

JAIF Report Praises Efforts by Utilities after General Inspections

On August 26, President Takuya Hattori of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF) made a presentation to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) based on a report it had compiled last year on "Building the Infrastructure for the Sound Promotion of Nuclear Generation," outlining the subsequent efforts made by power utilities and other organizations.

In May 2007, JAIF had issued a statement and proposal with the same title based on the results of the utilities' general inspections of their facilities, as well as their measures to prevent the recurrence of cover-ups and falsifications, along with evaluations of inspection results, administrative dispositions and measures by the government.

In that statement, JAIF had recommended five actions for the utilities, manufacturers, related bodies and organizations, the national government and local municipalities to take:

- Maintaining and improving a sense of responsibility at the workplace.
- Improving technical skills and evolving knowledge and understanding at the workplace.
- Thoroughly implementing self-management (companies) and rational safety regulation (government).
- Promoting information-sharing across various sectors of the nuclear industry.
- Clarifying the separate roles of the government, municipalities and companies.

Thereafter, the power utilities and the others, including the national government, took various steps, including measures to ensure safety and recover confidence. Now, one year after the proposal's original issuance, JAIF has compiled and integrated the resulting actions and activities, as mentioned above. Citing examples in each area, it recognizes that the companies, etc., have striven to establish internal audit functions, strengthen their quality management systems, as well as establishing systems to recognize maintenance skills, along with implementing PDCA (plan→do→check→action) processes in response to the points requiring improvement in their regulation of safety.

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