Summary of Press Conference Comments Made by Nozomu Mori, FEPC Chairman on June 19, 2026

I am Nozomu Mori of the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan.

Today, I would like to talk about the draft revision of the Future Direction of Nuclear Policy and Action Guidelines, set out by the government's Nuclear Subcommittee.

This draft revision includes, for the first time, the scale and projections for future nuclear development, which operators have been repeatedly requesting.

As nuclear generating capacity is expected to decline sharply from FY2040 onward, Japan aims to develop 2,200–5,500 MW of new nuclear capacity by the 2040s and 12,700–16,000 MW by the 2050s. This sends a strong message that Japan, as a country, will continue using nuclear power, and this is an important step forward. I want to again pay my respects to those who were involved in the discussions.

We believe this policy could serve as a compass for establishing a virtuous cycle for maintaining and securing talent, supply chain, and necessary technical capabilities for the nuclear power business overall. To turn this policy into reality, instead of just a target, the industry, government, and academia must work together and accelerate their efforts to implement it. We as operators will also do our utmost in support of these efforts.

As indicated in the Action Guidelines, accelerating the restart of existing reactors and stably operating them with safety as a premise is critical for the maximal use of nuclear power.

Operators are currently implementing various measures to increase plant safety and quality by enhancing nuclear power generation operations, which include conducting online maintenance and measures for introducing more flexibility in the operation period.

This involves avoiding concurrent works during outages and work load smoothing

to allow for optimized deployment of skilled workers. It will help secure skilled workers and promote the transfer of skills, which will in turn increase plant safety and reliability. We believe these measures will contribute to the stable power supply, and ultimately, maintaining and increasing the capacity factor of nuclear power plants.

Furthermore, many of the plants currently online have been in operation for 30 to 50 years. Aging degradation measures need to be implemented for these plants.

Operators are implementing such aging degradation measures sequentially, and ATENA has established a dedicated working group in 2022 to systematically and strategically address common technical challenges in aging degradation. Discussions are underway to make these measures more effective.

Regarding the development and construction of next-generation innovative reactors, a geological survey has been started at Kansai Electric Power Company's Mihama Nuclear Power Station. To improve the predictability of the regulatory approach to innovative light water reactors, regular opinion exchanges on innovative light water reactors have been conducted with the regulatory authority since December 2024. It is important to make steady progress in these kinds of initiatives.

In addition, rebuilding nuclear power plants is very costly. As was pointed out in government review meetings, capital expenditure across the electricity industry may keep trending at record-breaking levels. However, utilities' free cash flow is currently at low levels as market competitiveness has increased since the Great East Japan Earthquake due to the liberalization of the electricity market.

In preparation for the rebuilding of power plants, systems must be built so that a business environment for smooth financing can be established to encourage new investments, predictability in recovering investments can be secured, and operators are able to profit from the nuclear power business in order to make the sector more attractive. We ask that the national government develop the details of these systems without delay.

To sustainably use nuclear power in the face of projected growth in electricity

demand, we believe nuclear power plants may need to be newly built and expanded. We ask that the government revisit this point in the discussions around the next Strategic Energy Plan.

Finally, I want to briefly touch on the 9th Spent Fuel Measures Council held yesterday.

As many of you may have covered it on the ground, operators took the opportunity to explain the state of each operator's spent fuel measures, and the progress in Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited's design and construction plan review response.

In response, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ryosei Akazawa made requests related to the completion of the JNFL plant with regards to progress management and securing talent through the Council. He also requested us to report to the Ministry about concrete measures necessary to meet the deadline to carry out the vitrified waste that has been transported to Aomori Prefecture.

Operators consider this issue to be critical. We informed Minister Akazawa that operators would cooperate closely with regards to these common challenges.

The industry will continue to come together to advance initiatives to steadily promote the nuclear fuel cycle business, including final disposal.

This concludes my remarks for today.

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