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Roles and Responsibilities of Regulatory Body in Licensing Decision for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) milling facility

In Malaysia, the atomic energy activities are controlled by the Department of Atomic Energy (Atom Malaysia), the regulatory body established under the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304). The atomic energy activities including the irradiation facility, non-destructive testing activities, gauging, research and education as well as the Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) facilities. Under the Act there are several Regulations and Orders to explain more details regarding the requirements. Licence application are required to fulfill the general and technical requirements under the Act 304. For the licensing of the naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) milling activity, the application together with all of the technical supporting documents will be assessed by the Atom Malaysia provided all other related approval had been granted by other relevant agencies such as local authorities and Department of Environment. There are 3 parts of licensing for NORM milling facility, which is siting licence, construction licence and operation license. Operation license is divided to 2 stages, which are Temporary Operating License and Full Operating License. For siting licence, the applicant should submit the background monitoring data which is recorded together in a document called Radiological impact Assessment (RIA) for at least 6 months of data. In another hand, the applicant had also subject to the Department of Environment requirement to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). During construction license, the plant design should be endorsed by the Professional's Engineer (PE) approved by the government. The operation license will be started with 2 years temporary operating license and after the full assessment, the licence will be renewed to full operating license.

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