

Study on the Ideal Structure for a Nuclear Damage Compensation System

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Atomic Energy Commission

The Act on Compensation for Nuclear Damage (Act No. 147 of 1961; hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) has been revised almost decennially as certain provisions therein have limited effective periods. The latest revision was made in 1999 based on the outcome of deliberations at the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Damage Compensation of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

The time for the next revision is approaching as that provisions of the Act will cease to be effective after December 31, 2009. Therefore, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the government agency with jurisdiction over the Act, should quickly start a deliberation on the ideal structure for a nuclear damage compensation system aiming at revising the Act, taking into consideration changes in circumstances both at home and abroad, including the lessons learnt from the experience of the first application of the Act at the occasion of the JCO criticality accident that occurred after the previous revision.

It is also desirable for the MEXT to organize a policy on how Japan should deal with international conventions on nuclear damage compensation in the aforementioned deliberation as the Japanese nuclear industry is expanding the breadth of its business worldwide today in accordance with the recent global expansion of the use of nuclear energy.

The AEC will hear the results of the study by the MEXT in a timely manner and present its own views, when necessary, with regard to the ideal structure for a nuclear damage compensation system.