Compilation of FAQs Lynas Media Clarification (Feb 3rd – Apr 15th)

ISSUES	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Temporary Operating License (TOL)	When exactly will the plant be fired up? Under TOL?	The license will be issued when all requirements have been met among others are the financial guarantee, third party assessor, monitoring system, etc.
	Is there a deadline for the first installment to be paid?	It is not the AELB that is faced with commercial interest and therefore AELB has left it to the licensee to decide when they would like to submit. AELB is not in the business of meeting Lynas's deadlines.
	When will AELB be appointing an independent assessor?	AELB has begun the process of looking for the third party independent assessor that is recognized by other regulatory authorities. They must have experience in such chemical plants and the production of naturally occurring radionuclides and the residues. The selection of the third party assessor will follow the financial procedures for the acquisition of professional services.

AELB is saying that even with this temporary license, Lynas cannot start operation unless they fulfill part of the condition right? What sort of condition they must meet before they can actually start bringing their ore and other stuff?	Even with the issuance of the license, Lynas will not be able to operate until they have met some of the conditions. There are fees to be paid for the evaluation process. Once they have paid their fee, AELB can then issue the license but AELB still have other mechanisms on importation of the ore that requires a permit. Therefore there is another system where Lynas has to tell AELB when exactly the ore will be imported and AELB will issue the permit. Once that's all in place then perhaps AELB will see the TOL to be issued and Lynas can start the operation.
Regarding the waste disposal facilities, the plan and location will come later, as long as they pay everything?	Within these 10 months Lynas will have to submit the detailed plans. AELB will suspend all the operations and Lynas will not be able to import or operate the plant if that's not complied with. Furthermore, AELB can even revoke the license. If there are residues, Lynas is responsible for that and AELB will ask them to return these to where they originate from.
So if within these 10 months, they have started production and there are wastes, the waste management plan is actually not fully spelled up yet right? So how do AELB deal with the waste production within this period?	The principles of the waste management, the permanent disposal facility, and all other related matters have been put into the Lynas documents. What is more important is Lynas has to show evidence that they have located and profiled the site and those principles will have to be engineered to suit that location.
Has Lynas identified the site?	No, they have not indicated so from the documents because it's too early in the process. It is understandable that Lynas has not identified it but certainly the Board has

	given Lynas 10 months to do so.
May I know what is the reason of the Board approved the TOL?	The Board is an independent body that looks at the national requirements from both the technical and legal aspects as to whether Lynas had complied with or otherwise. In addition, the Board has to look at the international standards and will recall also that the government of Malaysia through AELB had adopted the recommendations of the international panel of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency. Lynas would have to meet all these requirements, which is the basis for the approval, with the conditions taken into account among others, including public views, comments and feedbacks, and etc.
But aren't the majority of the public against this, yet AELB still approved. It's like their voice had been dismissed.	The Board is responsible to look from legal and technical point of view. The public review or the public display of the documents cannot be seen as a survey. It is actually an invitation for the public to view the documents and to submit their feedback.
Does this mean that the public comment has not been taken into account when AELB considered giving out the temporary license?	In some of the comments, AELB has actually identified very important technical and legal aspects and they have already been taken into account. If the comment has been made without substantiated facts, it was still looked at but if it is accompanied by technical and legal comments, it would certainly have been looked at very carefully.

Lynas has said that they want to operate in the second quarter of this year. AELB said that by the end of this month AELB will probably appoint the third party assessor already, pending they will submit the fees and the installment, do AELB think the second quarter is within the time range for them to operate?	AELB does not work according to Lynas's schedule.
The TOL, is it for two years?	The first issuance of the license is normally given two years but in the case of Lynas, it is conditional. If within 10 months Lynas does not submit the detailed plan of their waste disposal facilities, the two-year period is irrelevant. The two years period is important since it's the period of the license but certainly it is the condition that is even more important since it will determine how long the license is valid for. If the conditions are met, it will be for two years. The law provides for the Board to issue a maximum period of three years but for first issuance, because AELB needs to verify many things in particular especially in TOL, the two years period is good but it is conditional, i.e. upon the conditions.

In the worst case scenario of a radioactive leak, is the Board ready for such scenario and do AELB has plans on how to manage the waste that sink down to the soil, to the ground and stuff like that. How do AELB combat this? Is the condition that wants Lynas to stop operation asked for EIA details and in AELB view, do AELB think it's necessary to determine the safety of the plant?	Lynas is not Malaysia's first mineral processing facility that AELB has licensed. Malaysia was the world's no.1 producer of tin. Along with tin, there's always Thorium and Uranium and therefore this is not Malaysia's first facility. AELB has experience to handle this, to overcome this and AELB is prepared. There are more than 10 facilities that are very similar to Lynas. Some of them are producing higher residues, higher concentration of Uranium and Thorium. AELB has been able to regulate and control these factories, so it is based on AELB experience and the experience of the industry abroad.
What are the conditions that Lynas has to meet?	The Temporary Operating License (TOL) will be issued only after Lynas has met these conditions: 1) Pay the license fee 2) Agree to pay a financial security of USD50m, at a rate of USD10m per year for 5 years 3) Provide a Letter of Undertaking that it will remove and relocate all residues generated to its place of origin 4) Abide by the decision that AELB has the right to appoint an independent third party assessor at cost to Lynas
Has Lynas fulfilled the conditions?	Lynas has not fully met the above conditions and therefore the TOL has NOT been issued.

Despite AELB's explanation and assurance regarding the safety of Lynas, the approval of the TOL still received a lot of opposition from the public.	There was a lot of opposition although the majority of the comments were on e-liners that said 'Wedon't want Lynas'. The only positive comment came from one person who said he was satisfied with the way the documents were written but he underlined that regulatory monitoring is very important. These are very important comments. It shows that there is a need for Lynas and others to provide more information. And indeed, more information will be given so that AELB can make an informed decision rather than a misinformed one.
What is the difference between TOL and Pre- Operation License?	They are the same. However, a Pre-Operating and an Operating License are two different things.
Will we only find that out after the operation?	This is the reason why AELB has the TOL- to assess if their claim is correct.
The TOL is only to observe whether they can	No, it is not only to observe. It is to verify and to determine
fulfill their claim?	the next stage of licensing which are they will have to
	apply for the Operating License.
In the TOL, they will have the chance to make	Yes, if it necessary for them to make some correction or
correction right?	modification.

	Before this you said, if they make any mistake in	There are various stages, depending on the severity of the
	TOL, you will close it down.	non-compliances.
GENERAL	What is Act 304?	It's the Atomic Energy Licensing Act.
	How much is the total investment from Lynas?	AELB does not have the exact figure but we have been told that Lynas has already burst their budget because of the delay. When Lynas first announced the project, they were thinking of starting their production in the third or fourth quarter of 2011. It has now been extended since they cannot start operation until they comply with the TOL conditions. When they applied for the manufacturing license, they claimed that they will be investing about RM 2b for both phases 1 and 2. At the time of application, their initial investment was about RM 1.74b.
	Lynas have to apply for permit to import their ore but you already gave license to export. Isn't it	No, permit and license are two different things. You need to apply for permit for every shipment. So, you need
	contradicted?	license for importation, permit for every shipment and license for transportation.

Does AELB the construction	as is already 90% complete. have any updates on that was claimed by the something that was not lled?	AELB has requested Lynas to show evidence that the engineering has been approved by a certified engineer and they do have the certification. Therefore if anything should happen, the relevant authority will take it up with the certified engineer concerned.
What about the f	inancial security?	There is a financial security with the total amount of USD50 million. During the TOL, any residues produced will be returned to the source if necessary, and Lynas will have to show a letter of undertaking from the main parent company that they are willing to take it back. So

IAEA	The Anti-Lynas activists claimed that the 11	Out of the 11 recommendations, only Recommendation 10 is related to Lynas, the rest are related to mainly
	IAEA Recommendations have not been fulfilled.	10 is related to Lynas, the rest are related to mainly AELB. In Recommendation 10, Lynas will have to engage the public, to be more transparent. AELB has already fulfilled this. AELB has requested further documents from Lynas which, under normal circumstances, would come at the later stage. However, in line with the IAEA recommendation, Lynas is now required to submit the waste management plan earlier. The pre-operation stage and also the safety case of the waste management are very important and Lynas has done that. At this stage, AELB also recognizes that
		we need to be able to verify the correctness of the claims made by Lynas.
		Lynas has suggested two scenarios, the best case scenario and the worst case scenario. Lynas's contention is that the best case scenario applies to them where they are able to commercialize, reutilize and reuse the residue. According to Lynas, there will be no waste produced. But AELB wants Lynas to also present the worst case scenario where everything fails and the residue could not be commercialized, reutilized or reused. This is why AELB requires Lynas to have a Permanent Disposal Site (PDF).
		The Board is very clear about what they intend to do at this stage. The next stage is the Pre-Operation where Lynas will have to prove their contention is correct and that they are able to commercialize, reutilize and reuse the residue. This is why the pre-operating stage is very important. AELB will be able to determine whether Lynas's contention is right or whether it's the worst case scenario.

	Back to the 11 Recommendations by IAEA, is it just related to TOL?	The 11 Recommendations are related to the whole process and AELB has organized them stage by stage. First is Siting and Construction, then we have Pre-Operation License which is then followed by Operation License, then when Lynas has finished its operations, in perhaps, about 20 years from now, and they would like to Dismantle and Decommission, they will have to apply for another license. After that, if they want to build a repository if necessary, they will have to go through this whole process again. So the 11 Recommendations are for the whole process, from cradle to grave.
	So that means before AELB issued the TOL; Lynas, AELB and government already fulfilled the requirements by IAEA panel?	We have fulfilled what is necessary for this stage. There are some stages that become more detailed as you progress. The waste management plan as recommended by IAEA is a living document. Once AELB has gone through the Pre- Operation stage, it will become more
JKPA	residue to Australia. Is this going to affect the decision that has been made by AELB?	No, it is not. One of our conditions is that Lynas has to give the Letter of Undertaking stating that if it is necessary, they will accept the residue during TOL. The Letter of Undertaking has to be submitted before the license issuance regardless whether they need a PDF or they are very successful in their research to reutilize the residue.
	is this correct?	About 2% - 3% rejected Lynas without any reason. JKPA asked AELB to review comments especially with regard the understanding about Lynas project.

The media has received statements from local	AELB took it very seriously. We will look at the standards
committees and NGOs concerning about safety	ythat they use when they are saying something is dangerous
and health of the people. How does AELB reac	ctand we will compare it with our standards and IAEA
towards the statement?	requirements. AELB had informed the SLSM about this
	but they have not mentioned what their standards are.
Will AELB do one more public review involving	gOn the first week of the public review 119 people showed
local residents?	up, the second week 155 people showed up, fewer people
	showed up in the third week. We received 1,123 comments
	but only 334 people actually read the documents. Do you
	think we need another one? The government is constantly
	listening and if the government requires AELB to do it, we
	will.
You always say that the people mak	eAELB does not regard any complaint as insignificant but
unsubstantial comments, so what kind of standard	dthe media should be more responsible in bringing bring to
are you hoping from the people?	the authorities the more substantive problems that need our
	attention. We are here for the people to ensure that safety is
	always first.
When did JKPA present their findings to AELB?	On the third week of January, before the approval of the
	TOL. JKPA had 7 days of discussions with AELB and Prof
	Aishah Bidin then presented the findings to the Board.

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Did AELB consider arranging a visit to China?	We are always comparing but some of the plants in China
	were built 10 years ago so the technology is not the same.
	Also, China has different standards from us, we refer to the
	IAEA but China did not refer to IAEA for standards. But it
	is worth to visit. To ensure safety, we will learn from bad
	practices and adopt good practices. Other than China, US
	has rare earth plants too.
What is the latest status of Lynas?	They have already been informed about the Board's
	decision and we hope that they are looking at it very
	seriously in meeting the requirements.
Is there a possibility that Lynas can't operate i	fOf course, anything is possible. The conditions from the
they can't fulfill the conditions?	Board are very strict; Lynas must convince their parent
	organization to accept the return of the residue. Also,
	Lynas must have the financial capacity to pay USD50m. If
	they meet all the requirements, in particular the safety
	requirements, then we will issue the license.
The 5 conditions from the Board, how many have	There is no cut-off point. If they are in a hurry, they should
been met so far? Is there a time period given fo	rbe in full compliance soon. We also take note that there is
them to fulfill it?	an appeal going on at the court, and we are fully aware of
	the consequences of this.

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wanting to receive the waste? radioactive waste from a third country; they never sa anything about Lynas's residue. In their document Lyn stated that they are able to bring down the concentration radioactivity. What is the worst case scenario? It is a plant that works on atmosphere pressure but there a two pressurize boilers. The worst case scenario is that the boiler will explode and the steam comes out. A multiple worse scenario would be if the pipe that is supplying the acid leaks. The least worry should be the radioactivity release because it is natural radioactivity and if there leakage, it will stay local because Thorium is insoluble at radioactivity can be detected easily. Are the authorities trained to handle anyMalaysia's first responders are very well trained. We a emergency?		investment.
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	Are the authorities trained to handle any	Malaysia's first responders are very well trained. We are
neighbors are in all kinds of emergencies.	emergency?	also part of the HAZMART and we are as prepared as our
indignesis are in an initial or emergencies.		neighbors are in all kinds of emergencies.

Concern about the PDF can only last for few	When the half-life is millions of years, the radionuclide is
hundred years but Thorium half-life is billion	almost stable. Radiation is emitted only when it decays
years.	down.
Regarding the public display, 3% objected	In the final analysis, some did not object but they raised
without reason and 97% agree with concern. How	concern about the PDF and some just stated 'no' without
about those who objected with reason?	any reason.
In the feedback form, it did not state Yes/No to	The public display was not meant to be a survey or petition.
the project, you just ask for suggestion/review.	We were looking for feedback pertaining to the documents
	rather than just any opinion regarding the Lynas project.
How do you categorize those people that have	The statistics might have been misunderstood. We received
concern but never stated they agree or not?	1,123 comments from 334 visitors, some people made
	multiple responses and not all of them read the documents.
What do you mean by the statistics might have	It's better if we call back Prof Abu Hassan from JKPA to
been misunderstood?	clarify this. JKPA has already reviewed the responses and
	given recommendations to the Board and that was the basis
	of the Board's decision. Let's not focus on the statistics
	because it's not even a big sampling, 334 people out of the
	population of Kuantan, is insignificant and very few people
	actually read the documents.

	PM said if there is scientific evidence showing	AELB has already looked into this matter in the RIA and it
	Lynas is harmful, government will not let it	is going to be very low risk. There is no conclusive
	operate. How about the issue on internal emitters?	evidence that very low level radiation can cause cancer.
		This is Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material and we
		are living with radiation. We apply the standards and best
		practices set by IAEA and they refer to the figures and
		limits from ICRP and they also adopt the data from
		UNSCEAR.
LYNAS	In terms of leukemia, how are you dealing with	For Lynas, we have asked them to do a prevalence of
	it?	radiation related cancer. This is because should there, in
		future, be an increase in incidence, then Lynas can be made
		liable.
	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
	Have the Lynas submitted the Letter of	They have submitted some letters and it is under review
	Undertaking?	now to see whether they meet the requirements.
	The Basel Convention does not allow hazardous	By Malaysian standards, the residue is radioactive and
	material to be exported.	under regulation but it is not hazardous. By international
		standards, none of this is hazardous or dangerous.
		and and the of this is included of duligorous.

About the pending of the issuance, is it because	No, it is because we take our time to look at the safety
Lynas has not fulfilled the conditions?	aspect to ensure the safety of the people.
	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.
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
The Letter of Undertaking, is it specific about the	It is regarding the financial security and the acceptance of
residue?	the residue if necessary. We need to make sure whether it can be used in a court of law or not.
About the Letter of Undertaking, did they	No, we just require that it is safe and it must be below our
mention where they want to recycle the residue?	clearance level. They will be doing it in the plant. One of our requirements is that they need to convert it into safe material.
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.

Is the level of radiation in Lynas plant higher?	Just because AELB requires Lynas to be licensed, it does
	not mean that the radiation level would be hazardous or
	that they will produce radioactive wastes. AELB licenses it
	so that we can ensure the safety of the workers, people and
	environment. There will be radiation from Lynas but we
	will make sure that the level will be as low as reasonably
	achievable and within safe limits.
When will the TOL be given to Lynas?	There is an appeal to the MOSTI Minister by Tan Boon
	Teet and 5 others and there is also a request for a judicial
	review scheduled to be heard on 20 th March.
The plant in Lynas is 100% complete now?	According to reports, it is 95% complete.
Any update regarding the TOL?	We have received a form of Undertaking Letter from Lynas
	but it is still under review as to whether it is sufficient or
	acceptable.
Has AELB appointed the third party assessor?	It is still under process, we have to make sure that the third
	party assessor is qualified and able to do the job.
Has Lynas submitted the EIA report?	That is under the DoE's jurisdiction and it has been
	submitted earlier.
How long the document will be under reviewed?	As long as our legal advisers need, there is no deadline.

	Is it true that Lynas are not able to bring the ore	Yes, we have not issued the license yet. Therefore, they
	now?	cannot import any ore.
	What if once they start operating, they import ore	They have to get permission from AELB.
	from somewhere else?	
	In the future, if they want to process other type of	Yes, they have to re-submit everything and request for a
	material, are they supposed to submit the EIA	new license.
	Details on the appeal to the MOSTI Minister?	It will be on the 17 th of April however the venue has not
		been set yet.
	From your affidavit, you said AELB had already	Class A is for TOL and the other two licenses are Class E
	granted 3 licenses to Lynas but we only know	(Import) and Class G (Waste). However, without the TOL,
	about one.	the other two licenses are useless.
	Why the public are not informed about the other 2	Nobody asked. The two licenses are awarded subsequent to
	licenses?	the main license; Lynas did not apply for the other two
		licenses.
REGULATION	The new regulation (Waste) seems to be less strict	No, it is actually stricter. AELB is controlling anything
	than the previous regulation.	above 1 Bq/g
	Are people prohibited from going into the plant?	Not prohibited, however entrance is controlled as for any
		such industry.
	Is it correct that the buffer zone in Australia is 70	There is no such law. There is a plan to build a plant
	km?	similar to Lynas in Whyalla, the third most populated area

	Is it true that according to the law, AELB has to	I cannot comment on anything regarding the legal process.
	give Tan Boon Teet a written explanation?	If you wish, you can check our act which is Act 304,
		Atomic Energy Licensing Act.
PUBLIC	People in Gebeng will not have a choice as to	In controlling radiation, there are three principles which are
	whether they want to receive the additional	Shielding, Time and Distance. So AELB will make sure
	radiation in their daily life.	that people are living at a safe distance from the plant,
		public will not be allowed to spend time in the plant area to
		reduce the radiation exposure and the area will be properly
		shielded.
	How far is the distance?	About 2 km, same as with the oil and gas industry.
	Chinese claimed that business will be affected in	I can't comment on that. However, if they use nuclear
	Gebeng.	activity, irradiating apparatus and radiation gauges, it will
		be under Act 304.

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RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING	When did the radiological monitoring start?	For Lynas, the radiological monitoring started in late
MONITORING	start?	2008 i.e. since Lynas gave AELB the letter of intent to
		build its facilities. AELB has continued to monitor since
		then. Lynas has to collect the background data and
		AELB will verify it. Even before Lynas, AELB was
		already monitoring Kuantan. AELB also has a few
		other monitoring stations including in Sri Aman,
		Sarawak and will be adding more such stations around
		the country.
	Apart from Lynas, there are other stations	Yes, even before the monitoring systems were built, we're
	nationwide?	doing in situ measurement. In situ means direct
		measurements at that location.
	How many stations are there?	Seven stations are continuously monitoring but AELB
		also has other stations for in-situ measurement.
	Is there a station at the Lymps area?	There is one permanent station for continuous
	Is there a station at the Lynas area?	There is one permanent station for continuous monitoring in Lynas and another one in Kuantan. AELB
		also has officers stationed in Lynas to measure several
		locations at different times on a daily basis in order to determine whether there is seasonal shift. We have
		found that the radiation is higher during high tide and
		lower during low tide. This is due to the mass of the water that contributes to the daily radiation levels.
		Therefore, there is a seasonal variation.

Has anyone outside AELB verified the findings?	AELB uses the services of a certified agency to calibrate the equipment. The equipment is calibrated against international standards which are traceable to the primary standards of the US, Japan and the IAEA. Since the instruments are regularly calibrated, the readings are taken to be accurate. There are also other companies that are monitoring their premises as well. AELB will do a comparison against the data that is available.
The YB Minister stated that the government has suggested that Lynas sends back their waste to Australia. Do you think this is possible?	was the Atomic Energy Licensing Board. Yes, Lynas

Why are you only now talking about the	AELB has been diligently working unnoticed for many
radiological monitoring when the Lynas issue	years, nobody had bothered to ask. AELB has been
has been going on for so long?	years, nobody had bothered to ask. AELB has been doing this as a routine for 20 years to ensure that the environment and workers are safe and secure. AELB is monitoring the environment to establish the normal background reading so that should there be an allegation that there is high radiation in certain areas, it would be easy to ascertain whether it has inherently been high or it is as a result of certain activities in those areas. There are Uranium and Thorium in tin and iron so the background radiation level would naturally be higher in areas which have an abundance of those minerals. Many buildings in Perak and Selangor were built using sand from Uranium and Thorium-rich areas. AELB is looking at this very carefully. In collaboration with universities, AELB is monitoring some of the amang and tin tailing industries to see whether the workers
	and the activities have to be regulated.
Were there any monitoring programs during ARE?	The Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 and the Board were non-existent during ARE. There was only the Radioactive Substance Act 1968 which looks at the use of radioactive substance for medical purposes only. The IAEA had not set standards for mining activities that may produce or enhance Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM). There are differences between the ARE time and now. One of the reasons ARE closed down was because they were moving to China since it was cheaper to produce rare earth material

in China.

There is report that claims there are leakages	Firstly, there is no radioisotope in the plant and no
	license has been issued. However, AELB will be
in Lynas. Will AELB suspend the TOL while	
investigating this?	investigating this allegation.
Perhimpunan Hijau shows that all of AELB's	AELB has done its best. Perhaps the newspapers have
efforts in engaging the public have failed.	also failed to deliver information. One reporter who
	visited the old ARE plant wrote that she was surprised
	that there are no "No Trespassers" sign posted there.
	There have been allegations that AELB has not
	resolved the ARE issue when in fact, AELB has
	resolved it and has formally declared the site free of
	contamination. It has been returned to the state
	government. The final repository is in a remote area,
	away from population. AELB has tried to assure the
	public that things are under control. In the case of
	Lynas, AELB will continuously monitor the waste
	water and to make sure that it leaves the plant as water
	•
	that is acceptable according to international standards,
	and not as contaminated water or industrial waste
	water.
What are included in the sampling?	AELB will sample water, soil and air, and measure
	background radiation. Once Lynas becomes
	operational, monitoring will be further intensified. The
	frequency of sampling will also be increased.

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What is background radiation?	It's the natural radiation that is received by everybody
	continuously, even from sitting beside another person.
	For example, the background radiation level in Perak is
	0.2 µSv/hr but here in the AELB office building, it is
	0.3 µSv/hr. It is higher because of the nearby granite
	hills. So the radiation that we receive is from the rock, the soil and also from cosmic rays. This is
	the soil and also from cosmic rays. This is background radiation and it is natural.
	C
The people in Kuantan have taken this matter	AELB will respect any court that issues a summons
to court, how will AELB respond to this?	against us. AELB also takes public interest into
	consideration. It is about ensuring people's safety and
	the standards that must be adhered to. If the claims are
	supported with facts and substance, AELB will take
	them very seriously.
Is the radiological monitoring at the reference	The radiological monitoring is conducted on a daily
point done on a daily basis?	basis. AELB has at least four people on site that are
	monitoring the background reading on a daily basis for
	the last 18 months. The areas in Kuantan and Gebeng
	are slightly above the average for Malaysia but lower
	than here in Dengkil. We are constantly being exposed to
	natural radiation and in some professions, from
	occupational radiation.
Despite all of AELB efforts to explain, the	AELB is independent of politics. In order to ensure
protest will still go on and it doesn't look like	safety of the people, AELB's decisions are based on
the momentum is waning. Does AELB think	technical and scientific facts. The safety standards will
this has become purely a political issue rather	remain as the guiding principles irrespective of
than about safety?	political changes and the AELB will still be ensuring
man about saicty:	1
	and monitoring safety of the public and workers.

Has AELB fulfilled all the standards and	Yes and AELB intends to do more. Safety standards are
safety measurements?	reviewed from time to time. For instance, the dose limit for a radiation worker was 50 mSv/yr but because it can be lowered, it has gone down to 20 mSv/yr. The standards are improving with new instrumentation, better control of processes and the source, and more advanced technology.
When Lynas is operating, they will increase the	No, AELB will monitor and we will know if the
background level.	background radiation is raised due to Lynas activities,
	which means they are not in compliance with the standards.
Do we have the background reading before they	Yes.
start operating?	
The average background for Malaysia is about	Yes, but the reading may be different for each location.
0.04 mSv/y if I'm not mistaken.	Some areas do have higher background readings than the
	average. There are some locations in Perak that have higher
	radiation levels due to the Tin mining that was there 200
	years ago.
0.51 mSv/y is it safe?	It is natural and we cannot do anything about it. In Kerala
	the background is 20 mSv/y, Ramsar 50 mSv/y this is
	natural and people are living there.
Will any leakage harm the people and	If there is any leakage, AELB will be the first to be there to
environment?	ensure the safety of the people.

	What is the limit for residence near Lynas?	1 mSv/y. We are measuring the internal and external
		radiation. We measure the background level for 12 months
		before they start operating and we will compare it when
		Lynas starts operating.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	There are still calls for a DEIA; do you think this is still necessary?	AELB works very closely with the DoE. After the DoE and local government have approved it, it will come to AELB for consideration.
	Some Anti-Lynas groups, especially YB Fuziah, said that the DEIA report is still needed because there are still flaws in the PEIA.	The report has been approved by the DoE. The DEIA is not necessary because everything in the report has been approved. The impacts (but not radiological) have been looked at in the report. The DoE has also displayed the report from 30 th May to 30 th June 2011.
	Does the PEIA also detail in all hazards, is everything covered in the PEIA?	Although the PEIA is not for public display, we have done that last year. The contents of that report had been made public.
	Lynas had claimed that radioactivity produced from its Thorium is 50 times lower than ARE. AELB will appoint an independent assessor to verify this or is it just based on Lynas report?	In our system, licensee needs to declare first, and then AELB will verify it. In other words, all of Lynas's claims will be verified by AELB.
	Since the ore is currently in Australia, did AELB send somebody there to do some test?	Lynas has sent it for assessment and AELB has seen the certified assessment. When the ore comes in, AELB will sample and will again verify and this will be done for every shipment. The composition of the raw material will determine the radioactive concentration of the residue. So AELB will always verify the correctness of every declaration.

Some say that the radioactivity is not equally distributed. Some parts can be higher and some can be lower. So how can AELB explain this?	There are standard sampling methods so you can get samples that represent the normal population.
Will this be done by consultants appointed by AELB?	It will be done by AELB but for Lynas, there will also be an independent third party assessor. Hence, there will be several people analyzing.
There is a lot of concern about the plant: it is not solidly built, about leakages. Will the third party assessor be inspecting this to make sure it is safe before starting operation?	One of the criteria for selection of consultant is that, they have credibility, they are recognized by other regulatory authorities, and that they are experienced in the chemical industry in particular the one related to Lynas. AELB will be looking into this sort of third party assessor.
AELB had engaged villagers but not those who are very concerned. The Stop Lynas Coalition, Save Malaysia Stop Lynas has not been entertained.	invitation/enquiries/request to the Secretary General of
Will AELB consider displaying the report by the consultant to the public?	First, the report is important to AELB as the regulator, our job is to ensure safety and of course, we will display it to the public.
Can AELB comment about the New York Times report about the contractor AkzoNobel and the design flaws that they have found in the plan?	AELB cannot speak on behalf of Lynas but, safety is our concern. AELB has had an explanation from Lynas and their explanation has already been made public. AELB has verified that the construction has been approved by a certified engineer.
Can AELB disclose the name of the engineer?	Please ask Lynas.
Was it Lynas that looked into the AkzoNobel incident or was it AELB? Who was the inspector that looked into this incident?	According to building requirements in Malaysia, all builders/engineers/architects have to be certified by their professional bodies. If the engineer has been recognized as a certified engineer, then it is acceptable.

Has Lynas sent an assessor to measure the radioactivity of the raw material?	Lynas has presented the data in the RIA.
So AELB will accept the data from Lynas?	AELB has taken note and we will verify this.
The submission of the undertaking letter, do they have to get a guarantee from their government because if Lynas said they'll take it but the country refuses then how do you deal with this?	It is AELB standard practice that every radioactive source must be accompanied by an undertaking letter that the source can be returned but AELB does not require this from the government. They may have other arrangements on how they dispose the spent radioactive material. This is not only for Lynas, but in general. One concern that has been raised is that if Lynas goes bust before the PDF is established, who will take care of the residue. So this letter of undertaking will ensure that those residues will be managed.
If Lynas goes bust, can they apply for a permit to export the residue back to Australia?	From AELB's experience, there have been some companies that go bust. When the supplier has given the Letter of Undertaking, they normally honour it.
Has AELB had a scenario when supplier has to send back the ore to the country?	Yes, this was when the supplier on the other side went bust. What is important is that all aspects of radioactive waste management are being covered.
In the worst case scenario, if Lynas can't return the residue to Australia, is Malaysia ready to handle it?	That's why AELB has the letter of undertaking; we can avoid having to do that.

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There is a lot of criticism raised that the TOL has been approved in just 3 working days after the public display.	The first letter of intent from Lynas was way back 15 months ago. AELB had studied the documents submitted by Lynas and we were returning the documents because they were incomplete. Then when the IAEA recommendations came, AELB imposed them onto Lynas and they had to produce new documents.
	AELB was looking at the comments from the technical and legal point of view. Although none of the comments were based on legal and technical arguments, you can see that the concerns of the people have been reflected in the additional conditions to the license. Most of the concerns are about the PDF. This is the reason why AELB has imposed two and a half conditions related to the PDF. There was also concern about the residue, and that's why AELB has imposed conditions regarding the residue. Although the approval was made 3 days after the close of public display, AELB had been analyzing the comments from Day 1.
Is there a law to ensure that Lynas manages the residue?	The law in Malaysia is very clear. Licensees must appoint Orang Bertanggungjawab Terhadap Lesen (OBTL), i.e. the person who undertakes total responsibility for the license. AELB does not depend only on the letter of undertaking as guarantee; a financial security is also required. Although only 30% of residue is radioactive, if you look at the conditions, AELB has plans B, C, D, and E. It's a good decision by the Board, it is very strict and it would be difficult for Lynas not to comply.

allo	om Australia?	The criteria for allowing things to happen in Malaysia are safety. If you are unable to meet the national regulations, nothing is allowed to come in here. We have industries here in Malaysia, which import mineral ore from all over the world but they will have to meet the safety requirement. That is most important.
lov	wer than ARE. Is it based on the sample that ey have tested?	AELB has received the data and will verify that it is not a biased sample. Therefore, AELB doesn't rely on that particular sample alone. AELB will verify all the samples that come in. AELB will be doing it per shipment.
wil	all be more or less that of ARE once they are incentrated. What is your comment on this?	One of the most important criteria that the Board looks at is the radioactivity of the starting material and because it is 37 times less than the amang in Malaysia, the Board considers it to be more manageable. That is why we need the TOL, so that AELB can look at the actual residue produced to be able to confirm this. If it is higher than ARE, AELB will not allow Lynas to continue.
sec be	cond quarter. Does AELB think Lynas will able to fulfill all the conditions by the second larter?	What AELB will be looking at is whether Lynas can fulfill our conditions. AELB also needs to appoint the third party assessor. We will begin when it is appropriate, when both sides are ready. We are not tied to Lynas's schedule.

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So basically, if Lynas fulfills the conditions, then AELB will appoint the third party assessor?	AELB will have to have in place this independent assessor, the Radon and Thoron environmental monitoring station and so on. AELB is now collecting the baseline data which is almost complete. AELB has taken it for almost two years within the site, within 1 km, 5 km, 20 km, 50 km and also along the transportation route from Kuantan Port To Lynas Plant. AELB has taken the background reading so that we detect if there are any changes in the background radiation levels.
Before these five conditions that AELB imposed recently, were there any conditions before?	During the stage of Siting and Construction License, AELB has also imposed upon Lynas to carry out the background check. Lynas has to have RPM, monitoring station. In fact, AELB can add more conditions. There are many requirements from both AELB and DoE. Lynas has to go through DoE because it is also under DoE regulatory control.
So there are about 70 conditions for each stage?	There are different conditions for different stages. In the previous stage, Lynas is not allowed to bring in raw material; in the second stage Lynas would be allowed. So the previous conditions are only applicable for the first stage, but not applicable for second stage.
Any comments regarding the DAP's nuclear physicist that wants to challenge AELB and Lynas?	AELB is very open. AELB welcomes anyone who wants to have more clarification.

	How close is AELB to appointing the third party assessor?	AELB has gone through the specifications. What AELB will do is to go through important professional bodies like the IEM (Institute of Engineers Malaysia), MMA (Malaysia Medical Association) and as well as others, for their comments on the specifications. AELB will be listening to the IEM recommendations in particular. Once that has been completed, AELB will make it public.
	Why doesn't AELB get an assessor from the IAEA?	There are 12 recommendations from the IAEA although AELB only spoke about 11. There is another paragraph stating that the government of Malaysia will in time, request IAEA to come in, so that recommendation has already been incorporated into the system.
	How many are they? (The members of the assessor team)	The members of assessor team have not been identified yet. AELB has to come up with the specifications but the decision is beyond our jurisdiction. The assessment will cover radiological, chemical, construction and engineering safety aspects. This third party assessor will have to have the complete scope of competency.
	Who are the team of assessors from AELB?	AELB's team of assessors is the Enforcement Division. In addition, AELB also has a Jawatankuasa Teknikal Khas that will also do the assessment. The Jawatankuasa comprises members from the Ministry of Health, DoE and DOSH as well as from universities. The number is between 15 to 20 people.

	How can AELB make sure the appointment of the third party assessor will be not biased?	It will not involve Lynas at all. What is more important, this was one of the issues the Board looked at. Some of the comments from the public were about the 12 years tax exemption. Those comments have been taken into account in setting the conditions of the license. That is why the cost of the third party assessor will be imposed upon Lynas. AELB will not subsidies this cost and Lynas is also not involved in the appointment of the third party assessor.
	Has AELB set the maximum level of radioactivity of the raw material and the residue?	Yes, AELB has set the threshold at 1 Bq/g Generally speaking, if it is less than that, it is not radioactive. Lynas has stated in their documents that the Thorium content is about 5.7 - 5.9 Bq/g. AELB will verify this. That is why AELB is regulating Lynas, and that is also why the license is required.
	Is there a possibility to invite Lynas to this briefing as well?	AELB can bring this to the attention of the committee that is being chaired by both the Secretary General of MITI and MOSTI.
	There will be a huge gathering in Kuantan by the Stop Lynas group. Have you considered going there to engage with the public?	AELB is constantly engaging with the public. AELB has always maintained what the regulations and the rules provide for.
	Does AELB think that the engagement has failed because even after so long the public still wants to lynch AELB?	The media sessions are intended to provide clarification, not to mislead. Sometimes it could get too technical, and that might lead to difficulties in understanding.
WASTE	Australia said that they will not receive the residues.	AELB does not base its decisions on news reports but on facts.
	How do AELB usually dispose of the radioactive waste since AELB has experience?	This is not radioactive waste. This is waste containing naturally occurring radionuclide material.

Is there any example that has shown that the	Yes, for example we extract Lithium to make high
recycling plan does actually work?	performance battery from sand. The residue, which is the
	sand, is recycled to be used in the semiconductor industry.
	So, there is no waste.
Does the sand contain radioactive material?	Yes, it does contain naturally occurring radioactive
	material just like the residues in Lynas.
How does the radioactivity in the residue from tin	Residue from Lynas will be 6 Bq/g and Monazite, which is
mining compare with residue from Lynas?	the residue from Tin mining is 284 Bq/g.
So will Malaysia government buy products from	If they are able to produce them to meet safety standards.
Lynas to build roads?	Don't just limit it to Malaysian government, even
	Australian or Singaporean government can buy it.
Will the residue be scattered all around Malaysia?	If it is deemed to be within safe levels and no longer
	subject to AELB regulatory control or if it is exempted,
	then it is allowed.

Will the residue be buried locally?	No, Lynas claims that there will be no residue produced.
	All the residues will be recycled, reutilized,
	commercialized into items that can be sold for example,
	concrete and roads, etc. As an authority, AELB has
	requested Lynas for a PDF in case the above plan does not
	work and the PDF must be located away from populated
	areas.
With the condition that Lynas must bring down	Safety is first. It should be as low as reasonably achievable.
the radioactivity level?	However, we cannot expect for it to go below the natural
	background radioactivity because that is not realistic.
Is there no plan for the waste to be sent back to	The TOL condition states that Lynas is responsible for the
Australia?	residue generated during TOL period, including if
	necessary, to return it to its original source.
Is Lynas residue radioactive waste?	No, it is not radioactive waste. For example, in the UK, if it
	is a very low level radioactive waste, the waste can be
	dumped in a municipal dump. According to IAEA
	standards, very low level radioactive waste does not need
	to be controlled. Waste containing NORM and radioactive
	waste are two different things.

What if the residue cannot be commercialized?	That is the use of the PDF. If there is no suggestion for the
	location of the PDF, it will be returned to its original
	source.
How long can they store the residue if it cannot be	The standard for TOL is 18 months but for Lynas, we have
commercialized?	pre-conditioned it to be 10 months.
There are claims that a lot of Thorium will be	Concentration of thorium will not go up even though the
generated and the concentration of the residue	amount of residue will.
will go up.	
Did Lynas submit any scientific proof regarding	Yes, they have submitted very early preliminary report but
the R&D work for commercializing the waste?	we will have to verify them later when we get the actual
	radioactivity concentration whether this is actually doable
	or not.
Are you confident that they will be able to recycle	I am never confident, that is why we as a regulatory body
the waste?	need to verify their claim. We will give the TOL so that we
	can verify the findings and also for them to make corrective
They will make gypsum from the residue for road	They think they will be able to put gypsum in the market as
servicing?	supply due to the reason Malaysia is an importer of
	gypsum.
They will be using acid in the dilution process?	Once you mix acid, alkali and lime, you will get salt, water
	and etc.

	Gypsum will be a fraction of the product? What	The other fraction will be the water leach purification. It
	will happen to the rest that can't be	will be made into aggregate that will provide the body just
	commercialized?	like any stone.
	Some people said the product will be used as	It is possible. That is why they are doing research whether
	concrete in construction or in tukun.	anything will be leaching out.
	Are you not going to test the theory before putting	This theory have already been tested in UK, it is not
	the waste into commercial products?	something new.
	Do you take into consideration that our whether is	The temperature variation in UK is actually much bigger
	different from UK?	than in Malaysia.
AELB	How will you convince people that believe the	Malaysia is No. 1 in rubber glove industry and to produce
	authority in Malaysia is incompetent?	surgical gloves, radiation is involved to sterilize the gloves.
		The exposure from the radiation is so high; you could die
		within 1 minute of exposure. AELB has been controlling
		this to ensure the safety of the workers, people and
		environment.
	Reports stated that AELB receive certain amount	No, that is not true.
	of revenue once Lynas start operating.	

You are hiding information from the public.	AELB did not hide anything in regards with Lynas. By law,
	all company's information is confidential but the
	government has decided to make it public.
People might question the competency of AELB.	Competency is to be able to recognize what your
	limitations are. If you have the best equipment in the world
	but not able to read it, you are not competent. I admit that
	some of our equipment is not so good, so we don't rely on
	it. We just take it as a quick indicator of what is going on.
What is AELB role in pushing Lynas to be more	In the public display, they had already made it clear on how
transparent regarding managing the waste?	they will manage the residue. We and the experts had
	reviewed the documents and satisfied with it.
The Parliament has set up a committee for Lynas	You will have to refer to the Chairman of the Committee
issue, is it going to affect the decision by AELB?	himself.
Comment on the Solar Panel Project at Penang.	AELB, through MOSTI will be making a press statement
	with regard this particular issue.
There is a solar panel plant in Melaka, is it under	Company's information is confidential but if a company
AELB regulation or not?	wishes to use any radioactive material or if they produce
	any radioactive material, they have to get license from
	AELB.

Have any other nuclear regulatory body in this	Yes, there was informal contact. Some of the head of
region made contact with AELB regarding this	regulatory bodies are quite surprised with the level of
matter?	concern that has been shown regarding this matter.
What would be the reason you will stop the	If their declaration and the actual value of the shipment are
shipment from coming in?	different, we will stop them.
What is the update from AELB regarding	The Undertaking Letter is secondary binding. The first
reviewing the Undertaking Letter?	binding in the condition of license itself.
Have Lynas agreed with the appointment of the	We have informed them but they did not give any feedback
third party assessor?	yet.
Does the court's decision on denying the judicial	We are holding the issuance of the license until the appeal
review have any effect on AELB's decision to	to the MOSTI Minister has been settled.
issue the license?	
Any updates from Lynas regarding the fulfillment	Some of the conditions of the license are good after 10
of the 5 conditions by the Board?	months of the license issuance, so they cannot fulfill that
	now.
An anti-Lynas group said AELB is required by	This is from their legal counselor, "The grounds of decision
law to give them the ground of TOL approval a	furnished by the Board pursuant to Regulation 4 of the
week before the hearing.	Atomic Energy Licensing Appeal Regulations 1990
	received by appellant on 2 nd of April 2012". So, they have
	already received it.

	How long will you give them the time to make	No, it is up to them. They have to make the correction and
	correction?	modification to ensure the safety, until the authority is
		satisfied with it. If it is something that require immediate
		attention, we will give them a time frame to make
		corrective action otherwise we will shut it down.
ERMS	What is the status of ERMS system right now?	Only two is functioning, in Chuping and Batu Berendam.
		The rest is under maintenance and we are doing in-situ
		measurement. ERMS act as an indicator to show the trend,
		we don't take it as absolute value.
	How reliable is the data from ERMS?	We will check again on that data and compare it with the
		TLD reading. Radiation levels always fluctuate, that is why
		we take the average. We will take the reading for a few
		more months to complete a year in order to see the trend.
	Elaborate about the monitoring system.	We are monitoring if there is any big change in the
		background. If there is an increase above the limit that we
		have set, the system will signal to us and we will
		investigate what caused the increase.
	What if they change their process after two years	? Every change needs to be informed to AELB and we will
		run through the whole process again. They have to apply
		for 'Pindaan' in the license.

AELB will inspect every shipment of the ore?	Yes, we will inspect every shipment in the TOL stage but in the Operating License, we will inspect randomly.
AELB is not 100% convince with Lynas safety.	We are never convinced, that is why we give the TOL first, and only then they can apply for Operating License.
Lynas said they are ready to start operating in three weeks.	Until today, we have not issued the TOL.
What are you waiting for?	We've just identified the third party assessor from UK and we are asking Lynas to agree to this appointment because they will bear the cost of this appointment. The assessor has been identified by Institute of Engineers Malaysia, Malaysian Medical Associate and etc. They sat down together and appoint the assessor, not AELB.
What is the role of the assessor?	They will assess all kind of aspect of the project including radiological, environmental and etc.
The issuance of the license pending due to juridical review and the appeal?	On the last Board Meeting which was on the 22 nd of March, we agreed that there will be no license issuance until the case is solved.
Will report by PSC give effect on AELB's decision?	We're governed by the Board.

	Any new application for Operating License? ERMS is under maintenance, so how to do measure the radiation?	Yes, we received a lot of application. Even Coco-cola use radiation as Quality Control to make sure the level of beverages remain the same. We use TLD but the reading is monthly. We also use insitu measurement.
	Where is the ERMS station situated?	Just outside the ARE repository.
ARE	Is the Engineered Cell 2 (EC2) still r completed?	not 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
	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.
	When the EC2 will be completed?	It should be completed by the first quarter of 2013.

Why the need for EC2, why not just the LTSF	Because the regulatory bodies were not completely
(Long Term Storage Facility)?	satisfied and the people wanted a safer solution.
	It is natural radioactivity but what we have done is to raise
	the confidence of the people.
There are not many other countries that do this	Yes, they usually just throw it in the ground. Malaysia has
procedure?	stricter regulations.
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.
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.
Is anyone living there?	Yes, there are illegal settlers.
Is the cost of building EC1 and EC2 borne by	Yes, it cost them less than USD 100m.
ARE?	
Does the Perak government play any role in this?	Yes, they are also the authority.
Is ARE still existing until now?	We will not allow them to cease operation until this is
	finished.

	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.
	What is the total land area?	15 hectares.
	ARE won the case but then they still dismantled	At that time, there were no international standards for
	it. Do you think the government made a mistake	enatural occurring radioactive material. The AELB was not
	by allowing the plant in the first place?	in existence then. As soon as the Atomic Energy Licensing
		Act was established, there were additional requirements for
		Mitsubishi to operate in Malaysia.
	Did they close down because they have already	No, we would have taken the steps to decontaminate the
	contaminated the area?	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.
	If 2.2 μSv/h so 20 mSv/y?	No, we cannot do direct calculation. We must include the
		occupancy factor and other factors while calculating.
PDF	Has the plan for PDF been submitted?	No, that will be submitted within the period of 10 month
		after the licence issuance.

V	Where is the location of the PDF?	The location must first undergo an RIA, it has to be far
		from people, possibly an ex-mining area, there is no further
		use for it, and is not a tourist spot.
П	Those comments that are concern about PDF. Do	Neutral, they are stating their concern about the PDF and
у	you see it as agree or disagree?	we addressed that by stating the conditions in the TOL.