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Nuclear Regulation Authority, Japan

NRA's Action to TEPCO's Fuel Removal from Unit 4 <Vol. 4 >

Regarding TEPCO's fuel removal from the Unit 4 Spent Fuel Pool at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS) which started on 18 November 2013, 242 assemblies of spent fuel and 22 assemblies of new fuel have been transferred to the Common Spent Fuel Pool at Fukushima Daiichi NPS by 31 January 2014. The remaining 1089 assemblies of spent fuel and 180 assemblies of new fuel continue to be transferred to the Common Spent Fuel Pool.

The following URL of TEPCO website leads to the details of fuel removal activities:

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/removal4u/index-e.html>

In November 2013, the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) of Japan recommended TEPCO to tackle on the issue of radiation exposure reduction for the workers on site of Fukushima Daiichi NPS, including the workers of fuel removal and transfer from the Unit 4 Spent Fuel Pool.

Measures including shielding were taken by TEPCO to reduce radiation exposure for the workers except those working on fuel removal on the operating floor for the Unit 4 Spent Fuel Pool, while TEPCO has been considering possible measures to reduce radiation exposure for the workers on the operating floor.

On 4 February 2014, the NRA recommended TEPCO to take effective measures to reduce radiation exposure for the workers of fuel removal on the operating floor with careful reference to the results of on-site survey by the NRA that figured out the type and major direction of radiation on the operating floor.

The NRA is going to check whether TEPCO's measures of radiation exposure reduction for the workers on the operating floor are effective or not in a practical way. And the NRA continues to watch closely TEPCO's activities of fuel removal through on-site inspection by the NRA Safety Inspectors.

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