"TEPCO's In-house Competition for Improving Radiation Protection Skills"

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This is a presentation concerning the "In-house Techniques and Skills Competition" of the Tokyo Electric Power which aimed at improving radiation protection skills. Although the In-house Techniques and Skills Competition is held every year, a competition was held for radiation protection skills as well for the first time this year. This competition aims to have front-line engineers vie with each other in techniques and skills to raise consciousness in the company and also to externally maintain and improve technical skills and it is held by department. Good practices are shared to other departments and electric power plants. It was held by the radiation control department at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant for the first time on April 10,2008.

The competition involves creating a chamber simulated the controlled area in a skill training center and performing operations according to a predetermined scenario. The scenario is that some water which contains radioactive materials leaks into an area where dosage was comparatively high after the plant was automatically shut down after an earthquake with a seismic intensity of 5 on the Japanese scale, and that it has been found that the leakage has extended even beyond the non-controlled area (similar to the event of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS of the last year). The amount of radioactivity is evaluated as an operation exercise. Although a detailed scenario has not been provided, its outline has been conveyed in advance, and so each team participates after practicing in advance. Each team consists of six persons, and the teams' allotted time is 70 minutes. A total of three teams of Fukushima Daiichi, Fukushima Daini and Kashiwazaki-Kariwa participated.

An examination is made from three viewpoints of: (1) safety, (2) the quality of operation and (3) efficiency, and check items have been set up respectively. The examination is performed with 40 marks for safety, 30 marks for the quality of operation and 30 marks for efficiency, totaling 100 marks. Judges are around at the

time of the competition, and they make assessment in a comprehensive manner, such as whether safety is being checked, whether the area of low dose rate is being put to good use for the operation, whether the protection is appropriate and whether the right measuring instruments are selected for use.

In the competition this year, the Fukushima Daini Team was victorious although the overall points of the three teams were close to one another with almost no difference in their radiation control skills. Through this competition, it was possible to promote radiation control for measures against water leakage.