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For immediate release

Nippon Petroleum Refining Company, Limited

President: Isao Kakefuda

## Safety Inspections at the Marifu and Osaka Refineries (Revision of previously released information and apologies)

On August 4, Nippon Petroleum Refining Company, Limited, wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Oil Corporation (NOC) held a press conference to apologize for fraudulent reports that had been made regarding certified safety inspections under the High-Pressure Gas Safety Law. These incidents were discovered as a result of voluntary inspections at NOC's Marifu Refinery (Plant manager: Akira Iwata, location: Waki-cho, Kuga-gun, Yamaguchi Prefecture) and its Osaka Refinery (Plant manager: Yoshihiko Maehara, location: Takaishi City, Osaka Prefecture).

Investigation of these incidents is still under way within NOC, but, since the release of previous information, other findings have included the fact that fraudulent reports were submitted not only related to tests on the internal pipe diameter of specified equipment but other items as well, namely, tests for airtightness and openness as well as other safety tests.

In addition, further investigation has shown that the periods when fraudulent reports were submitted were longer than initially reported. At the Marifu Refinery, the previously reported "four years beginning in 1998" has been extended to "six years beginning in 1997," and, at the Osaka Refinery the previously reported "during 2000" has been extended to "three years beginning in 2000."

As reported previously, starting on August 4, 2003, NOC has suspended operations at related facilities at these refineries to fully confirm their safety, and further inspections are scheduled under the guidance of government authorities.

In addition to disclosing this information on newly identified fraudulent reports, we wish to express again our deepest apologies for this series of incidents.

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