

Panel: Building Public Confidence in Nuclear Safety (Grand Ballroom III)

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 /12:30-13:45

Talking Points for: Lee Un Chul, Professor, Department of Nuclear Engineering, Seoul National University

After Fukushima accident, there are drastic changes in nuclear environment. Because of serious radiological consequences, public concern about the safety of NPPs has been increased. For example, Germany becomes the first country to abandon all NPPs for good.

Fundamental objective of nuclear safety is :

1. To protect general public and the natural environment from harm resulting from the commissioning, operation or decommissioning of a nuclear facility,
2. All nuclear facilities must establish and maintain effective defenses against radiological hazards.

NPP has unique characteristics:

1. Significant energy release continues for a very long time even after shut down
2. Very large quantity of radioactive material is confined in the fuel
3. No 'natural' or 'intrinsic' power level & rapid power excursions are possible.

Because of these unique characteristics, any planned or unplanned release of radioactive material should be controlled below prescribed limits and as low as reasonably achievable(ALARA).

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