

Introduction to Nuclear Power Plant Environment Supervisory Committee

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Abstract

In Korea, there are five nuclear power plant sites, located at Yongkwang, Kori, Shin Kori, Uljin, and Wolsong. Each administrative district has its own NESCS (Nuclear plant Environment Public Supervisory Committee) which consists of a steering committee and a center. The purpose of NESCS is to let the public survey and inspect nuclear plant environment and then improve a clarity and confidence in plant construction and operation by themselves.

In order to understand the situation of NESCS and explore ways toward a better role of NESCS, in this paper we try to enumerate a few major facts related to a current status of NESCS. As a summary, there must be a great role of NESCS in the relationship between the residents, a nuclear industry company and the related government division. Furthermore, NESCS would certainly do its role for all sides provided that more strong definition of NESCS in law, more financial supporting and more philosophical speculation for the being of NESCS.

Key words: NESCS (Nuclear Plant Environment Public Supervisory Committee)

I. Introduction

The first NESCS in Korea was originated at Kori in 1998. Yongkwang local government permitted KEPCO to construct YNG5/6 NPP under the condition of founding NESCS which could survey and inspect an environment of nuclear power plant without any sufficient study about NESCS. Now, each NPP sites such as Yongkwang, Kori, shin Kori, Uljin and Wolsong, has its own NESCS [1].

NESCS consist of two groups, a steering committee and a center. The major work of a committee is to plan and vote an annual activity and budget of the center. A committee is composed of a local government mayor, some delegate of resident, some professional scholar and a delegate of nuclear industry company. A center which has personnel less than or equal to 7 can survey and inspect the environment of nuclear power plant [2].

However, the history of NESCS has been around 10 years (different from site to site), it might not be safe to assert that the role of NESCS has been satisfying the related sides. The reason could be found in many directions. In next section, I try to enumerate some major probable reasons and then to focus on what NESCS should do and for whom NESCS should do.

II. Current Situation of NESCS

Origin of NESCS: It is worthy thoughtful about the origin of NESCS. As mentioned before, NESCS was surely not planned according to a functional need by residents and government. It was a kind of deal to construct YGN 5/6 NPP. Without any deep discussion

about its structure and role is far worse. It is well known that what is the model for NESCS was Japan's. In doing so, the most important thing to be understood was the difference between Korea and Japan's conditions. Firstly, in Korea, the owner of NPP has been almost government, whereas in Japan NPP has been privately operated. Secondly, the degree of public understanding and acceptance for NPP in Japan has been higher than in Korea. In other words, there must have been the shortage in philosophy and preparation for NESCS and then it was surely expected that there might be some problems in running NESCS to the related sides such as the residents, government and even NESCS for themselves.

Law Basis for NESCS: Law basis for NESCS can be found in 『law for supporting a district near electrical PP』 established in Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy [1]. Here, there might be something strange why the article should belong to Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy directly related to electrical power company. Looking at the law, the related article was a single line which tells only supporting a local government to found NESCS. As a result, NESCS must be governed by not law but rule (different from local to local) established in local government. Judging from the law structure, the central government has no responsibility for the NESCS activity, operation and so on. And also it is impossible to give NESCS an authority to charge because NESCS is a private organization.

Formation of NESCS: Is the current structure (and budget) of NESCS suitable to supervise a nuclear

electrical power company? At this point it is necessary to understand of what the power company is. Besides its quantitative scale (assets, number of employee, profit), it has been related to many company (research institutes) and to a strong network system. In NESC, there are four people in analysis and two in document service part. What is worse is the pure budget for activity less than 20,000 \$/man-year. Currently it is very difficult to expect a high qualitative activity for all related sides.

Residents' confidence to NESC: The most important thing that NESC bear in mind is to be a delegate of residents. In order to do so, NESC need to steal their hearts through a high qualitative activity made by engineering techniques, and analyzing, reporting, planning and information interpreting ability. Since all citizen will not be an expert in nuclear engineering.

III. Desirable Roles of NESC

Looking at the surroundings around NESC, there are roughly three sides, the residents, an electrical company and a related government division. Therefore, NESC should focus on what to do for them.

For residents: The residents want NESC to tell them with their language about what happen at nuclear plant and expect NESC to do something like a professional engineer instead of them. Therefore, NESC will try to solve their questions everlasting and then they can believe in NESC and will need NESC at least for questions about nuclear plant.

For Company: Higher the residents understanding and acceptance about nuclear plant, easier their business. In other words, a company can reduce the unnecessary work, and unnecessary expense that is able to increase competitive power.

For government: When NESC will partly co-work some of NESC missions with the residents such as an environment survey, measurement etc, and actively transfer to the citizen some information acquired in operation, the public understanding nuclear plant and environment would be raised and then let the public think of far higher intellectual problems. That might be one of the majors the government expects NESC to do.

IV. Summary

It is true that NESC is placed in hard situation, both inside and outside. Especially a weak law basis for NESC would cause difficulties to arise. However, if NESC would indicate a productive vision helpful to all sides and nicely role in triangle composed of the residents, a nuclear plant company, and a related government division, it is believed that they will

recognize the necessity of NESC more strongly and help NESC in many ways.

As a result, NESC can render a great service, which any other regular official group can't do, to all three sides provided that an efficient supporting of law and budget, and a deeply self-examined philosophy of NESC for it's being.

REFERENCES

- [1] Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, "Law for supporting a district near electrical PP" established in 2007. 12
- [2] Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, "Operation Guide for NESC", 2007.12