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Taiwan N-Plants Operate Safely Throughout Typhoon

Taiwan's nuclear power plants have today begun to return to full power as typhoon Haitang, which struck on 18th July 2005, moves away from the island towards mainland China.

A report from the Department of Nuclear Regulation in Taiwan sent to NucNet said that all three plants – which have two units each – continued to operate normally as the typhoon engulfed the entire island.

However, winds on the northern and southern tips of Taiwan, where the plants are, exceeded the limit of 25 metres per second specified in special operating procedures for nuclear plants in typhoon conditions. As a result, all three plants were required to reduce power from 100% to between 20% and 30% of generating capacity.

The plants, which have a total installed net capacity of 4,884 megawatts, gradually started to increase power as the typhoon moved on in the early hours of 19th July 2005.

Haitang is believed to be one of the strongest typhoons to hit Taiwan in five years. It disrupted electricity supplies to more than one million homes and is understood to have led to the deaths of at least three people.

Source: NucNet / Atomic Energy Council, Taipei

Editor: John Shepherd