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PART II

Statutory Notification (S.R.O.)

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 15th August, 2018

S.R.O. 1236(I) 2018.-In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 16(2)(b) of the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2001 (III of 2001), Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority is pleased to make and promulgate the following policy:-

1. Short Title, Extent, Applicability and Commencement.-(1) This policy may be called the “National Policy on Safe Management of Radioactive Waste, Decommissioning and Spent Nuclear Fuel in Islamic Republic of Pakistan - (RWP-01/2018)”.

(2) This policy extend to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) This policy shall be applicable to users of ionizing radiation.

(4) This policy shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.-All the definitions and provisions mentioned in the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2001 shall be applicable to this policy.

3. Interpretation.-The decision of the Chairman PNRA regarding interpretation of any word or phrase of the policy shall be final and binding.

4. General.-(1) The Government of Pakistan is committed to the safe management of radioactive waste, decommissioning and spent nuclear fuel of nuclear installations and radiation facilities in such a manner as to:

- (a) Ensure an acceptable level of protection for human health and environment from harmful effects of radiation now and in the future;
 - (b) Avoid imposing undue burdens on future generations taking into account socio-economic considerations.
- (2) The Government of Pakistan shall support the overall development of technical and regulatory infrastructure for the safe management of radioactive waste, decommissioning and spent nuclear fuel.
- (3) The Government of Pakistan shall provide funds for implementation of this policy where necessary.
- (4) Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) shall formulate national strategies on safe management of radioactive waste including Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources (DSRS), decommissioning and spent nuclear fuel for the implementation of this policy.
- (5) Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) shall regulate safe management of radioactive waste including DSRS, decommissioning activities and spent nuclear fuel.
- (6) The Government of Pakistan shall ensure the implementation of this policy through PNRA.

5. Radioactive Waste Management.-(1) The generator shall keep generation of radioactive waste to the minimum as practicable during operation and decommissioning of nuclear installations and radiation facilities.

(2) The generator of radioactive waste shall be responsible for safe and secure management of its radioactive waste including DSRS in accordance with the relevant PNRA regulations for the purpose. The generator shall handover its Radioactive Waste including DSRS to designated radioactive waste storage/disposal facilities of PAEC in accordance with waste acceptance criteria established by designated waste storage/disposal facility operator and shall pay the cost to PAEC for the safe disposal.

(3) PAEC shall establish radioactive waste disposal facilities at national level for all types of radioactive waste generated in the country. PAEC shall also manage DSRS which could not be returned to the supplier(s), orphan radioactive sources and ownerless radioactive waste.

(4) Radioactive waste shall be managed through Radioactive Waste Management Fund (RWMF) established and maintained by PAEC for long term management of radioactive waste in the country.

(5) Radioactive waste shall neither be imported nor exported until and unless specifically permitted by the Government of Pakistan except for DSRS which shall be returned to the supplier(s) as per national regulations.

(6) The Government of Pakistan shall bear the expenditures for disposal of orphan sources, ownerless waste and sources cleared by PNRA in accordance with national regulations.

6. Decommissioning.-(1) Every nuclear installation shall adopt decommissioning strategy as deemed appropriate considering various aspects and shall complete decommissioning within due course of time after permanent shutdown/cessation of operation. Whereas, radiation facilities shall adopt immediate decommissioning as preferred strategy.

(2) Each nuclear installation shall be responsible to establish and maintain its own decommissioning fund. If a nuclear installation fails to manage financial resources for decommissioning, even in case of premature shutdown, the Government of Pakistan shall be ultimately responsible for the provisions of adequate financial and human resources to cover the costs associated with safe decommissioning.

7. Spent Nuclear Fuel.-(1) The Government of Pakistan realizes that spent nuclear fuel is a valuable asset. Currently, the spent nuclear fuel is stored at licensed nuclear facilities. A decision regarding the fate of spent nuclear fuel will be made in due course of time by the Government of Pakistan.

(2) PAEC shall be responsible for safe and secure management of spent nuclear fuel.

MOHAMMAD SALEEM ZAFAR,
Member (Corporate).