

Opinion Hearings on the Long-Term Nuclear Program

January 13, 2004
Atomic Energy Commission of Japan

1. Objectives

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) announced in its New Year Policy Statement which was decided in the regular meeting held on January 6, 2004, that it would commence preparations necessary for the deliberation of the Long-Term Program for Research, Development, and Utilization of Nuclear Energy (Long-Term Nuclear Program), including its procedure. This announcement is based on the recognition of the AEC that research, development and utilization of nuclear energy have been advanced, and other relevant changes in the society have occurred since the making of the current Long-Term Nuclear Program.

As a part of these preparations, the AEC will hold opinion hearings to obtain opinions and suggestions on concrete issues that require deliberation for the new Long-Term Nuclear Program and in its formulation, from all sectors of society with the recognition that it is important to have extensive public hearing activities in the formulation of AEC's policy.

2. Procedures

- (1) At the hearings, Commissioners publicly listen to suggestions and opinions on concrete issues and controversies requiring deliberation for the new Long-Term Nuclear Program and its formulation from a wide range of sectors, including academics, the general public, local governments, the media, and political advocacy groups, as well as organizations responsible for the research, development, and utilization of nuclear energy. Commissioners will question speakers to understand the submissions correctly.

The Conference for Public Participation and Decision Making for Nuclear Energy Policy will also submit the reports of their discussions on issues relevant to the consideration of the new Long-Term Nuclear Program.

- (2) The hearings will be held weekly from the end of January to the end of May.
- (3) Where necessary, the hearings will ask experts to conduct quantitative analysis and database construction and submit reports thereof, which will also be subject to questioning by Commissioners.
- (4) Based on the opinions and suggestions received, the hearings will organize and clarify concrete issues and controversies requiring deliberation for the new Long-Term Nuclear Program and its formulation.