

[11] Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Unit Seawater Injection Timeline and Discontinuance

The [Time Sequence (Facts)] regarding the injection of seawater into Fukushima Daiichi NPS Unit 1 and the decisions that were made by the Headquarters to terminate the injection of seawater, since the decision to terminate the injection of seawater was not made by the power station, are as follows.

[Facts found]

- While seawater was being injected into the reactor using the fire engine, at around 12:00 on March 12, the Site superintendent gave the order to make preparations to inject seawater into the reactor, which the president (Headquarters Countermeasures Division Director) confirmed and approved.
- As the fire engine was about to finish injecting approximately 80,000 liters of freshwater, at around 14:54 the Site superintendent gave the order to inject seawater into the reactor at which time work to switch injecting from freshwater to seawater was implemented.
- In response, at around 15:18, it was conveyed via fax to the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency and Cabinet Secretary's Cabinet Information Gathering Center that "as soon as preparations were complete, the FP would be used to inject seawater into the reactor".
- At around 15:36, right before the lineup was completed, the Unit 1 reactor building exploded and it caused damaging the hoses.
- While a new seawater injection lineup was being configured, at around 18:05, it was shared via teleconference that the Minister of the Economy, Trade and Industry had ordered the injection of seawater in abundance by law.
- At around 19:04 seawater injection commenced and at around 19:06. This fact was conveyed to the NISA.
- At around 19:25, the TEPCO liaison at the Prime Minister's office contacted the Headquarters and power station and said that, "the Prime Minister's office had yet to approve the injection of seawater", after which the Headquarters and power station consulted and decided to temporarily suspend the injection of seawater.
- The Headquarters countermeasures headquarters assumed that the Prime Minister, who is the division director of the nuclear disaster countermeasures

headquarters, and his staff were still debating the necessity to inject seawater while receiving advice from the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan and felt that they could not inject seawater without the approval of the Prime Minister. The liaison to the Prime Minister's office at the time felt that he could negotiate and the injection would only be put on hold for a short period of time.

- However, the Site superintendent deemed that continuing the injection of seawater into the reactor was the most vital measure for preventing the further accident and made the decision to continue to inject seawater.