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AEC Expands Radiation Protection Counter Services to Enhance Service Efficiency for the Public

The consumer applications of atomic energy are extensive, with a steady rise on the use of equipments capable of producing ionizing radiation and radioactive materials. Currently, there are almost 20,000 radioactive materials and equipments capable of producing ionizing radiation in the country, distributed in about 8,000 institutes and organizations. Consequently, businesses related with radiation protection management have also been increasing.

An increasing number of organizations are applying for radiation protection certificates and permits, which are closely related to public interests. To take care of both public interests and radiation safety, besides simplifying the application procedure, AEC has set up a counter service test area for medical applications in June 2005. The instant application and approval procedure provide the public with the most efficient service.

Since the starting of the test service last year, AEC has been continuously improving the operational procedure. The average case-handling time for each application has decreased from over 2 hours in the beginning period to the current less than one hour. The number of monthly counter applications increased from 176 (19.9% of the total applications) in June 2005 to 376 (41.4% of the total applications) in June 2006. The data shows that counter service has been accepted and supported by medical institutes and radiation protection service organizations.

Since the counter service for medical radiation protection management has achieved good results, AEC decides to expand the counter services to cover applications for both medical and non-medical radiation protection certificates and permits. From July 1, 2006, organizations and institutes possessing X-ray machines or radioactive materials for the purposes of measurement control, photo inspection, luggage inspection, analytical appraisal, animal medical treatment, and academic researches, etc. are welcome to the counter service area of the Department of Radiation Protection, AEC to apply for certificates and permits. (The address is Floor 5, No. 80, Section 1, Chenggong Road, Yonghe City, Taipei County.)