

Explanatory Meeting Concerning Status of Workers' Radiation Exposure and Countermeasures and Tour of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

Project to Enhance the International Transmission of Radioactivity-Related Information Concerning Workers
at TEPCO Holdings' Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (Commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

We held a briefing for foreign media and experts from international organizations on the present state and preventive measures against radiation exposure of decommissioning workers as well as a tour of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station on December 8 to 9, 2022, with cooperation from Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO). This tour has been held every year by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to promote understanding of measures related to industrial safety and health and reduction of the radiation exposure dose, and the progress of decommissioning work. This year, a total of eight people participated: five people from foreign media, etc. and three experts from international organizations.

Explanatory Meeting Concerning Status of Workers' Radiation Exposure and Countermeasures

On December 8, we held a tour of J-VILLAGE, which was the venue, and an explanatory meeting concerning status of workers' radiation exposure and countermeasures. J-VILLAGE gave a tour of the premises while explaining the reconstruction from after the Great East Japan Earthquake until now.

In the briefing, Professor Kunugita of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, who is the chairman of committee for this project, explained the laws and regulations regarding industrial safety and health and the efforts of the government and business operator to reduce the radiation exposure dose of workers; and Professor Akashi of Tokyo Healthcare University, who is a member of the same committee, explained issues such as evaluation of the radiation exposure dose of workers according to the UNSCEAR 2020/2021 Report released on March 2021. For this explanatory meeting, a video to serve as fundamental knowledge was delivered only to the participants in advance of the tour, so we were able to spend much time for questions and answers and have an active exchange of opinions. Visitors asked questions about, for example, the health impact assessment conducted until now for sufferers and workers at the time of the earthquake.



Tour of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

○ Lecture by TEPCO and ABLE

On December 9, we moved to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, where a lecture was held in the morning and an on-site tour was held in the afternoon.

In the morning, the participants attended a briefing by TEPCO and a lecture by ABLE Co., Ltd. (hereinafter “ABLE”) and asked questions in the visitor room of the new administration building. The Deputy Site Superintendent of TEPCO, Kimoto, gave an explanation of the current status of decommissioning work. Okai, the director and technology development general manager of ABLE, explained the exhaust stack dismantling operations by a remote-controlled robot that had been conducted by the company. He also introduced a system that records the progress of work at a construction site and sends it as the computer graphic data, as part of efforts to reduce the radiation exposure dose and improve work efficiency. In the Q&A session, visitors asked questions about, for example, measures against trouble with robotic devices, ways of reducing work time in high-dose areas, the health impact assessment of radiation exposure on emergency workers at the time of the accident, and the current health management for workers.



○ On-site tour

In the tour in the afternoon, the visitors, led by the Deputy Site Superintendent, Kimoto, observed areas related to efforts to reduce the radiation exposure dose of workers and working environments. They first visited a rest area for workers, which does not require the wearing of any protective clothing, then the G-zone (Regular uniform areas), and finally an emergency room (hereinafter “ER”), in that order.

In an area that does not require protective clothing, they experienced what workers' daily activities are like in rest areas (including a cafeteria and convenience store) and were briefed on air dose measurements which is regularly conducted. In indoor dose measurement demonstrated outside the cafeteria, while listening to an explanation, they observed the measurements being made on the surface of the floor taking into consideration the dose that occurs when dust swirls up, and were informed that proper management is ensured even in low-dose areas. After that, they were briefed on a dose monitor on which doses measured using meters installed at 80 points in the premises are color-coded and displayed. This helped deepen their understanding of thorough dose management.



After wearing a PAD (personal alarm dosimeter) and G-zone equipment, the participants visited the site, where the exhaust stack was dismantled, mentioned in the morning lecture. First, they were transported by an in-plant bus to an elevated spot that provides a view of the reactor buildings of Units 1 to 4 and then received explanations from TEPCO and ABE and asked questions with the shared stack of Units 1 and 2 in front of them. Seeing the actual site allowed them to have a better understanding of the difficulty of exhaust stack dismantling operations performed by ABE and the future decommissioning process. After that, they moved to the seaside area of Units 5 and 6 and then observed video shooting for digitizing a construction site and asked ABE questions about this work. When passing by a tank by bus in the controlled area, they were able to see, by chance, a ship that was doing a survey on the construction of an undersea tunnel for discharging ALPS-treated water into the sea. They were able not only to accomplish the originally intended purpose of this project but also observe a site related to a hot topic regarding decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.



After leaving the controlled area, they were briefed by ER (Emergency Room) staff about the medical system in the power station. The ER staff explained that in preparation for emergency of workers and quick transfer to a hospital, doctors, nurses, paramedics, and clerical staff are on duty around the clock every day, two ambulances are ready both in the controlled area and outside the premises, and a heliport for emergency medical helicopters is provided outside the new administration building. Regarding measures taken for workers, the staff explained that workers are instructed to have themselves examined in the ER even when they suffer a slight injury because it is necessary to take into account the risk of contamination and that it is prohibited to work alone to prevent an injured person from being left alone. Entering the ER actually allowed the visitors to observe how staff members reply on the phone via

an interior speaker and confirm that the room is directly connected to the controlled area through a decontamination room. It was an experience of realizing physical and human measures.

In a Q&A session after the tour, the visitors asked questions more in-depth than before the start of the tour; for example, questions about a contact point for mental care of workers and a work plan that takes into account the dose in each site.

Summary

On the first day of the tour, we, as the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, gave an explanation of the health assessment of the radiation exposure dose of workers from the occurrence of the earthquake until now; on the second day, we explained the efforts of the business operator and then gave an on-site tour. The visitors listened to explanations with enthusiasm and were able to see various sites with an active exchange of opinions, so that they were able to understand thorough management of radiation exposure of workers, improvement of work environments, ensuring of work environments safety, and other efforts, which are the purposes of this project.

