



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

17 March 2008

Ms Sylvia Kidziak AM
Chair
Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council
c/- ARPANSA Secretariat
619 Lower Plenty Road
Yallambie VIC 3085

Dear Ms Kidziak

ISSUES RELATING TO THE SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2007 setting out the Council's advice on this subject following my request to the Council formalised in August 2007.

I accept and support the essence of the Council's advice about nuclear safety. In particular, I am pleased that Council has identified the necessity for effective and efficient safety regulation. This regime draws in very large measure upon the global nuclear safety framework which is a vital base for Australia's current nuclear related activities.

In particular Council's emphasis on open and transparent process for regulation of any nuclear industry and the importance of leadership and management for safety resonates with me as the regulator of Australia's current nuclear activities. These are all important issues that ARPANSA is continually improving in its current operations.

As you are aware, the Government has stated that it will not allow the development of nuclear power in Australia. Nonetheless, the subject of the safety of nuclear power remains an issue of major concern to the Australian community in that nuclear power plants continue to operate throughout the world and a major accident would have international repercussions. Further, there are discussions about expansion of nuclear power in other countries, including countries in our region. An informed public view on the challenges for the maintenance of the nuclear safety regime is therefore timely in this context.

The rigour and effectiveness of Australia's own radiation protection and nuclear safety regime is a matter of vital interest to all and your report has important messages for my current operations. I intend to place the Council's advice and this reply on the ARPANSA website for the information of the public.

Yours sincerely

John Loy PSM
CEO of ARPANSA