

FAQ TAKLIMAT MINGGUAN: ARE 8TH MAR 2012

No	Question	Answer
1	Is the Engineered Cell 2 (EC2) still not completed?	EC2 is not only for Decommissioning and Dismantling but it is also conditioning the waste that have been collected from ARE. Conditioning is done by mixing the waste with more stable matrix material such as concrete to ensure minimum leakage of radionuclides into the environment over a long period of time after disposal.
2	What is the difference between EC1 and EC2?	EC1 is where we buried the structure and components of the factory. We dug up the soil and buried them then we put 2 meters of soil over the top. So it is stable and safe. EC2 is for the waste. The whole area will be kept in a dome so it will be safe even though it is not a requirement for the waste to be stored like this.
3	When the EC2 will be completed?	It should be completed by the first quarter of 2013.
4	Why the need for EC2, why not just the LTSF (Long Term Storage Facility)?	Because the regulatory bodies were not completely satisfied and the people wanted a safer solution.
5	Can the radiation level there harm people?	It is natural radioactivity but what we have done is to raise the confidence of the people.
6	There are not many other countries that do this procedure?	Yes, they usually just throw it in the ground. Malaysia has stricter regulations.
7	What is the buffer zone?	1.7 km buffer zone from the plant. People are not prohibited from here, they are just not allowed to live in the area. This plant will be regulated and monitored for the next 300 years.
8	What about agricultural activity in the area?	You can certainly plant trees in here, as long as you don't have a farm inside the buffer zone.

9	Is anyone living there?	Yes, there are illegal settlers.
10	Is the cost of building EC1 and EC2 borne by ARE?	Yes, it cost them less than USD 100m.
11	Does the Perak government play any role in this?	Yes, they are also the authority.
12	Is ARE still existing until now?	We will not allow them to cease operation until this is finished.
13	What exactly are you monitoring?	We are measuring the radiation. We place TLD badges in the plant, take soil samples, dig wells to check the water radioactivity, do airborne monitoring to check the Radon and Thoron. We also take vegetable samples from the illegal farmers.
14	What is the total land area?	15 hectares.
15	In terms of leukemia, how are you dealing with it?	For Lynas, we have asked them to do a prevalence of radiation related cancer. This is because should there, in future, be an increase in incidence, then Lynas can be made liable.
16	Did ARE provide this kind of data?	No, in fact in anywhere else in the world, Lynas is the first to provide this data. If someone wants to build a plant in the UK, they don't need to provide this kind of data, they just refer to the cancer registry.
17	Has the TOL been issued?	Not yet. The license has been approved but not issued because there are preconditions as well as additional conditions.
18	Have the Lynas submitted the Letter of Undertaking?	They have submitted some letters and it is under review now to see whether they meet the requirements.
19	Any progress from Lynas to obtain the licence?	We are looking and studying the documents. We are making preparations to appoint the third party assessor so that when we issue the license, the third party assessor will be ready.

20	Has the plan for PDF been submitted?	No, that will be submitted within the period of 10 month after the licence issuance.
21	Explain “approved but not issued”.	There are two stages. The Board has agreed for the licence to be given to Lynas but we have not given the licence yet.
22	The Basel Convention does not allow hazardous material to be exported.	By Malaysian standards, the residue is radioactive and under regulation but it is not hazardous. By international standards, none of this is hazardous or dangerous.
23	About the pending of the issuance, is it because Lynas has not fulfilled the conditions?	No, it is because we take our time to look at the safety aspect to ensure the safety of the people.
24	The time frame to issuance of the licence?	We have a client charter that requires us to issue within seven months from the submission of letter of intent but it has actually has gone beyond seven months because we have had to scrutinize and look at everything in detail.
25	When do you think it will be issued?	The plant is only 95% complete; so even if we issue it today they won't be able to operate. There is also a request for a judicial review and an appeal has been submitted directly to the MOSTI minister.
26	The Letter of Undertaking, is it specific about the residue?	It is regarding the financial security and the acceptance of the residue if necessary. We need to make sure whether it can be used in a court of law or not.
27	About the Letter of Undertaking, did they mention where they want to recycle the residue?	No, we just require that it is safe and it must be below our clearance level. They will be doing it in the plant. One of our requirements is that they need to convert it into safe material.
28	What is the safe material?	The basic material is aggregates that will form basic units to make roads, etc. Then it will be mixed up

		with concrete.
29	ARE won the case but then they still dismantled it. Do you think the government made a mistake by allowing the plant in the first place?	At that time, there were no international standards for natural occurring radioactive material. The AELB was not in existence then. As soon as the Atomic Energy Licensing Act was established, there were additional requirements for Mitsubishi to operate in Malaysia.
30	Did they close down because they have already contaminated the area?	No, we would have taken the steps to decontaminate the area. They won the case and had the right to operate if they wanted to but by then, we had come into existence and begun to enforce the law and perhaps they think it would be much easier to operate in China and so they did.