

## Report Finalized on Measures for Aging Commercial Nuclear Reactors

On August 31, the study committee on measures for aging reactors, part of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Subcommittee under the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy, held its seventh meeting, at which it finalized a report on improvements to aging measures at commercial nuclear reactors. Having received the report, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) is to issue guidelines by the end of this year. The Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) will commence its activities, also before the year is out, establishing a committee and working groups.

The report was finalized after the draft from the previous meeting was modified. Four new measures were added to improve aging measures: (1) ensuring transparency and effectiveness; (2) establishing a database for technological information; (3) preventing corporate culture and organizational climate from also “aging” while technological capabilities are maintained and improved; and (4) fulfilling the demands of accountability for aging measures. Many committee members praised the contents of the report; one person even said, “They are the world’s best aging measures.”

The concept of ensuring transparency and effectiveness includes the following: (1) facilities subject to the technological evaluation of their state of aging, and the examination of implementation systems; (2) reviews of the state of implementation of long-term maintenance plans; and (3) dealing with deterioration when the technological evaluation of aging begins (i.e., 30 years after commissioning). Those are all in addition to the development of guidelines and standard procedures for the examination of aging measures.

The concept of developing the foundation of technological information, meanwhile, includes the following: (1) the importance of organic cooperation among industry, the government and academe, as distinct from gathering, developing and using technological information; (2) selecting themes for safety research; and (3) implementing and carrying out international activities. JNES will establish a committee to coordinate cooperation comprehensively, under which three working groups – dealing with technological information, safety research and international cooperation – will be set up.

The report notes that the purpose of aging measures, their contents and the state of their implementation – concepts usually difficult for the public to comprehend – should be organized in an easy-to-understand manner, and it urged both the government and industry to strive further in terms of accountability.

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