

2005.02.09

### **Improvements to Ionizing Radiation Protection Legislation**

The Atomic Energy Council (hereafter referred to as the AEC), in the interests of strengthening ionizing radiation protection and control, passed the Ionizing Radiation Protection Act along with 18 daughter regulations on January 1, 2003, and has subsequently monitored the implementation of this legislation. After soliciting a wide range of opinions and taking in account the difficulties posed to the public by said legislation, and in keeping with the principles of “safety first, legal flexibility, streamlined government and public convenience,” the AEC Department of Radiation Protection established a regulatory improvement taskforce in January 2004. During regular meetings, this taskforce has worked to promote regulatory research and amendments that balance the interests of the nuclear industry, the public and regulatory bodies.

In 2004, the regulatory improvement taskforce held 21 meetings, during which the following tasks were accomplished:

1. “The Medical Radiation Exposure Quality Assurance Standards” and “Administrative Regulations for the Establishment of Medical Radiation Exposure Quality Assurance Teams and Assignment of Specialists and Commissioning of Jobs to Relevant Organizations” were drafted and announced in conjunction with the Department of Health in late 2004. This legislation, which is slated for implementation on July 1, 2005, is the first legislation in Taiwan to regulate medical exposure quality assurance.
2. In light of practical operational needs in the industry, amendments to “the Administrative Regulations for Radiation Protection Personnel” and “Criteria for the Management of Radiation Workplaces and Monitoring of Environmental Radiation in Surrounding Areas” were promulgated.
3. Amendments to six items in the Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation were drafted; the focus of these amendments was bringing standards into line with international radiation protection trends simplifying administrative procedures.
4. Two explanatory orders for such issues as defining radiation workers were drafted, allowing small-scale operators and those whose operations do not pose radiation safety concerns to streamline personnel dose monitoring and regular educational training.

The AEC is determined to make amendments to radiation protection regulations that make them easier for industry to comply with, and yet do not introduce a level of flexibility sufficient to endanger public radiation safety. Moreover, the streamlining of routine radiation protection control procedures can enable limited numbers of regulatory staff to manage high-risk radiation sources more effectively.