

OCT 13 1989

Noorzalizan BT Ramly  
LEMBAGA PERLESENAN TENAGA ATOM  
Jabatan Perdana Menteri  
Tingkat 12 & 13, Plaza Pekeliling  
No. 2 Jalan Tun Razak  
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

Dear Mr. Ramly:

I am responding to your July 19, 1989 letter to Mr. Richard E. Cunningham which requested information on "exemptions from regulatory control." Within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research has been given the task of developing a regulatory exemption policy for consideration by our Commissioners.

In response to your request for information on the principles and criteria which are being considered in developing an exemption policy, I am enclosing two documents which you may find useful. The first is an IAEA publication, Safety Series No. 89, with which you may already be familiar. The second is an advance Federal Register notice of the Commission's intent to develop an exemption policy which was published late last year. The purpose of the advance notice was to solicit comments from interested parties, including members of the public. A Commission decision regarding the basis for our exemption policy is expected in the near future. The policy will be placed in the Federal Register, which I will send to you upon publication.

Development of an exemption policy, as you will appreciate, is only the first step in formulating practical and defensible exemption regulations. From the foundations provided by its policy, the Commission intends to derive volumetric and surface concentration values, quantity limits, and/or other measurable values which may be applied to specific practices including: (1) the disposal of certain low-level radioactive waste at other than licensed sites, (2) the distribution of consumer products containing small amounts of radioactivity, (3) the decommissioning and release for public use of lands and structures containing residual radioactivity, and (4) the recycle of slightly contaminated materials and equipment. We are currently in the process of deciding which pathways-to-man must be considered in calculating individual dose and how these pathways should be combined so that measurable values can be derived from the proposed policy's dose criteria.

Noorzalizan Bt Ramly

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I hope this basic information proves useful to you and the Atomic Energy Licensing Board of Malaysia, in your efforts to develop an exemption policy. If you have further questions or comments, please feel free to write to either me or Mr. Cunningham.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Bill M. Morris, Director  
Division of Regulatory Applications  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosures:  
As stated

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