

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **Ensuring Nuclear Safety      Protecting Taiwan** **2005 Nuclear Safety Exercise to Commence Soon**

During the over 20 years since the Nuclear Emergency Response Plan was implemented with the approval of the Executive Yuan, various government agencies have worked together to establish a comprehensive emergency response system. Due to an insufficient legal framework, however, improvements were still needed in the area of implementation. For this reason, the Atomic Energy Council (AEC) has worked actively to advance nuclear emergency response legislation. The Nuclear Emergency Response Act, after being announced by presidential decree, came into force on July 1, 2005. To comply with the provisions of the Nuclear Emergency Response Act, and enhance the response capabilities of the central and local governments, a decision has been made to conduct the 2005 Nuclear Safety Exercise.

The 2005 Nuclear Safety Exercise is the first such exercise to be held since implementation of the Nuclear Emergency Response Act. Three major goals of this exercise are as follows:

1. To strengthen educational efforts, broaden public participation and implement protective measures, thereby instilling a proper emergency response awareness among the public;
2. To test the reporting, mobilization and emergency response capabilities of emergency response units and personnel, strengthen procedures and hands-on drills, enhance the emergency-handling capabilities of the various related organizations, and facilitate mastery of disaster relief mechanisms and resource integration and application, thus ensuring rapid and efficient emergency response;
3. To inspect the preparedness of internal and external nuclear power plant facilities, personnel and materials, verify disaster prevention and relief capabilities, insure the implementation of necessary control measures, and build public confidence.

The 2005 Nuclear Safety Exercise, organized in a Nuclear Safety Month format, will run from July 18 (Mon) to August 12 (Fri), with a four-week program of activities held in the vicinity of the Chinshan Nuclear Power Station.

Week 1, Nuclear Safety Public Education, held jointly by the AEC and Taipei County Government. Educational programs will be broadcasted by television and radio. Discussion meetings with local community representatives, symposiums for teachers and tours of response facilities will also be held.

Week 2, Chinshan Nuclear Power Station Response Exercise, conducted by TaiPower. Activities will include training of response unit personnel, power station emergency response drills, safety and fire drills, and severe nuclear accident procedure drills, with the goal of testing the station's response capabilities.

Week 3, Preparedness Inspection and Reporting/Mobilization Drills, to be led by the AEC with participation by the various response units. Activities will include inspection of public protection material and equipment reserves; inspection of radiation measurement instrument testing and maintenance; inspection of a level-two designated hospital for treatment of radiation injury; reporting and mobilization drills of various response units; drills of nuclear emergency early warning alarm activation, mobile broadcasting, traffic control, public indoor sheltering and news releasing.

Week 4, Individual and Joint Drills, to be led by the AEC with participation by the various response units. The drills to be conducted for the response units will include command operating procedure; radiation measurement, sample analysis and dose assessment; first aid operation (with support center participation) and Joint Forward Command Center procedure.

This year's exercise is the result of extensive deliberation by the various organizations involved. The following are some key features:

1. The exercise represents the first test of the completeness of response operations and procedures since the Nuclear Emergency Response Act came into force.
2. Because local governments must deal directly with the public when accidents occur, and in accordance with the Local Government Act and Disaster Prevention and Relief Act, local governments will lead a portion of the drills involved in the exercise, which will serve to strengthen their authority and response capabilities.
3. A separate news releasing exercise will be held for the first time to verify emergency news release capabilities.
4. Nuclear power plants will be required for the first time to carry out severe nuclear accident assessment procedure drills, which will serve to strengthen plant response capabilities.

One of the goals of the Nuclear Safety Exercise is to open up a channel of communication with emergency response units, personnel and the general public. Aside from testing familiarity with required tasks and reviewing response actions, it is hoped that the exercise will enhance public understanding of radiation protection, so that in the event of a nuclear emergency they will know how to safeguard their lives and property.