

Freezing started for the Landside Impermeable Wall (Ice Wall) at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

<Reference>
March 31,2016
Tokyo Electric Power Company
KAJIMA CORPORATION

- On March 31, 2016, at 11:20 a.m., TEPCO switched on the first refrigerator system and started freezing the soil around the reactor and turbine buildings as scheduled.
- The areas to be frozen this time are the entire seaside line and a part of the landside line (the north side and advanced partial freezing areas). This is freezing work scheduled to be conducted in Phase 1 of the first stage.
- In Phase 1, the entire seaside line is scheduled to be closed. This closure will block the flow of groundwater into the revetment area and raise the groundwater level around the reactor and turbine buildings, thereby reducing the risk of leakage of accumulated water in the buildings which could be caused by the inversion of the water levels inside and outside the buildings. In Phase 2, 95 percent of the total landside line will be closed. The closure will lead to reduction of the amount of groundwater flowing into the reactor and turbine buildings and prevention of groundwater from being contaminated.
- To make the landside impermeable wall work, TEPCO will thoroughly conduct groundwater level management, putting safety first, so that leakage of accumulated water in the buildings due to the inversion of the water levels inside and outside the buildings can be prevented.
- In the first stage, TEPCO will collect data necessary to move on to the second and third stages and evaluate them in order to check how freezing has been progressing.

Freezing of the landside impermeable wall was financed by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the costs were covered by a FY 2013 subsidy for the contaminated water management project .

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Operations started



The first machine



The second and the following machines

Photos taken on March 31, 2016
Provided by Tokyo Electric Power Company