

Accident at the Nuclear Power Station



Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi NPS Unit 3 (shot from the air)

(Shot on March 16, 2011; Provided by TEPCO)

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi NPS Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 3, which were in operation at the time of the earthquake, lost all AC power due to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. This led to the stop of the cooling system and loss of means to cool down nuclear fuels, eventually resulting in the melt of nuclear fuel. In the process of the melt, a large amount of hydrogen gas was generated and hydrogen gas accumulated in reactor buildings caused an explosion at Unit 1 on March 12 and at Unit 3 on March 14. Additionally, at Unit 4 adjacent to Unit 3, a hydrogen explosion occurred due to hydrogen gas that is considered to have flowed into it from Unit 3.

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