

Democratic Party of Japan Outlines Nuclear Policy, Proposing a More Independent and Stronger Nuclear Safety Regulatory Commission

In October, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) released its “DPJ Policies Index 2008,” integrating its various political discussions that the party has engaged in up to now. In the area of energy, the report clearly states that the party will adopt the basic policy direction of supporting nuclear energy, with top priority placed on securing safety, obtaining the understanding and trust of the public nationwide, and cooperating with the international community.

For strengthening safety-checking functions, the DPJ recommends that the nuclear safety regulatory commission be granted greater independence by making it an administrative body, unlike the current advisory commission.

Regarding the reprocessing of spent fuel and the disposal of radioactive waste, the DPJ report says that the national government needs to take the final responsibility for establishing both the technology and the business, given the long business period involved. At the same time, it affirms that reprocessing technology will be established on the twin premises of safety and transparency.

Editor: Mio Kimuro, JAIF