Restart of Commercial Operation of Sendai Unit 1

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Makoto Yagi, Chairman
Federation of Electric Power Companies

Today, Unit 1 of Sendai Nuclear Power Station, Kyushu Electric Power Co., Inc. restarted commercial operation.

This is the first power reactor to restart commercial operation after undergoing verification of compliance with the new regulatory requirements established by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, and thus marks a major step forward.

We would like to sincerely thank the people in the host communities, all residents of Kagoshima Prefecture and Satsumasendai City, and everyone else concerned, for their understanding.

In making its decision on the energy mix recently, the government announced its intention to continue nuclear power generation at a certain scale. For Japan, a country which lacks energy resources, nuclear power has a major role to play because of its well-balanced excellence in the three Es of Energy security, Economic efficiency and Environment.

Regarding other power reactors, we will continue to make sincere efforts to complete verification of their compliance with the new regulatory requirements so that they too can restart commercial operation as soon as possible.

With strong determination not to repeat an accident like the one at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, we seek completeness in safety measures, and will continue striving for higher levels of safety beyond the regulatory requirements.

Regarding the restoration of Fukushima from the disaster, we wish for successful progress toward restoration while continuing industry-wide support for the process of decommissioning in order to ensure steady progress.