Nuclear Safety and Security Commission

Nuclear Safety and Security Commission in the Republic of Korea

COVID-19 situation management

(as of 10/6/2020)

Presentation: The purpose of this paper is to present the COVID-19 management established within the NSSC (Nuclear Safety and Security Commission) to handle the continuous service of the Republic of Korea nuclear safety and radioprotection authority and the choices taken to do so.

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National background	
General	
ROK authorities instructions regularly delivered	The ROK president and relevant ministries
Clear established and regularly updated provisions	• Principle: The administration's instructions have changed in accordance with changing COVID-19 situations in Korea from social distancing, which was maintained till May 5, to distancing in daily life, which is a more relaxed scheme. • Any officer who is showing symptoms, such as fever and respiratory symptoms, or who have travelled abroad is prohibited from entering the workplace during his/her quarantine period set by the infection control guidelines • The NSSC officers are advised to actively utilize writing, video conferencing and telephone for meetings and reporting. • When a face-to-face meeting is inevitably held, the number of attendees should be minimized and all attendees should follow the control rules. • As for business trips to home and abroad, the necessity and urgency of the trips and COVID-19 situations are comprehensively taken into consideration. When a business trip is inevitable, the number of travelers should be kept to a

	minimum and guidance on hygiene must be followed. • These rules will be revised according to COVID-19 situations.
NSSC	
Provisions for the NSSC	The NSSC adheres to the administration's guidance and decides on the provisions internally.
Contingency plan	The contingency plan on COVID-19 was established on February 26, 2020.
Staff of NSSC	156 members (The headcounts of TSOs are not included.)
Missions of the NSSC	
Sustained missions	In order to protect the NSSC officers from COVID-19, the NSSC is applying the guidelines for working according to the gravity of situations: • At Level 1 (before detecting a person suspected of being infected), the officers are advised to practice social distancing and adhere to guidance on hygiene such as wearing a mask. • At Level 2 (when a person suspected of being infected has been detected), the person must be placed under quarantine for fourteen days and the workplace premises where the person has been working get cleaned and disinfected. • At Level 3 (when there is a confirmed case), the workplace premises get cordoned off for two days for disinfecting and the

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	person is placed under quarantine for fourteen days.
Currently	Since 2020 February 26, the situation has remained at level 1.
Key activities	**a. Regulatory activities** • For inspections, the NSSC has reduced on-site inspections to a minimum. • For significant nuclear events, the NSSC has been monitoring the responses of nuclear power plants and research reactor facilities against COVID-19. • For licensing and reviewing, the NSSC has been carrying out the job as usual. • For analysis of technical documents by TSOs, they are doing the job as usual. **b. Emergency** • Regarding emergency drills, the drill scheduled for the first half of this year is postponed to the second half. (If any emergency drills are to be inevitably held, they should be held after appropriate infection control measure are prepared) • Emergency situations can be responded as usual. **c. Public relations** Face-to-face media briefings are refrained, but publishing information and distributing press releases are conducted as usual.

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Inspections	
Routine	The on-site inspection of resident inspectors has been kept as minimal as possible. When inspecting on site, the inspectors must adhere to the guidance on hygiene.
Confirmed inspections	Under the guidance on hygiene, the inspections proceed on schedule
Facilities operated by KHNP (NPP)	
Continuity plan	• According to the official request from the NSSC, the only licensee (KHNP, the Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power) has established a contingency plan that includes the protection of NPP operators from COVID-19. • The NSSC checks the investigation results reported by licensee on a daily basis, including the employees suspected or confirmed of being infected and the status of remote working to preemptively prevent the spread of the disease.
Staffing	• For all employees, the KHNP emphasized the importance of keeping to infection control guidelines, such as refraining from going out unnecessarily and thoroughly practicing personal hygiene, and got operators to wear protective gears such as masks and gloves. • Among the staffs working at the nuclear power plants, two people were confirmed to have been infected with COVID-19. They were not operators, but administrative staffs, and there has been no further spreading of the disease due to the confirmed cases.

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Planned maintenance	• The nuclear power plants have been in a normal operation status. • For planned maintenance, any people who are from outside contract companies and to be newly deployed to the site must pass the COVID-19 test and only when they tested negative, they can be deployed.
Other associated facilities	
Research Reactor	• The licensee (KAERI, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute) has established its contingency plan to prevent the spread of COVID-19 • The NSSC checked whether the measures included in the plan for each level of situations were appropriate and keeps track of the infection trends. • The research reactor has been shut down since the end of 2019. There has been no abnormal sign in the operation of the research reactor as well as spent fuel processing facilities. • There has been no suspected or confirmed case.
Low- to mid-level radioactive waste treatment facility (in Gyeongju)	• The licensee (KORAD, Korea Radioactive Waste Agency) has established its contingency plan for before and after the infection. • The NSSC checks the investigation results reported by

	licensee on a daily basis, including the employees suspected or confirmed of being infected • The licensee reports to the NSSC on a daily basis about its employees suspected or confirmed of being infected • The licensee educated its employees about infection control guidelines, provided masks, and is opening just one gate to thoroughly monitor and screen its employees. • Any employees working at the MCR are prohibited from visiting dangerous areas. The licensee secured a pool of alternative workers in preparation for the absence of the MCR staff. • There has been no suspected or confirmed case.
Radiation Users (including medical institutes)	• Safety regulatory activities, except for periodic inspections, are conducted as usual, but the schedule, methods and size of inspections and meetings that need face-to-face interactions are adjusted. • All employees are required to wear a mask, refrain from physical contact, abide by personal hygiene rules, avoid face-to-face meetings and minimize the number of inspectors • Periodic inspections have been temporarily suspended. The inspections for medical institutes are postponed to the second

	half of this year. • The timing for employees′ medical check-ups has been adjusted. • The NSSC has reduced training courses that need gathering of people to a minimum and is providing more internet-based training programs. - When the training program that needs gathering of people is inevitably held, all of the trainees should wear a mask, pass a fever check and wash hands. The number of trainees should be kept as minimal as possible and the seats should be arranged so that the trainees can sit apart from each other.
Crisis management	
Emergency shift	The NSSC officers are working on emergency duty, so 24/7 response is possible.
Calls to the emergency shift	An officer working on emergency duty calls others at their telephone numbers on the emergency contact list (which includes personal contact numbers).
NSSC Daily running	
Staff	
Teleworking	Till May 5, less than 50% of the employees at each division were working from home. But now, the NSSC resumed a normal working in an office.
Commuting	Till May 5, all NSSC officers were arriving and leaving the office on different start/finish schedules to prevent congestion

	during commuting hours (e.g., 08:00~17:00, 08:30~17:30, 09:30~18:30, 10:00~19:00). But now, the NSSC resumed a normal commute to work.
Material	
Personal computer	Almost all officers of the NSSC have their own personal computers. (Also, The NSSC rents laptops to the officers)
Phones	Calls forwarded to personal telephones
Others	• As for remote connection, it is possible to log onto the intranet of the NSSC. • It is possible to use the intranet mail and webmail system. • It is possible to have video or audio meetings with other relevant ministries and TSOs.
Communication with stakeholders	
Paper mail	as usual
Meetings	• The officers are advised to actively utilize writing, video conferencing, or telephone for meetings. When it is unavoidable to have a face-to-face meeting, all participants should thoroughly adhere to the guidance on hygiene. • The commissioners' meeting was held in the form of face-to-face meeting, but with limited interactions. The commissioners who attended meetings for deliberation and resolution were requested to wear a mask and stay 2 meters away from each other. The number of attendees was kept to minimal and guidance on hygiene were strictly followed. - As for general audience, they are not allowed to come into

	the meeting room. They, however, can apply in advance and watch the meeting in real time by video. • The NSSC is actively using the video conference system for meetings with other relevant ministries and TSOs. • TSOs are conducting inspections also through video conference with nuclear licensees