

Two Additional Nuclear Reactors Cleared for Restart in Japan

Yesterday the Governor of Saga Prefecture on Kyushu Island in Southern Japan cleared two nuclear power reactors at the Genkai Plant for restart.

These two reactors are PWRs, owned and operated by Kyushu Electric Power, with a combined capacity of 2.4GW.

The reactors are 23 and 20 years old respectively so the remaining useful life is 20 years so should be capable of running at least until 2035, and possibly 2055 if a 20 year extension is sought.

The two reactors have a generation capacity of 17 TWh of power that is equivalent to around 2% of Japan's power requirements or capable of meeting the power requirements of 3.5 million Japanese households.

This also means that Kyushu Electric Power may be the first Japanese utility to have restarted all of its undecommissioned reactors post Fukushima.

This may represent a significant milestone for the Japanese authorities in the rehabilitation of nuclear power in Japan, and will assist with the goal of restoring Japanese energy self-sufficiency post Fukushima.

This will bring the number of Japanese operating reactors to five with two more Takahama reactors expected to come on line in the Kansai region also in Western Japan in the near future.

We look forward to monitoring with you what the impact may be on the electric grid in the west of Japan and also the impact on wholesale power prices on the Japan Power Exchange as markets continue to deregulate.

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