

# Analyzing the Opinions of the Public Monitoring Group on the 3rd Comprehensive Plan for Nuclear Safety

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## 1. Introduction

In establishing the 3rd Comprehensive Plan for Nuclear Safety, the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission(NSSC) has established a public participation policy that incorporates the opinions of the public. A public participation group was recruited and organized to create a proposal containing the vision, policy direction, and strategic tasks of the 3rd Comprehensive Plan for Nuclear Safety, and the NSSC established a detailed implementation plan based on this.

The 3rd Comprehensive Plan for Nuclear Safety establishes an implementation plan every year, reviews the previous year's performance, and monitors policy implementation by utilizing the Public Participation Group. For two years in 2022 and 2023, the Public Monitoring Group was formed by recruiting volunteers from the Public Participation Group and surveying their opinions on the degree of policy implementation in the previous year.

This study examines the opinions collected through the Public Monitoring Group and analyzes the limitations and implications of the performance compared to the plan through the analysis of the satisfaction survey data.

## 2. Methods and Results

### 2.1. Overview of Public Monitoring Group Recruitment and Operation

The Public Monitoring Group was recruited and utilized twice in 2022 and 2023. Only those who wanted to participate were recruited regardless of gender, age, region, or activity, and there was no limit on the number of participants. As a result, 52 people were recruited in 2022 and 46 people were recruited in 2023.

The NSSC establishes a detailed implementation plan for the Comprehensive Plan for Nuclear Safety every year and implements it through its work plan. Therefore, we summarized the policy status of the four policy directions of the 3rd Comprehensive Plan for Nuclear Safety based on the work plans of the NSSC and

specialized organizations. Next, the policy implementation performance of the current year was collected based on homepages and SNS postings such as blogs of the NSSC and specialized organizations, press releases, etc. The performance data was linked to the questionnaire so that the Public Monitoring Group could directly examine the contents. The Public Monitoring Group reviewed the policy status and performance data, provided opinions on the four policy directions, and evaluated the overall policy implementation. They were allowed to freely express their opinions on the four policy directions and evaluate policy implementation on a five-point scale.

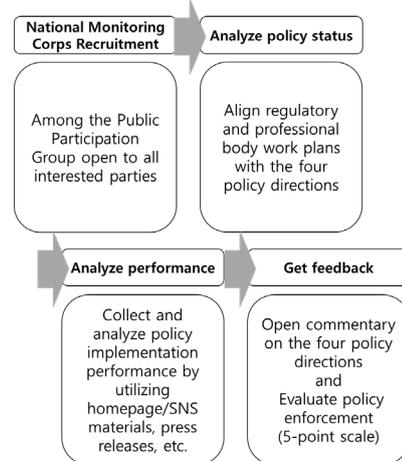


Fig. 1. The Public Monitoring Group Recruitment and Operation Procedure

Table I: Policy Direction of the 3rd Nuclear Safety Comprehensive Plan[1]

No	Policy Direction
Task 1	Establish a safety regulatory system that ensures public participation and the right to know
Task 2	Proactive and effective safety management innovation
Task 3	Establish a tight safety and regulatory system without radiation concerns
Task 4	Strategic expansion of nuclear safety regulatory infrastructure

Table II: Summary of Policy Status and Comment of Monitoring Group in 2022

No	Summary of policy status and performance[2]	Summary of key comments
Task 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public participation lays the groundwork for a top-level national nuclear safety policy</li> <li>- Preparing for the implementation of the Act on Disclosure and Communication of Nuclear Safety Information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive about the implementation of the Communication Law and the establishment of a public participation system to provide and make nuclear information easily accessible to the public</li> </ul>
Task 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responding to emerging threats to nuclear power plants, including typhoons and climate change</li> <li>- Laying the foundation for safe management of radioactive waste from nuclear power plant operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of tangible track record of policy activities to prepare for natural disasters</li> <li>- Need to push for legislation on radioactive waste management policies</li> </ul>
Task 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish an integrated national radiation management system</li> <li>- Detect anomalies early with domestic and international radiation surveillance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for cooperation with relevant ministries such as MOLIT, Ministry of Land, Environment, and Ministry of Food and Drug Safety</li> <li>- Strengthen and expand safety regulatory frameworks</li> </ul>
Task 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting education programs at nuclear-related universities to improve the understanding of nuclear safety laws and procedures for future industrial workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand training audiences and enhance content</li> <li>- Improving nuclear worker benefits and policies</li> </ul>

Table III: Summary of Policy Status and Comment of Monitoring Group in 2023

No	Summary of policy status and performance[3]	Summary of key comments
Task 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversify communications to ensure reasonable safety regulations and diverse input</li> <li>- Proactive disclosure of information to improve public understanding of nuclear safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request to share information related to Nuclear Safety Regulations</li> <li>- Need to actively communicate nuclear safety regulatory performance</li> </ul>
Task 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regularly check for safety and proactively prepare for natural disasters</li> <li>- Improving the effectiveness of the national radiation protection system for nuclear accidents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need a variety of safety management policies in case of disaster</li> <li>- Safety management policies in advanced nuclear countries need improvement</li> </ul>
Task 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing a comprehensive radiation safety management system for public safety</li> <li>- Enhanced exposure prevention for workers at risk of radiation exposure, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to establish an environmental radiation monitoring system with direct public participation</li> <li>- Need to identify gaps in the implementation of various safety regulatory frameworks</li> </ul>
Task 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proactively develop a safety management system for small modular reactors (SMRs)</li> <li>- Expanding regulatory cooperation for global nuclear safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to build a multifaceted nuclear safety regulatory infrastructure, including development of SMRs and export of nuclear power plants</li> </ul>

## 2.2. Key comments on policy direction

The main opinions in 2022 and 2023 on the four policy directions. There was a common opinion that it is necessary to disclose transparent information on regulatory policies, utilize various public relations methods, conduct active public relations activities, and provide educational materials. Active and accurate information disclosure along with policy activities that people can actually experience seems to be important.

## 2.3. Overall fulfillment assessment results

According to the overall policy implementation assessment, the implementation of the task 'Strategic expansion of nuclear safety regulatory infrastructure' increased slightly, and the implementation of the task 'Proactive and effective safety management innovation' decreased slightly, which is similar to the previous year. -The implementation of the tasks 'Establishing safety regulations that ensure public participation and the right to know' and 'Establishing safety regulations that ensure public participation and the right to know' were rated

the highest at 71.15% and 76.03%, respectively. This is likely a reflection of the characteristics of the survey population. The Public Monitoring Group is an active stakeholder group with a high level of interest in nuclear safety. The evaluation of the implementation of the task 'Establishing a thorough safety regulation system without radiation concerns' dropped significantly from 67.3% in 2022 to 56.52% in 2023. This is likely due to external issues related to radiation, such as Fukushima.

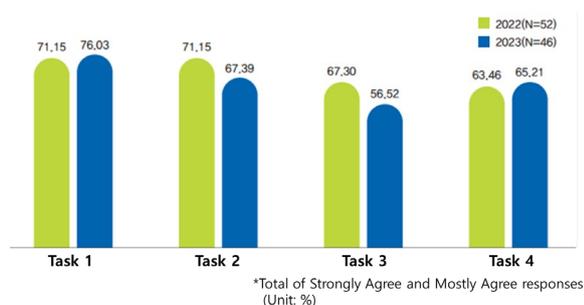


Fig. 2. Results of the Public Monitoring Group Policy Implementation Assessment

### 3. Conclusions

This study was conducted as a basis for analyzing the performance and implications of policy implementation in preparation for the 4th Comprehensive Plan. In 2022 and 2023, the National Monitoring Group recruited a total of 98 people to investigate and evaluate the NRC's policy status and implementation performance. Since the Public Monitoring Group recruited volunteers from among the total number of participants in the Public Participation Group, this study can be considered as an assessment of a group of stakeholders who are active and interested in nuclear safety. The results of the assessment highlighted the need for transparent disclosure of information on regulatory policies and active public relations activities. In particular, the significant decline in the implementation of radiation-related policies from 2022 to 2023 assessment should be closely examined by regulatory agencies and reflected in future policy planning.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Nuclear Safety and Security Commission, The 3rd Comprehensive Plan for Nuclear Safety, 2021.
- [2] Nuclear Safety and Security Commission, NSSC Work Plan 2022, 2022.
- [3] Nuclear Safety and Security Commission, NSSC Work Plan 2023, 2023.