

Current Status on Decommissioning Plan of Nuclear Facilities in Korea

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In 2017 the new government of President Moon Jae-in has decided to gradually phase out nuclear power in Korea. The three reactors currently under construction will be completed, but the government has decided these will be the last built, and as the existing plants close at a 40-60 years end-of-life they will be replaced with other modes of generation from renewable energy sources. According to the nuclear energy phase-out policy, Kori unit 1 has permanently shut down in Jun. 19, 2017. Its closure makes it Korea's first nuclear power unit to enter the decommissioning phase. KHNP is to submit a decommissioning plan for the unit within five years. Wolsong unit 1 which became the country's oldest operating reactor following the closure of Kori 1 will be retired prior to the expiration of its operating license in 2022.

Korea has 24 power reactors in operation with a combined generating capacity of 22,505 MWe. Together they provide about one-third of the country's electricity. The government has pledged to scrap new nuclear programs and not to extend the operation of existing facilities to decrease the number of reactors to 14 by 2038.

Keywords: Nuclear phase-out policy, Permanent shutdown, Decommissioning, Korea