Regarding the Approval of the Amendment to Operational Safety Programs Related to the Reorganization of a System to Implement Activities for Protecting Reprocessing Facilities

Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (hereinafter referred to as “NISA”) requested reprocessing operators, in a direction document issued May 1, 2011 “Regarding the Implementation of Emergency Safety Measures at Nuclear Reprocessing Facilities Taking into Account the 2011 Accidents at the Fukushima Dai-ichi and Dai-Ni Nuclear Power Stations (Directions)” as well as in the amended ministerial order dated May 12, to review operational safety programs as they relate to organizing a system for implementing emergency safety measures and to ensuring multiple emergency power generators on standby.

In response, reprocessing operators submitted applications for approval of amendments to operational safety programs. This is to inform the public that NISA approved these applications, dated today (6/15).

1. Background

On May 1, 2011, NISA requested reprocessing operators, in the direction document “Regarding the Implementation of Emergency Safety Measures at Nuclear Reprocessing Facilities Taking into Account the 2011 Accidents at the Fukushima Dai-ichi and Dai-Ni Nuclear Power Stations (Directions)”, to implement emergency safety measures in reprocessing facilities and to review operational safety programs to enable 2 emergency power generators to be on standby at all times.

In addition, in order to guarantee the effectiveness of emergency safety measures, on May 12, NISA issued a amended ministerial ordinance to implement all necessary measures and apply for approval of amendment to operational safety programs, regarding the organization of a system to ensure the safety of the reprocessing facility in the event of loss of all systems that supply AC power, all facility for preventing an accumulation of hydrogen in those systems at risk of generating hydrogen, and all systems that remove excess heat from sources such as decay heat from spent fuel,
nuclear fuel material and residual liquids resulting from separation of useful material such as nuclear fuel material from liquid in which spent fuel has been dissolved (hereinafter referred to as “loss of all AC power and other functions”).

In response, reprocessing operators submitted an application for approval of amendment to operational safety programs.

2. Application Dates
   May 30: Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited (JNFL)
   June 3: Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)

3. Contents of application
   Based on the direction document as well as the amended ministerial order, the following were added to operational safety programs as items related to the organization of a system to ensure the safety of the reprocessing facility in the event of loss of all AC power and other functions:
   i. Establish the necessary plan for carrying out actions to ensure the safety of the reprocessing facility in the event of loss of all AC power and other functions
   ii. Deploy personnel needed to carry out actions to ensure the safety of the reprocessing facility in the event of loss of all AC power and other functions
   iii. Train personnel needed to carry out actions to ensure the safety of the reprocessing facility in the event of loss of all AC power and other functions
   iv. Deploy power supply vehicles and other equipment and supplies needed to carry out actions to ensure the safety of the reprocessing facility in the event of loss of all AC power and other functions
   v. Assess these measures regularly, as well as implement the necessary measures based on these assessment results

In addition, taking into account the direction document, operational safety programs were amended to ensure that 2 emergency generators were operable at all times.

4. Results of the review and examination
   Pursuant to the provisions of Article 50 paragraph 1 of the Act on the
Regulation of Nuclear Source Materials, Nuclear Fuel Materials and Reactors, NISA reviewed and examined applications of amendments to operational safety programs made by the 2 applicants, JNFL and JAEA, pursuant to paragraph 2 of the same Article.

NISA found that the operational safety programs had been amended to enable 2 emergency generators to be operable at all times, and in terms of the organization of a system to ensure the safety of the reprocessing facility in the event of loss of all AC power and other functions, NISA found that personnel deployment, personnel training and readiness of necessary equipment and supplies were provided for in operational safety programs and that in addition, company rules related to operational safety programs had undergone suitable review, or supplemented with new rules and provisions.

For these reasons, NISA approved these applications on June 15.

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