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Grid Code Discussions Begin to Secure Power System Stability in the 100 GW Renewable Energy Era

- Electricity Regulatory Commission holds first Grid Code Expert Committee meeting

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE, Minister Kim Sungwhan) announced that the Electricity Regulatory Commission (KOREC, Chairman Kim Chang-seop), a deliberative administrative body under the MCEE, will hold the first Grid Code* Expert Committee meeting on July 21 at the Coal Center (located in Jongno-gu, Seoul) to begin in-depth discussions on technical standards aimed at ensuring the stability and reliability of the power grid amid the expansion of renewable energy.

* Grid code refers to the Standards for Maintaining Power System Reliability and Power Quality (MCEE), the Electricity Market Operating Rules (Korea Power Exchange), and the Regulations on the Use of Transmission and Distribution Facilities (Korea Electric Power Corporation), etc.

To proactively respond to the evolving power sector, the KOREC reorganized its existing Power System and Reliability Expert Committee into the Grid Code Expert Committee.

* Article 59 (Specialized commission) of the Electric Utility Act: (1) The Electricity Regulatory Commission may have expert committees for each field of specialization to perform its affairs in an efficient manner.

The Grid Code Expert Committee serves as an expert consultative body that reviews technical operating standards for enhancing the stability and reliability of Korea's power system and proposes long-term directions for improving the grid code.

Under the Energy Grand Transition Plan of the People's Sovereign Government (April 6, 2026), the government is pursuing a transition to a renewable energy-based power system. As a result, the power grid is rapidly evolving from a centralized structure to a decentralized, bidirectional one.

These changes, driven by the growing deployment of inverter-based resources (IBRs) such as solar power, wind power, and battery energy storage systems (BESS), as well as the emergence of a wider range of electricity market participants, are making power system operating standards and technical standards increasingly important.

Going forward, the Grid Code Expert Committee will discuss four key agenda items: (1) the current status of Korea's grid code for IBRs and directions for improvement; (2) safety and grid interconnection standards for BESS; (3) large-scale blackout prevention and power system restoration frameworks, including black start capabilities; and (4) mid- to long-term directions for improving future power system operating standards.

KOREC Chairman Kim Chang-seop stated, "As renewable energy deployment expands and the structure of the power system evolves, the continuous and proactive advancement of power system operating standards and technical standards is essential." He added, "We expect the Grid Code Expert Committee to play a vital role in enhancing the stability and reliability of the power system by drawing on the expertise of specialists from diverse technical fields."