



XA04C1269

## **Anti-Nuclear Activities and Critics concerning Nuclear Power Plant Sites**

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Republic of Korea has set out an alternative energy policy strongly along with nuclear power plant construction program since 1970s' two oil crises. Now, Korea that has dynamic nuclear power expansion programs operates 16 nuclear units totaled 13,710MW in 4 different sites. Last year, nuclear power supplied over 40% of national total electricity demands.

Korean government has announced the plan designating 11 candidate sites to carry nuclear power plant construction program smoothly in early 1980s'. Of such sites, Ulchin and Younggwang have been developed as planned, and still the rest 9 sites bounding to nuclear power plant sites have not been utilized for any other purpose. Residents in that area, accordingly have continued to make public complaints about limitation of their property right.

In 1998, Korean government initiated re-designation work investigating circumstance changes to rule out the unnecessary sites in consideration of a long-term power supply. The important re-designation principles of the government were first headed for any voluntary areas and secondly for higher rankings by results from circumstance changes.

Therefore, central officials visited local heads and parliaments in the 9 candidate areas suggesting central supports including local development plan. But, they have confirmed that the residents did not intend to accept nuclear power plant in their town.

However, Ulchin county that has a candidate site proposed to expand existing nuclear power plant site in condition of designation withdrawal. And also mayor of Woolju county, non-candidate, hope to be a host of voluntary plant site. Korean government has accordingly determined to expand the Ulchin site and to designate one point of Woolju county as a new candidate site, and ruled out the rest 8 candidate sites at the end of 1998.

About such a governmental measure, the two areas show different reactions. Ulchin where nuclear power plant has been operated safely for about 10 years was likely to accept the governmental determination even for some opposition and called for several financial supports for local development. Woolju county, however, showed a strong opposition among local environmental groups and autonomic politicians, and they presented a variety of anti-nuclear activities including signing and demonstration mainly at the neighbouring metropolis, Ulsan city.

Ulsan city is one of the representative cities to herald economic growth of Korea where you may know has been developed to industrialized country very rapidly during last 30 years. And it is regarded that Ulsan citizens have some kind of dislike to any industrial facility as well as nuclear power plant in the fear of environmental destruction.

Some of citizens and environmental groups organized called "Pan Ulsan Citizens Confederation against Nuclear Power Plant" and presented a variety of anti-nuclear activities with 6 main reasons.

- 1) Residents in peripheral areas are the first victims in case of atomic explosion(they insist that Chernoville accident resulted in more the 10,000 deads and residents within 30Km had to move out of the hometown)
- 2) Tremendous warm water releasing from nuclear power plant causes peripheral fish parks ruined and ecological chain system broken off.
- 3) Agricultural and marine products will be turned down in markets because of radioactive contamination.
- 4) The constructing nuclear power plant will be vulnerable to earthquake because an active fault belt is located in Woolju area.
- 5) United States and most European countries do not construct nuclear power plants any more and even shut down the existing nuclear power plants
- 6) Nuclear power is not environment-friendly energy without technical method to manage the radioactive wastes safely.

**OKAEA and Korean government make all efforts to prove that the insistences of "Pan Ulsan Citizens Confederation against Nuclear Power Plant" are not based on the truth and presents several promotions to increase their understandings about the inevitability of nuclear power plant.**

**I'll further explain about the cases of anti-atomic activities and nuclear power-friendly promotions in the main contribution.**

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