

Summary of 5th Chief Nuclear Officer Conference

1. Date : March 2, 2016 (Wed.) 4:00PM ~ 5:30PM
2. Place: Otemachi Headquarter, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI)
3. Participants:
 - Chair : Apostolakis (NRRC)
 - Members: Kawada (Hokkaido EPCO, substitute for Sakai), Takizawa (Tohoku EPCO, substitute for Watanabe), Kawamura (Tokyo EPCO, substitute for Anegawa), Sakaguchi (Chubu EPCO), Nishino (Hokuriku EPCO), Urata (Kansai EPCO, substitute for Toyomatsu), Furubayashi (Chugoku EPCO), Kakinoki (Shikoku EPCO), Nakamura (Kyushu EPCO), Ichimura (JAPC), Ohgaki (JNFL, substitute for Yamamoto), Urashima (J-Power), Yokoyama, Omoto (NRRC)
 - Observer: Ono (Federation of Electric Power Companies), Kurata (JANSI)
 - Organizers: Yokoo, Shimeno (NRRC)
 - NRRC Executives: Meserve

4. Proceedings:

(1) Strategy for Risk-Informed Decision Making

The strategy for proper application of risk-informed decision making which is currently under discussion among concerned organization is shared with members.

(Remarks of the Head of NRRC)

- After one and half years of interactions with utilities, I have found a lot of discussions about improving PRA models, but relatively fewer discussions about practical applications by using PRA results. We have to pay more attention to proper application of PRAs in decision making processes. The development of “Good PRAs,” defined as state-of-the-practice plant-specific PRAs with advancements, as necessary, to reflect the Japanese situation, is essential in such processes.
- Utilities need to understand how to apply PRA results in their decision making processes and what kind of organizational structure they have to establish. I think it is necessary for utilities to have a few managers who understand the results of PRAs, and also their limitations and assumptions .
- I met a vice president of one utility in the U.S. who carried with himself a laminated card as a communication tool, on which dominant contributors to core damage frequency were printed. I truly believe that this kind of attitude enhances the safety culture of the plant personnel.

(Remarks of the industry members)

- We would like to make substantial advancement in developing “Good PRAs” through launching pilot programs of PRA improvement.
- In order to realize benefit of risk-informed decision making (RIDM), we, utilities, have to see the fruits of RIDM as changes and improvements of specific works on nuclear power sites. NRRC and utilities should set and share specific goals which may describe actual changes of works on sites, accomplished within five years.
- It is important for NRRC to inform various stakeholders of its accomplishment so that the activities of NRRC are evaluated properly. We, utilities, are also required to make same kind of efforts to enhance visibility of our own activities.