

Japan nuke plant test data falsified

by UPI

TOKYO -- Inspection records for components used in Japanese nuclear power plants have been falsified, manufacturers Hitachi Ltd. and Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy Ltd. say.

The companies said Tuesday they had informed Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry about the falsified data, which relates to the welding of pipes to moisture separator reheaters at Chubu Electric Power Co.'s Hamaoka nuclear power plant in Omaezaki and Chugoku Electric Power Co.'s Shimane nuclear power plant in Matsue, The Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

No problems have been found with the welded pipes, but the Japanese government has nonetheless summoned the presidents of both power companies to deliver the warnings directly to them, the newspaper said.

The Hitachi companies said that during a 2001 inspection of the Hamaoka plant, an unnamed employee reportedly erased data that had been recorded and entered new data that conformed with regulations. The incident at Shimane plant, which is still under construction, happened in December.

The power companies reportedly will re-test the strength of the pipe welding and, if necessary, do the final processing stage over.

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