

## 7,000 Demonstrate in Hamaoka As Hearing on N-Reactors Held

HAMAOKA, Shizuoka Pref. (Kyodo) — An open hearing on the construction of the third nuclear reactor at the Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant by the Chubu Electric Power Co. was held at the town hall here Thursday morning amid demonstrations by adamant nuclear power opponents who encircled the hall.

A total of some 7,000 protesters, consisting of labor union members, students and area residents, encircled the Hamaoka Town Hall and staged an all-night demonstration, rally and sit-in from Wednesday night to Thursday morning in an attempt to block the holding of the hearing, sponsored by the Nuclear Safety Commission.

The construction of the No. 3 nuclear reactor, with a total output capacity of 1.1 million kilowatts, at the plant has aroused strong opposition from area residents concerned about its safety, since Shizuoka Prefecture is under the constant threat of the Tokai "Great Earthquake," which seismologists predict may hit the area in the near future.

Thursday's hearing began at 8:30 a.m. when an official of the commission delivered opening remarks, followed by reports on the safety of the proposed reactor by officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

A total of 21 residents of Hamaoka and four adjacent towns then stated their opinions and asked questions about the safety of the No. 3 reactor and MITI officials responded to them.

Some 500 auditors sat in the town hall, closely watching the heated discussion.

The discussion in the hearing centered in the morning on the environmental damage which would allegedly be caused by the construction of the proposed reactor and on the safety of the plant in the event of the Tokai Great Earthquake in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, demonstrators held an anti-nuclear power symposium at a nearby park, some 1 km away from the town hall, shortly after 11 a.m., protesting the hearing, which they called undemocratic.

They contended that a hearing held to present government opinion alone is not enough to ensure the safety of area residents.

Some 1,500 riot policemen were mobilized to check the activities of the opponents.

The Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant is located on a hilltop some 10 km west of Omaezaki. The plant site covers an area of some 1.6 million sq. meters.

The first reactor of the plant, with a total output capacity of 540,000 kilowatts, went into commercial operation in March 1976 and the second one, with a total output capacity of 840,000 kilowatts, in November 1978.

The electric company applied in June 1977 to the Hamaoka town government for the construction of the third reactor.

Many area residents fear that the construction of the third reactor, with an output capacity of more than 1 million kilowatts, at a place less than 30 km off the epicenter of the

predicted earthquake would pose a serious threat to the safety of inhabitants of the area.

A seismological study, in fact, said in August 1976, "It would not be surprising if an earthquake with an intensity of 8 on the Richter scale hit the Tokai area tomorrow."

The government subsequently adopted a special ordinance in June 1978 concerning steps to minimize damage in case of a devastating earthquake in the region and designated Shizuoka and six other prefectures as districts under constant threat of the predicted earthquake.