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Kashiwazaki-Kariwa unit 6 - When will it resume commercial operation?

(December 1, 2009)

TOKYO, JAPAN --When unit 6 of Tokyo Electric Power's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power station will resume commercial operation has attracted the attention of concerned parties.

All seven units of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa stopped operation after being damaged during the earthquake the year before last. Since then, after inspection and repair work, units 7 and 6 were restarted in May and August, respectively, this year and test operation prior to starting commercial operation has continued. Units 1 through 5 are current undergoing inspection and repairs. Unit 7 was temporarily shut down from September through November due to problems, and Unit 6 is expected to be the first unit to resume commercial operation.

In order to restart commercial operation, approval of three local governments (Niigata Prefecture, Kashiwazaki City and Kariwa Village) is necessary. With regards to unit 6, the committee of specialists appointed by Niigata Prefecture reached the conclusion on November 18 that "there were no issues for resuming commercial operation." Kashiwazaki City and Kariwa Village also judged that this conclusion was appropriate. Only the final judgment of Niigata Prefecture remained and it was thought that the resumption of commercial operation was a matter of time.

However, on the following day, November 19, there was a fire at the power plant facility and the attitude of the prefecture has hardened. The prefecture has decided to defer its final judgment until Tokyo Electric Power provides an explanation of the causes of the problem and preventive measures.

The prefecture with regards to its final judgment stated, "If the causes of the problem are rooted in power plant operating procedures, Tokyo Electric Power may be required to take further measures." Thus, there is uncertainty again regarding resumption of commercial operation.

[Tests progressing towards restart of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS units 1 and 5](#) (November 17, 2009)

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[Kashiwazaki-Kariwa to restart unit 6 recovering from earthquake damage](#) (August 28, 2009)

[Commercial operation of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa unit 7 may be postponed to October or later](#) (August 25, 2009)

[Commercial operation of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa unit 7 postponed](#) (July 28, 2009)

[Two years since Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS stopped operation](#) (July 17, 2009)

[TEPCO requests local permission for restarting Kashiwazaki-Kariwa unit 6](#) (July 7, 2009)

[Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS unit 7 restarts power generation](#) (May 22, 2009)

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