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Mr. Peter Faross
Deputy Director-General for Nuclear Energy
Directorate-General for Energy
European Commission
LUXEMBOURG

Dear Mr. Faross:

On behalf of the Atomic Energy Council (AEC) in Taiwan, I would like to first express our gratitude to the European Commission and ENSREG for accepting our invitation to conduct peer review of Taiwan's three operating NPPs at Chinshan, Kuosheng, Maanshan and one new build at Lungmen. The current status of the peer review is that all team members already started desktop review of our national report and four licensee reports. The first-round questions were received by AEC last week. Staff at both Taiwan Power Company (TPC) and AEC is working on answers to nearly two hundred questions. In addition, Section Chief Wen-Chun Teng of AEC's Nuclear Regulation Department is now in Brussels to discuss with all the team members on technical and administrative details in order to facilitate the peer review process and forthcoming visit to Taiwan scheduled in September. It is my understanding that the peer review is so far going smoothly and on schedule.

Last week, several stakeholders and members of the Legislative Yuan (or Parliament) in Taiwan have sent e-mails to EC and the peer review team requesting postponement of peer review on the ground that the submitted reports lack vital information, geological survey of recently identified faults is still ongoing, and the national report has to get approval first by the Legislative Yuan, etc. I would like to clarify the points raised in their requests.

After the Fukushima accident, AEC was asked by the Executive Yuan (or Office of Prime Minister) to conduct a safety reassessment of all NPPs in Taiwan. Besides verifying compliance of current licensing basis, a comprehensive safety reassessment of the capabilities to mitigate beyond design-basis natural disasters in the light of the Fukushima Daiichi accident was conducted, and the safety enhancement measures proposed by USNRC, NISA, ENSREG, WANO, etc. were closely monitored for potential implementation on nuclear power plants in Taiwan. Stress tests of the largest fleet of LWRs at EU following ENSREG specifications would definitely be a good model for Taiwan. With the support of the Executive Yuan, AEC took the initiative and required TPC to also conduct stress tests based on

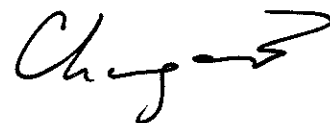
ENSREG specifications, with the hope that international nuclear safety related organizations be invited to conduct peer reviews upon its completion. Both the safety reassessment and the stress test were conducted with the same goal of assuring the nuclear power units in Taiwan with higher safety standards of international level through various safety enhancements as being implemented globally. During the course of the safety reassessment, information has been open to the public through press conferences, public meetings, and posted on AEC's official website. And the inter-agency discussions at the ministerial level as well as with the local governments of county and township levels were also carried out.

Under the Constitution, AEC as part of the Executive Yuan, has the responsibility under request to report to the Legislative Yuan. However, before the recess of the current session, from February to June this year, AEC was requested to present nuclear safety subjects in the Legislative Yuan more than five times but has received no request to present the national report. Nonetheless, AEC has reported its progress of the stress test process at various presentations during the current session. Progress as well as results of the safety reassessment was presented during the previous legislative sessions in 2012.

We all know that safety is a continuous process; identifying safety concerns and implementing the enhancement measures earlier are better than later. For example, recommendations and technical observations made by the OECD/NEA peer review team in March were already required by AEC to implement at a specified timeframe. In addition, we have the same belief as the peer review team that "the difference between conducting peer review this autumn and next spring (as NGOs suggested) be minimum".

In conclusion, AEC does not see the need to postpone the peer review process. During the peer review, I can assure you that AEC will cooperate fully with the ENSREG team. All findings made by the peer review team will be thoroughly reviewed and later implemented in a timely manner. We trust that the cooperation between EC and AEC in the nuclear safety area would benefit both the EU and Taiwan.

Sincerely yours,



Chuen-Horng Tsai
Minister and Chairman

Copy to: Mr. Christian Kirchsteiger, ENSREG
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Mr. Wen-Chun Teng, NRD, AEC