access because of cut off roads and fallen houses. There are some areas that are still inconvenienced and we will continue to cooperate within the industry to restore power to all areas.

I would like to talk about the first topic for today, industry initiatives to increase safety at nuclear power plants in response to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

This earthquake caused some equipment issues at Shika Nuclear Power Station but the functions to stop, cool and contain were uncompromised and its safety remained secure. The Shika Nuclear Power Station, despite being currently under review for compliance with the new regulatory requirements, had already implemented many measures based on the lessons learned in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident such as the diversification of power sources (e.g., multiplexing external power sources and deploying power trucks) in advance. We believe that these measures functioned effectively in this earthquake.

On the other hand, as nuclear operators, we believe in the importance of learning from new knowledge and finding and improving upon the plant to further increase safety.

With this in mind, starting on February 2, we have been gradually building a framework led by FEPC and ATENA in cooperation with operators and manufacturers to verify the impact of this earthquake on nuclear power plants.

Specifically, we will be verifying technical issues, such as earthquakes and tsunamis and their impact on plant facilities and nuclear material protection equipment, and operational challenges such as challenges involving information gathering about the state of the field and information dissemination. In “earthquakes and tsunamis verification,” we plan to verify if there is new knowledge about the mechanism of occurrence for this earthquake such as interaction between faults. Though the safety of the Shika Nuclear Power Station is secured, the plant has sustained some equipment damage including failure of the transformer. As such, the impact of the earthquake on plant facilities will also be verified. The knowledge gained through these verifications will be shared among nuclear operators and used in developing safety measures to further increase safety.

Regarding the gathering of information of the extent of damage to the plant and information dissemination, we believe that promptly and accurately disseminating information is critical in resolving the concerns of the local community and that Hokuriku EPCO made efforts to disseminate information amidst the confusion following the earthquake when there was a lot of information going around. The FEPC also cooperated with Hokuriku EPCO in this earthquake and disseminated accurate information through our website and social media channels. We want to use the knowledge gained through this event to inform our detailed information dissemination efforts in the future.

Furthermore, the other day, the Nuclear Regulation Authority (“NRA”) started studying effective evacuation. Effective evacuation is an important element of emergency response that can also help allay the local community’s concerns and is a topic that the NRA will keep on discussing going forward. We also believe that the geographical traits as well as the other characteristics of each region should be considering in creating an evacuation plan that is operationally effective and will cooperate as much as possible in their creation as nuclear operators.

## <2. Promotion of nuclear fuel cycle and pluthermal power generation (use of MOX fuel)>

Next, I’d like to discuss the promotion of nuclear fuel cycle and pluthermal power generation (use of MOX fuel).

To promote the nuclear fuel cycle, all utilities need to cooperate to work toward the completion of Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited’s Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant, and as the side that uses the MOX fuel, make steady progress according to the Pluthermal Plan. Each of us, nuclear operators, is working according to the action plan for promoting the Pluthermal Plan, cooperating with one another to achieve pluthermal generation in at least 12 reactors by 2030.

Today, we have published the Plutonium Use Plan that reflect these efforts. The key take away is that there has been progress in our exchange of plutonium among operators in order to speed up the use of plutonium overall, based on the understanding that each operator has a responsibility to use up the plutonium they own. Operators have officially signed a contract on the framework for exchanging the 1.7 tons of plutonium that Shikoku EPCO and Kyushu EPCO, operators who are leading in the introduction of pluthermal generation, keep in the UK with the same amount of plutonium that other operators keep in France. This new Plutonium Use Plan includes the use of some of this exchanged plutonium.

As operators, we will continue to proactively promote the Pluthermal Plan in part by further strengthening these types of efforts to cooperate among operators.

This concludes my remarks for today.

END