

## **New NPP Inspection System Soon to Be Issued, Applicable to Periodic Inspections Starting Next April**

**The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) held a meeting of its Advisory Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on August 6 to discuss the nature of nuclear power plant (NPP) inspections, with explanations made of the preparations being made in advance of the upcoming introduction of the new inspection system. The system is to be made public at the end of August by ministerial ordinance, and will become law in early January 2009.**

The system will actually be applied for the first time in periodic inspections beginning in April 2009, as part of the maintenance plans. The Japanese electric power industry has renewed its resolve to improve the safety and reliability of nuclear power, stressing the "importance of continual improvements made by operators themselves."

The interval between NPP suspensions according to NISA regulations has been set at 13 months or less for the first application, with 18 months possible starting in the second cycle. An interval of 24 months will be possible in some five years' time, after data has been gathered through three or so cycles of operation.

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