



News from the Savannah River National Laboratory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY VISITS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LABS

AIKEN, SC (March 13, 2012) – Two U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories hosted visits with a delegation from the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) for a series of technical exchanges related to TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. At the invitation of Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman, the nine-member TEPCO delegation visited Savannah River Site (SRS) and Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) in South Carolina February 29 – March 2, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, Washington, March 5-7.

The visit built on two previous workshops held jointly by the Government of Japan and the U.S. Department of Energy, first in Tokyo and most recently in Washington state.

“We are honored to have been able to have a constructive dialogue with our TEPCO guests,” said Dr. Terry Michalske, Executive Vice President of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) and Director of SRNL. “Japan faces a long-term cleanup challenge in the years ahead, including many specific issues that are familiar to SRS. We have a successful history of developing and deploying technology to support complex long-term cleanup and remediation; an important mission of a National Laboratory is to find ways to make that expertise available within the global nuclear community. We also expect that going forward, we have much to learn from TEPCO that will be important to our own nuclear knowledge base.”

The SRS/SRNL sessions included presentations by TEPCO and SRS experts, along with tours of selected SRS projects and facilities operated by SRNS and Savannah River Remediation (SRR). SRNS, the site's management and operating contractor, operates the National Laboratory, key nuclear materials facilities, and site cleanup projects; SRR is the contractor responsible for SRS high level waste management.

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“Continuing to share Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s capabilities in applied nuclear technologies with the visiting TEPCO delegation is both satisfying and rewarding,” said Mike Kluse, director of the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. “PNNL scientists continue to provide assistance both on-site in Japan and during visits like these from researchers and officials where we can carefully explore and assess safe and rapid options for recovery and remediation.”

TEPCO delegates conducted discussions with PNNL and SRNL teams in areas that included radiation detection, fate and transport of radionuclides, treatment and reuse of contaminated water, inspection and characterization of spent fuels, stabilization and decontamination of reactor sites, as well as characterization, remediation and control options for contaminated soils, biota and water in surrounding regions.

PNNL and SRNL have developed significant science and technology capabilities for addressing the decontamination and decommissioning of major nuclear facilities in the U.S. The two national laboratories have been working together to bring the best and the integrated capabilities of both labs to bear on the challenges of Fukushima.

Since the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that damaged the Japanese nuclear plant, SRNL and PNNL researchers have been involved with other National Laboratories in DOE-led efforts to provide advice to U.S. and Japanese government officials, and to support the development of potential mitigation and recovery strategies.

SRNL is DOE’s applied research and development national laboratory at the Savannah River Site. SRNL puts science to work to support DOE and the nation in the areas of environmental stewardship, national security, and clean energy. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (a Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell) is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory.

Interdisciplinary teams at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory address many of America's most pressing issues in energy, the environment and national security through advances in basic and applied science. PNNL has been managed for the U.S. Department of Energy by Ohio-based Battelle since the laboratory's inception in 1965.