

N363. Study Shows Need For More Nuclear Power

Study done by the Institute of Energy Economics of Japan showed that the energy consumption level in the year 2100 is a doubling or tripling level of 1990.

A doubling in demand would mean a level slightly lower than the current energy consumption in the US, while tripling would bring Japan almost to the same level as that estimated for the US in 2100.

If there is no increase in nuclear generation in the demanding scenario - there would be a decline in coal and oil use after the year 2000, offset primarily by increased use of gas. This situation could only last around 2030, after which point energy supplies could not keep up with demand. In the demand tripling scenario, the situation would be even worse if nuclear generation were not expanded.

Nearly 50 nuclear power units are now operating in Japan. Block two of the Onagawa power station - an 825MW boiling water reactor unit - was connected to the Japanese grid just before Christmas 1994. Operated by the Tokyo Electric Power Company, the plant is expected to reach full power by June this year, ready for commercial operation in the summer.

Unit 6 at Kashiwazaki Kariwa power station is expected to become Japan's 50th nuclear plant by the end of 1995.

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