

The Atomic Energy Commission View on the Draft of the Revised Basic Energy Plan

February 27, 2007

The Atomic Energy Commission

The research, development and utilization of nuclear energy represent efforts to contribute to the stability of the energy supply and to the mitigation of global warming over a long period. The Atomic Energy Commission understands that the draft of the revised Basic Energy Plan presented to us contains a systematic and comprehensive action plan to promote the research, development and utilization of nuclear energy consistent with the basic policies stated in the Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy.

The Commission therefore considers it appropriate that the draft will be accepted as the new Basic Energy Plan by the Government, and that the activities for nuclear energy deliberated in it will be promoted steadily by the Government offices concerned. The Atomic Energy Commission will pay careful attention to such activities and evaluate them from the viewpoint of the validity of the basic policies concerning the research, development and utilization of nuclear energy depicted in the Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy, and report the results to the public.

Note 1: Basic Energy Plan

The Basic Energy Plan, which is to be decided by the Cabinet in accordance with the Basic Act on Energy Policy (2002, Law No. 71), defines the basic policies that reflect the three principles in the Act, the long-term, comprehensive and systematic policy measures to be taken on the demand and supply of energy during the next ten years, the technologies of which research and development should be prioritized to pursue these measures. The three principles are: i) securing a stable energy supply, ii) pursuing environmental sustainability and iii) utilizing market mechanisms.

Note 2 Major Policy Measures for the Promotion of Nuclear Energy in the Draft Revised Plan

The draft of the revised Basic Energy Plan recognizes nuclear energy as an

excellent contributor to stable energy supply and to the mitigation of global warming, though rigorous safety management is required to be implemented. The plan emphasizes that nuclear energy should be promoted as a key power resource and that nuclear fuel cycle activities should be promoted as activities that will further improve the characteristics of nuclear energy as a contributor to a stable energy supply.

The draft plan defines long-term, comprehensive and systematic policy measures to be taken for the promotion of i) friendly acceptance of nuclear energy facilities by the people and the local society neighboring of the facilities, ii) gradual increase in the share of nuclear power in the electricity generation from the current level, iii) early establishment of the nuclear fuel cycle and strengthening of the industries related, iv) early development of fast-breeder reactors and their fuel cycle technologies, v) positive contribution to the establishment of international frameworks for nuclear nonproliferation compatible with the global expansion of nuclear energy utilization, vi) development of technology as well as human resources for the next generation, vii) support of the national nuclear industry to compete in international markets, viii) steady progress in the measures for safe management of radioactive waste, ix) assurance of nuclear safety and acquisition of public trust in safety management. In addition the draft plan promises the preparation of a roadmap for the development of various nuclear energy technologies consistent with both the Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy and related basic policies decided by the Commission as a part of comprehensive strategy for energy technologies.