

Concerning the Report Entitled “Current Status and a Way Forward to Promote the Research and Development of Partitioning and Transmutation Technologies”

April 28, 2009

Atomic Energy Commission

Today, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) received a report entitled “Current Status and a Way Forward to Promote the Research and Development of Partitioning and Transmutation Technologies” from the Subcommittee on Partitioning and Transmutation Technology that was set up in the Advisory Committee on Research and Development.

The subcommittee listened explanations from relevant research and development institutions on their activities for the research and development (R&D) of Partitioning and Transmutation (P-T) technologies promoted in accordance with the policies given in the report entitled “Current Status and Future Plan of the Research and Development of Technologies for Partitioning and Transmutation of Long-Lived Radioactive Nuclides”, which was issued by the AEC’s Advisory Committee on the Policy for Backend of Nuclear Fuel Cycle on March, 2000. And the subcommittee evaluated the progress of the R&D activities, analyzed the results that may be brought about by the commercialization of P-T technologies and, discussed a way forward to promote their R&D.

The report recommended that as P-T technologies will enhance a freedom for rational design of nuclear waste disposal systems when they are realized satisfying the design requirements specified for future nuclear power generation systems, the activities for the R&D of P-T technologies should be undertaken as a part of the activities for the R&D of fast breeder reactor (FBR) and its fuel cycle technologies, and pointed out problems and issues of each technology development activity on which effort and thought should be focused in accordance with the attainment level of their R&D.

The AEC considers this report to be appropriate and suggests the concerned administrative bodies to respect the substance of this report and steadily promote the activities for the R&D of P-T technologies, keeping in mind that the progress of the R&D of FBR and its fuel cycle technology systems including P-T technologies will be reviewed in 2010.

In addition, the AEC considers that the insufficiency of preparation of basic data and evaluation tools for the activities to realize the FBR and its fuel cycle technologies pointed out in the report suggests the existence of problems in the systems for promoting the R&D of nuclear energy in our country. Therefore the AEC requests the Advisory Committee on Research and Development, which is currently discussing the policy to promote the R&D of nuclear energy, to investigate these issues also.