



# The new Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment of Korea

2025.09.30

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE) passed the plenary session of the National Assembly on 26 September 2025 and it is expected to be established in October. In addition to being responsible for environment, the new Ministry will be responsible for both climate policy and energy policy, representing the new government's intention to implement both policies in a consistent and expanded ways.

## 1. Key organizational changes

- All energy related functions will be transferred from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) to the new MCEE, other than natural resources and overseas nuclear power projects.
- The development of the domestic nuclear power industry will be the responsibility of the new MCEE.
- The First Vice-Minister will oversee environmental matters and the Planning and Coordination Office and Water Management Policy Office will report to the Vice-Minister.
- The Second Vice-Minister will oversee climate and energy matters and the Climate and Energy Policy Office and Energy Transition Policy Office will report to the Vice-Minister.
- To assist in the improvement of the national grid, there will be a new Director General for Power Grid Policy in the Energy Transition Policy Office.
- Authority over 21 energy-related public enterprises, including Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP), Korea Power Exchange (KPX), Korea Energy Agency, Korea District Heating Corporation (KDHC), and the five power generation companies, are expected to transfer to the new MCEE.
- Seven resource sector public institutions, including Korea Gas Corporation (KOGAS) and Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC) will remain under the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

## 2. Key approvals for power generation projects transferred to the MCEE

Legislation	Licences / Approvals	Relevant
-------------	----------------------	----------

		provisions
Electric Utility Act	Electric utility licenses	Article 7
	Business transfer/corporate merger or division/share acquisition approval	Article 10
	Approval/notification of construction plans for electric installations for electric utility business	Article 61
Electrical Construction Business Act	Registration of electrical construction business	Article 4
Electric Power Source Development Promotion Act	Approval of execution plan for electric power source development projects	Article 5
Integrated Energy Supply Act	Permit for new establishment of heat production facilities	Article 6
	Collective energy business license	Article 9
	Approval of the construction plan for the installation of supply facilities	Article 22
Special Act on the Promotion of Offshore Wind Power and Industry Development (to be enacted)	Selection of offshore wind power operators	Article 24
	Approval of implementation plan	Article 25
Special Act on Expansion of the National Power Grid	Establishment and approval of implementation plan	Article 11
Special Act on Activation of Distributed Energy	Registration of distributed energy business	Article 8
	Examination of statement of power system impact assessments	Article 24
Act on the Promotion of the Development, Use and Diffusion of New and Renewable Energy	New and renewable energy certificate	Article 12-7
Hydrogen Economy Promotion and Hydrogen Safety Management Act	Certification of Clean Hydrogen	Article 25-2

If you have any questions or need help with the above, please feel free to contact us. Our dedicated Project & Energy Group is recognised as a top ranking team in various international publications such as Chambers & Partners. It is the only Korean law firm that provides a one-stop service that can assist project and energy clients with regulatory advice, project finance, construction and operation and M&A.

## Key Contacts

### Michael Chang

Senior Foreign Attorney

+82-2-316-4653

mchang@shinkim.com

### Sang-Hyun Lee

Partner

+82-2-316-4068

shlee@shinkim.com

### Su-Yong Jung

Partner

+82-2-316-4345

syjung@shinkim.com

### Jae Wook Ryu

Partner

+82-2-316-1635

jwryu@shinkim.com

### Na Yu

Partner

+82-2-316-1757

nyu@shinkim.com