

Initiatives directed towards independent nuclear safety improvement

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The Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan

With a strong commitment to preventing events similar to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, we nuclear operators have been appropriately addressing the new regulatory requirements and thoroughly undertaking safety measures.

Several nuclear power stations have restarted now, but regardless, continuous efforts that transcend regulatory boundaries are ongoing in hopes of ensuring higher levels of safety. Notably, last July saw the establishment of the Atomic Energy Association (ATENA). This has resulted in effectively using the knowledge and resource of the entire nuclear industry and further reinforcing efforts toward increased safety.

Sharing an awareness that commitment of top-level officials is the key to greater safety in nuclear power generation, leaders gathered from nuclear operators as well as the Japan Nuclear Safety Institute (JANSI), the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry's Nuclear Risk Research Center (NRRC), and ATENA, all of which are external bodies, to discuss what role they should fulfill and their new efforts.

In specific terms, the four parties are to work together for efforts including:

- Continuously improving operator performance through peer pressure generated by sharing results of JANSI peer reviews and comprehensive station evaluations
- Enhancing risk evaluation methods jointly with the NRRC and making decisions with comprehensive judgments that are based on risk analyses/evaluations
- Introducing to the field effective safety measures that are proposed by ATENA, a body consisting of nuclear safety experts

The new inspection system launching in 2020 will incorporate the performance-based concept where plant safety is evaluated on a track-record basis, building on the risk-informed approach, which harnesses risk information to clarify potential impact on safety. The system will in turn further advance operators' voluntary safety improvement activities and build a framework that effectively raises safety levels.

Higher safety levels will be achieved under the new inspection system through efforts of both operators and regulators. Operators will have their safety activities better understood by readily disclosing information and harnessing risks as a common tool for communication, and at the same time work with ATENA to interact with regulators and thereby voluntarily and continuously improve the safety of nuclear power stations.

Based on the global standards, the nuclear industry will keep advancing safety improvement efforts in an autonomous and sustained manner so that we can incorporate best practices in the world. Furthermore, we will strive to restore public trust by having individual operators engage in risk communication relating to nuclear power generation and the whole industry engage in broader communication with the society.