Electricity supply-demand measures in summer time

May 13, 2011
Electricity Supply-Demand Emergency Response Headquarters

Introduction

Due to the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, there has been a significant reduction in electricity supply capacities of Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) and Tohoku Electric Power Co. (Tohoku EPCO). To cover the large gap of electricity supply-demand caused by this incident, the Government of Japan initiated the measure of imposing rolling blackouts as unavoidable emergency measures.

Thanks to the utmost cooperation and efforts to save electricity by Japanese people and industries, the supply-demand balance was improved, and large-scale blackouts were avoided, though people were deeply concerned about it. On April 8, rolling blackouts were shifted from the state of “implemented in principle” to that of “not implemented in principle”.

However, the supply-demand balance is expected to become tighter again as the summer approaches. Without any fundamental measures for dealing with both supply and demand, it may not be possible to maintain the status of rolling blackouts as “not implemented in principle”, nor eliminate their adverse effects. In these circumstances, people’s daily lives and, in particular, industrial activity as the source of the nation’s vitality will be so hampered that reconstruction from the earthquake and the restart of Japan’s economy cannot be expected.

Based upon the “Framework of the Electricity Supply-Demand Measures in Summer Time” (hereinafter referred to as the “Framework”) approved on April 8, 2011, we have made efforts in taking specific measures to increase supply capacity as well as the measures to reduce demand, and prepared the report of the results as described below. In the future, in order to overcome these difficulties through creative measures taken by both the government and the private sector, we would like to request cooperation from people on all level, using the common sense, ideas and understanding.

1. Basic concept of electricity supply-demand measures in this summer

(1) Basic perspective of examination

➤ We should aim to minimize the impact on peoples’ living and economic activities so as to ensure that any reduction in the supply of power does not impair the recovery of Japan’s economy.
Especially, it will be necessary to minimize the impact on the production and operation of industries which constitute the source of the nation’s vitality and the foundation of recovery from the disaster. In this case, it will be also necessary for labor and management to proceed with preparations through adequate consultations on the specific measures to be taken.

It will be necessary to pay the utmost consideration to the disaster-affected areas, principally the Tohoku region.

To take specific measures, it will be necessary to deal with the future actions from the medium- and long-term viewpoints, including not only the measures to be taken this summer, but also the actions such as strengthening renewable energy and energy conservation measures which contribute to ensuring the stable supply of energy and reducing the environmental load in Japan; and increasing and distributing shutdown days, holidays and vacations.

(2) Basic framework of electricity supply-demand measures

It will be necessary to set the demand reduction target in order to bridge the residual gap between the supply and demand of power after the supply increase as specified in the Framework has been maximized.

To reduce demand, it will be necessary not only to reduce the maximum use of power (kW) as a basic requirement, but also to indicate the projected reduction rates in each peak period and each zone of peak hours. By doing so, prospective customers may draw up and implement their own plans to shift operation times and increase and redistribute (stagger) shutdown days and holidays by exerting their originality and ingenuity in order to set up the basic framework in which adverse affects on customers are minimized, and especially so on the productive and operational activities of enterprises as the source of the nation’s vitality and the base of Japan’s economic recovery.

It will be necessary to take specific measures regarding reducing demand for each sector, including large customers, small customers or households and make them applicable to the attributes of each sector.

The rolling blackouts should be taken so as to maintain the state of “not implemented in principle” by surely implementing the measures as specified in this report, and preparations should be made flawlessly to take action as a safety net and to respond to any emergency.

It will be also necessary to take the supply and demand measures after the coming summer in order to eliminate the reduction in the supply and demand of electric power as soon as possible and contribute to the restoration from the earthquake and the restart of the Japanese economy.
2. Forecast of supply capacity in this summer and target of demand reduction

(1) Forecast supply capacity in this summer

- The supply capacities of TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO have been increased by taking measures such as restoring the disaster-stricken thermal power plants, restarting the thermal power plants shut down for a long period, introducing the power sources such as gas turbines for installation in emergencies, increasing the purchase of power from private power generation facilities, and using pumped storage power generation power plants.

- By taking these measures, it is expected that the supply capacity will be increased by more than about 5 GW for TEPCO and by more than about 0.5 GW for Tohoku EPCO, as specified in the Framework.

- Furthermore, TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO plan to increase their supply capacities, and TEPCO decided to bridge the shortage of power supply by Tohoku EPCO as possible, considering the situation in the Tohoku Region containing many disaster-stricken areas.

- As a result, it is predicted that the supply capacity in the coming summer will reach 53.8 GW (at the end of July) for TEPCO and 13.7 GW (at the end of August) for Tohoku EPCO, and that the minimum demand reduction rate as required will be -10.3% for TEPCO and -7.4% for Tohoku EPCO. (Refer to the reference.)

<Comparison of supply-demand balance with electric power interchange at its maximum>

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TEPCO area</th>
<th>Tohoku EPCO area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Expected demand (with demand reduction)</td>
<td>60 GW</td>
<td>14.8 GW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forecast of supply capacity (with electric power interchange)</td>
<td>53.8 GW</td>
<td>13.7 GW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentages of required demand reduction</td>
<td>-10.3%</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
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(Note) The demand reduction target is represented the reduction rate of the expected demand as the reference for reduction. The reference demand is the estimated peak demand of 60 GW for TEPCO and 14.80 GW for Tohoku EPCO, at the same level as the previous year.

(2) Target of demand reduction

- It is appropriate to set the demand reduction target which permits a certain level of allowance, but not the coincidence of supply and demand, considering the following risks:
  - The restoration of thermal power plants may be delayed by aftershocks, or thermal power
plants may be damaged by aftershocks.
- Technical risks caused by the continuous 24-hour operation of obsolete thermal power plants or by the urgent restoration of disaster-stricken thermal power plants.
- Insufficient supply of power from one power plant to another.

From these viewpoints, the target of demand reduction rate is set at -15% in the areas covered by Tokyo and Tohoku EPCO Companies

(Note) It is more difficult to reduce the demand from people in disaster-stricken areas, and it is reasonable to set the demand reduction target with a significant allowance in the territory that Tohoku EPCO covers. In the territory covered by Tohoku EPCO, the demand reduction rate for the supply capacity equivalent to the demand is lower than in the territory covered by TEPCO. However, the target demand reduction rate is set at the same level as that for the territory covered by TEPCO.

To attain this target, the target demand reduction rate in each sector of large customers, small customers or households is equally set at -15% under the policy that people and industries should make concerted efforts in attaining the same targets to get through potential difficulties posed by this coming summer.

(Note) The maximum use of electric power in each peak period and each zone of peak hours (9:00 to 20:00 on the business days in July to September) will be reduced in principle.
(Note) Potential customers include the national and local governments. This is true hereinafter.

3. Demand side measures

(1) Large customers (Contract electricity: 500kW or more)

1) Basic policy of taking demand measures

Based on the demand reduction target of -15%, large customers should draw up and implement their plans to take specific measures for drastically reducing their demand, considering their needs and business activities. In this case, labor and management should make efforts in taking measures while adequately consulting each other so as to minimize the impact on peoples’ lives and economic activities so as to facilitate restoration from the earthquake disaster and the restart of the Japanese economy.

Respecting the initiatives implemented by these customers, the government will make the necessary preparations for applying the Electricity Enterprises Law, Article 27 to take complementary actions in order to maintain the effectiveness of demand reduction and equality between potential customers.

The government will review the regulatory system related to electricity supply-demand
measures to help customers in smoothly implementing their initiatives.

- TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO will improve and positively use the menus in their supply and demand adjustment contracts not only to encourage customers to set and distribute their shutdown days in summer and cut their peak demands, but also to increase the opportunity of entering into the supply and demand adjustment contract when the balance of supply and demand is tight.

2) Specific measures taken by potential customers

- If large customers take measures to adjust and shift their operating times and business hours, and stagger holidays and summer vacation periods in cooperation with the related enterprises, they may minimize the impact on the Japanese economy without reducing production.

- The Japan Federation of Economic Organizations called on its member enterprises and organizations to prepare their “voluntary action plans for taking electricity measures”. As of the end of April, 637 companies (one joint action plan prepared by plural enterprises is counted as one plan by one company) are participating in this program. In addition, The Japan Federation of Economic Organizations and the Japan Trade Union Confederation decided to jointly take demand reduction measures. (Reference 1)

3) Application of the Electricity Enterprises Law, Article 27

- The necessary preparations for limiting the use of electricity under the Electricity Enterprises Law, Article 27 will be made according to the following framework:

  ○ Subjects
    - TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO, the other electric power companies of a specific size supplying power in the territories of the two former companies, and large customers with supply and demand contracts with the two former companies (for 500kW or more)
    - The subjects shall be selected by the scale of contract with an electric power company (or by the size of business facility).

  ○ Period and range of hours
    - TEPCO: July 1 to September 22 (business day), 2011, 09:00 to 20:00
    - Tohoku EPCO: July 1 to September 9 (business day), 2011, 09:00 to 20:00

  ○ Specific contents
    - In principle, the upper limit of power use shall be the 15% reduced “value of the maximum power use (per hour) for the above-described period and range of hours in 2010”.
    - If the upper limit value is unknown or if the contracted power purchase is increased or decreased, the required corrective action shall be taken.
○ Scheme of limiting joint use
- Large customers shall introduce the scheme that may reduce the maximum joint use of power by committing in reducing the maximum uses of power in their business facilities.
- If the total use of power can be reduced by 15% or more, large and small customers shall be able to utilize the action of limiting the joint use in their business facilities.

○ Exemption from application and the alleviation of limitation
- It shall be necessary to further review specific alleviations of limitations such as exemptions from the application of and the decrease of the reduction rate (15%), including what responses to the disaster-stricken areas should be made.
- To review the alleviations of limitations, the number of companies that enjoy the exemption from application or the alleviation of limitations shall be minimized and reflect actual situations. As enterprises and business facilities, the subjects shall make the greatest effort in limiting their use of power and attaining the reduction rate (15%) as much as possible.

4) Review on the regulatory system for electricity supply-demand measures

- It will be necessary to review the regulatory system for electricity supply-demand measures, including the temporary responses, so as to ensure that large customers, small customers and households take drastic demand reduction measures. To do so, the government will not only take the finally decided actions (see Appendix 1) such as clarifying the enforcement of the Antimonopoly Law, making periodical inspections flexibly on the operators of independent power-generating facilities, and giving notice to local governments about the concept of the additional regulations on smoke emission standards relating to the operation of independent power-generating facilities, but also continue to make reviews on the regulatory system in the executive meeting under the Electricity Supply-Demand Emergency Response Headquarters, or any other meeting held as required, and draw the conclusions by the end of May.

(2) Small customers (contract electricity: less than 500kW)

1) Basic policy of taking demand measures

- Small customers will set their specific reduction targets and draw up, publish and implement their voluntary plans for taking their demand measures applicable to their own types of businesses. To do so, each customer will implement its own plans while its labor and management consult each other.

- To encourage small customers to commit to the implementation of their own plans, the government will take actions such as informing them that they should commit to saving their power consumption by using the “standard format for action plan of electricity saving”.

2) Specific measures taken by customers
Small customers will voluntarily publish their own plans ("action plan for electricity saving") including saving power consumption of lighting and air conditioning and other equipment; decreasing business hours; setting, increasing and distributing shutdown days in summer by putting up notices of the plan in the conspicuous places in their business facilities or posting them on the government’s website.

To contribute to these measures taken by small customers, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other organizations are considering the preparation of guidelines for small customers to reduce their demand by referring to the “standard format for action plan of electricity saving”.

To give support to smaller enterprises, the Tokyo Association of Smaller Entrepreneurs (Tokyo Doyukai) also will prepare and publish a “simplified manual for small medium enterprises to take electricity measures” as a guide for small customers to prepare their own power saving action plans.

3) Specific measures taken by the Government

The government will prepare the “standard format for action plan of electricity saving” (Reference 2) which describes the main power saving actions to be taken by high power consumption industries and characteristic ways of using power, so that potential customers can refer to the plan when they prepare their own action plans. The government will provide potential customers with information about specific cases and effects of the power saving measures taken by using the “standard format for action plan of electricity saving”.

In addition to the commitments by individual customers, the ministries and agencies concerned will encourage potential customers to jointly make efforts in taking measures applicable to their own types of businesses, such as setting shutdown days in turn, and saving power consumption jointly by building owners and tenants.

To help potential customers in preparing their own measures, the government will set up its website through which customers can register their own plans. In addition, it will not only build a mechanism by which many people can be informed of the measures and assess them, but also further raise customers’ consciousness of positively committing to saving power in order to establish such a commitment by customers.

The government will powerfully promote its educational activities such as providing necessary information to potential customers through the ministries and agencies concerned, industrial organizations, local governments, etc. It will also provide leading small customers with information about the necessity of power saving, specific methods for taking measures, etc., and ask them for their cooperation by using various methods.
such as visiting individual customers. In addition, it will hold explanatory and other meetings for small customers to call on them to positively take power saving measures.

- An effective means for saving power consumption is the reduction of contracted power purchasing by small customers, because it may awaken and establish the power saving consciousness among customers who are careful and restrain their consumption so as not to exceed their contracted purchases. Therefore, TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO will be encouraged to improve their tariffs so as to save their power consumption; to set their reduction targets and call on potential customers to reduce their contracted power purchases in order to attain the reduction targets; and to respond to potential customers’ consultations and requests as soon as possible, if they want to reduce their contracted power purchases and consult with the power companies about specific methods to reduce their purchases.

(3) Households

1) Basic policy of taking demand measures

- Households should consciously take specific action to save their power consumption, for example by using the menu of power saving measures.

- The government will take actions such as informing people of the menu of power saving measures, and educating people about power saving in order to encourage households to reduce power consumption.

2) Specific measures taken by households

- The government will prepare the “menu of power saving measures for households” (Reference 3) that describes specific measures for reducing power consumption, and publish it through various media such as pamphlets, newspapers, television and the Internet to inform households about the necessity of reducing power consumption and power saving measures.

(Note) Air conditioning equipment accounts for about 50% of the total use of power by standard households during the peak period and peak hours in summer, followed by refrigerators, TV sets and lighting. To attain the 15% reduction in power consumption, it may be required to decrease the temperature setting of air conditioning equipment and switch off the unnecessary lighting at the same time.

- The government will inform education boards about the necessity of power saving in order to encourage primary and junior high schools to provide education to pupils and students about power saving and to include the subject in lectures and include it in homework for
the summer vacation. In addition, it will be necessary to dispatch energy conservation experts to primary schools to offer education about power saving to their pupils. In the power saving education, it will be also important to mention the necessity of energy conservation.

- The government will not only set up its website to which the members of households can access to declare their power saving targets and the contents of their power saving measures to be taken, but also build a system by which all people can voluntarily save power. To ripen the opportunity of power saving in households and strengthen the people’s consciousness of power saving, the government will largely call on the public to develop applications for PCs and cellular phones by using data such as the power supply and demand information provided by electric power companies and the common contents of PR information provided by the government, and disseminate the information about the applications.

- It is expected that awareness of the need of power saving will be effectively awakened if households that are careful and exercise self-restraint in terms of not letting their contracted power purchases (amperes) exceeded the contract then reduce their contracted power purchases. If households make consultations with or requests to TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO about the reduction of their contracted power purchases, therefore, the government will encourage the electric power companies to rapidly respond to the consultations and requests made by households, considering that it is important for households not to lose too much of the convenience of electric power.

(4) Measures to promote national movement

1) Public relations and education (Appendix 2)

- The government will actively carry out its educational activities, because it recognizes that it will be indispensible to obtain the maximum understanding and cooperation from all people and operators on all levels. Toward the peak period in summer, the government will 1) inform the people of its basic policies, especially the necessity of power saving and the measures to be taken by operators and households, and 2) promote a national movement committed to power saving, especially predicting the supply and demand of electric power and calling on people to take the specific action to save their power consumption. In this case, the following points should be taken into consideration:

○ A national movement committed to power saving should be nurtured.
○ Any information should be clearly explained and fed back. (Effects should be clearly indicated).
○ Educational activities should be carried out step by step. (It is necessary to have people understand the necessity of power saving based on the characteristics of power, and then to provide them with the information about the specific actions to be taken.)
○ It will be necessary to consider the economic and social activities and people’s health (especially the alleviation of economic and social burdens and the avoidance of health impairments such as heatstroke).
○ Continuous, but not temporary, energy conservation activities should be carried out. (It will be necessary to strengthen the long-term energy supply and demand structure and realize the lifestyles in which work and life are harmonized with each other.)
○ The government should establish the partnerships with local governments.

➢ Concretely, it will be basically necessary not only to call on people to better understand the necessity of power saving through various media such as newspapers, television, the Internet, posters and pamphlets, but also to prepare and publish common logos and basic messages for the people to recognize the necessity of power saving. It will be also necessary to construct a comprehensive portal site (setsuden.go.jp) in order to encourage people to take power saving measures; set up the idea box to collect various ideas for power saving from many levels of the people; and call on people to be lightly dressed or wear the clothing made with high-functionality textile fibers.

➢ It will be effective to “visualize” on the homepage or other media power supply and demand scenarios and the predicted demand in order to motivate people to make efforts in reducing power consumption. To do so, the government will encourage TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO not only to provide information about the power supply and demand situation and the predicted demand, but also to help various operators (such as cellular-phone service providers and Internet operators) in the private sector in providing a wide range of information.

➢ If the balance of power supply and demand is so tight that risks such as rolling blackouts are increased, though the public and operators make various efforts in saving their power consumption, the government will make its emergency request for power saving as the “tight supply-demand alert” (provisional name), and provide the information that rolling blackouts may be instituted in any emergency.

2) Considerations in holding big events

➢ If big events are held, the ministries and agencies interested will request the event organizers to consider the possibility of holding the events during the non-peak periods and non-peak hours, take power saving measures while the events are held, and inform participants in the events that electricity saving measures are taken during the events.

➢ The ministries and agencies concerned will call on broadcasting companies to broadcast the information about events during the non-peak periods and non-peak hours.

3) Stagger and increase of shutdown days, holidays and vacations in summer, and encouragement of households to travel / go out of home (Reference 4)
The stagger and increase of shutdown days, holidays and vacations are the effective power saving methods to minimize the influences on economic activities. However, these methods may lead to harder working conditions. Therefore, it will be necessary for labor and management to make adequate consultations about such problems.

Being away from home or traveling also has an obvious power saving effect in the household sector, whatever the destination is. It is expected that the power saving effect will be enhanced if families have more opportunities of being away from home because shutdown days, holidays and vacations are staggered and increased and tourist spots are less congested. The promotion of travel including the long-stay type of travel will activate the tourist industry, which is easily impacted by widespread hesitation to travel. Traveling to disaster-stricken areas may contribute to the restoration of the local economy there. It is expected that the promotion of travel will lead to the realization of lifestyles in which work and life are harmonized with each other, unless it is a temporary action taken only in the coming summer.

(5) Government side measures

Based on the “Government’s basic policy of taking electricity saving measures” (Appendix 3), the government will prepare plans for taking power saving measures for each ministry or agency to reduce the maximum use of power at least by 15%. In addition, the government will actively commit to reducing the use of power during the peak period and peak hours.

The ministries and agencies concerned will request independent administrative institutions and nonprofit foundations under their jurisdictions to prepare their own power saving plans by referring to the “Government’s basic policy of taking power saving measures” as well as the “plans for taking power saving measures” prepared by the ministries and agencies.

(6) Rolling blackouts as safety net (Appendix 4)

The rolling blackouts have shifted into a state of “not implemented in principle”. If this action is obliged to be taken in any future emergency, it will be necessary to take action after the operation of power sources has been improved. Specifically, it will be necessary to avoid plural rolling blackouts several times a day, and to take any other actions such as reducing the duration of blackouts from the present 3 hours to about 2 hours.

To alleviate negative influences on peoples’ lifestyles, power substations should not only alleviate the influence of service interruptions as much as possible on medical institutions or similar organizations by improving the operation of their plants, considering that service interruptions may directly and immediately affect human lives, but also deploy power generator-mounted vehicles to back up private power generators in emergencies. Independent smaller-capacity power generators should be rented out to patients using
artificial respirators in their houses, and the information about measures against heatstroke should be provided to people.

4. Electricity supply-demand measures after this summer

(1) Basic policy

➢ It will be necessary continue to take supply and demand measures after the coming summer so as to get rid of the restrictions related to the supply and demand of power as soon as possible, and contribute to the restoration from the earthquake and the restart of the Japanese economy.

➢ The electricity supply-demand measures in the future aim not only to take complete safety measures for nuclear power stations, though they depend on the results of reviews made on what the future energy policy should be, but also to improve the supply and demand situation, compared with those in the coming summer, by taking the supply and demand measures as described below. (Appendix 5).

(Note) A part of these measures will start to be taken in the coming summer, if possible.

(2) Specific measures

➢ The supply capacities of thermal power plants will be increased not only by restoring and restarting the operation of existing thermal power plants; installing new power sources in emergencies, and using private power generating facilities, but also by constructing additional thermal power plants as early as possible.

➢ To promote the interchange of electric power between power stations, it will be necessary to increase and further enhance the capacities of the existing frequency conversion (FC) stations as soon as possible, increase and strengthen interregional linking facilities all over the country, and further increase and strengthen FC stations.

➢ Further efforts will be made to introduce distributed power sources as well as renewable energy sources (such as photovoltaic, wind and geothermal power sources).

➢ In the aspect of demand, it should be considered to introduce an institutional technique to encourage customers to save their power consumption, while potential customers should optimize the utilization of energy, for example by introducing smart meters. It will be also necessary to further promote energy conservation and the utilization of natural gas by introducing facilities and equipment contributing to saving power.
Conclusion

This time, the supply capacity was increased to the maximum bearing in mind technical risks such as the utilization of decrepit thermal power plants and the urgent restoration of disaster-stricken thermal plants. Therefore, it goes without saying that it will be indispensable for people on all levels to make efforts in saving their power consumption. In the future, such a situation must be absolutely avoided that the rolling blackouts which are now in the state of “not implemented in principle” will be obliged to be taken.

Therefore, people are requested on all levels to understand the demand reduction actions as described above as much as possible and lend support to the implementation of the actions. The government also should take the best action possible.

It should be noticed that the predicted supply capacity and demand of power may probably be changed from time to time. Therefore, we’ll always recognize the changing situation of supply and demand, and review the contents of this report as required.
(Reference)

**Forecast supply capacity in this summer**

(1) Forecast supply capacities of TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO

**Forecast supply capacity of TEPCO**
- Forecast on which the Framework was based: on April 15
- Forecast on May 13

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<th>End of July</th>
<th>End of August</th>
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<tr>
<td>TEPCO Forecast</td>
<td>46.50 GW</td>
<td>44.60 GW</td>
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<tr>
<td>GW → Forecast</td>
<td>52.00 GW</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>55.20 GW</strong></td>
<td><strong>56.20 GW</strong></td>
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**Forecast supply capacity of Tohoku EPCO**
- Forecast on which the Framework was based: on April 15
- Forecast on May 13

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<tr>
<td>GW → Forecast</td>
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<td><strong>12.80 GW</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.30 GW</strong></td>
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(2) Comparison of supply-demand balance between TEPCO and Tohoku EPCO

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<td><strong>-8.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>-16.9%</strong></td>
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(Note) The demand reduction target was set in the form of the reduction percentage of the estimated demand as reference. The estimated peak demand used is as almost same as in last year. It is 60.00 GW for TEPCO and 14.80 GW for Tohoku EPCO.

(3) Comparison of supply-demand balance with electric power interchanges at its maximum

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<th></th>
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<th>Tohoku EPCO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interchange</td>
<td>-1.4 GW</td>
<td>+1.4 GW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply capacity after interchange</td>
<td><strong>53.80 GW</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.70 GW</strong></td>
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