

February 2, 2011

### **The 4th Regular Inspection of Higashidori Unit 1**

Unit 1 of the Higashidori Nuclear Power Station will undergo its 4th regular inspection for a scheduled period of about five months from February 6, 2011.

Regular inspections<sup>1</sup> are conducted under the Electricity Utilities Industry Law to ensure that reactors and their attached facilities comply with technical standards set by the national government and that their integrity is secure.

In addition to the above inspection, the regular operator inspection<sup>1</sup> will be implemented and the regular safety administration review<sup>2</sup> will also be carried out.

On this occasion, the regular inspection will include replacement of fuels, inspection of the control rod driving mechanism, inspection of the condenser tubes, and inspection related to pipe wastage.

We plan to extend the operation period of Higashidori Unit 1 following completion of the 4th regular inspection from the conventional duration of within 13 months to a new term of within 16 months, and we are undergoing a confirmation and examination of this plan by the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, part of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. During this regular inspection period, the plan of extension of the operation period is also scheduled to be checked at the power station.

We continue promoting safe and stable operation of our facilities with enhancement of maintenance tasks on an ongoing basis, and improve further safety and reliability of our nuclear power stations.

## Outline of Higashidori Unit 1

- Location: Higashidori-mura, Aomori Prefecture
- Rated power output: 1,100 MW
- Reactor type: Boiling Water Reactor (BWR)
- Commencement of operation: Dec 8, 2005

<sup>1</sup> Under the Amended Electricity Utilities Industry Law (enacted October 1, 2003), regular inspections conventionally implemented by the national government and self-inspections conducted by electricity utilities are consolidated and positioned as regular operator inspections, and an obligation of recording and retaining inspection results is added. Furthermore, with respect to part of the regular operator inspections, observation and confirmation of records by the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency or Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization are conducted. This is positioned as regular inspections.

<sup>2</sup> A system where with respect to regular operator inspections, organizations, systems, and inspection methods concerning operators are reviewed by the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization, and based on the results of such reviews, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency evaluates the inspection implementation systems of electricity utilities.