

**A REVIEW ON THE ATOMIC ENERGY LICENSING ACT 1984
AND THE ATOMIC ENERGY LICENSING (RADIOACTIVE
WASTE MANAGEMENT) REGULATION 2011 ON THE
RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN MALAYSIA**

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Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Bachelor in
Legal Studies (Hons)

Universiti Teknologi MARA

Faculty of Law

December 2012

The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise to Allah S.W.T. whose held and guidance has sustained us to bring this research paper to completion. This research project has been carried out by a team comprises of Muhammad Mustafa bin Mohd Zin, Arizan bin Abdul Rahman and Mohamad Haziq bin A. Rahman. We wish to gratefully acknowledge and express our deepest appreciation to a number of individuals who took time and effort to assist in the development of this legal research. Without their time, expertise, suggestions, and support, this text would not have been remotely possible. We would like to thank Dr. Hartini Saripan, our Legal Research Methodology lecturer who has unconditionally guided us since the first time we came up with the topic of our research. She has reviewed and filtered the legal content of our research proposal just to ensure that at the end of the day, we will come up with the best result of research that meets the university standard. We would like to thank her on her legal expertise, analytical skills, and input. Those are invaluable. Most importantly, we would like to thank our research supervisor, Prof. Madya Norha Abu Hanifah who has spent a lot of her time to review, make comments, and give recommendations to this honours project paper. Without her guidance and supervision, we will not be able to complete this paper. Her tremendous effort is highly appreciated.

ABSTRACT

This project paper analyses the Atomic Energy Licensing Act (Act 304) 1984 and the Atomic Energy Licensing (Waste Management) Regulation 2011 for governing radioactive waste management in Malaysia. The analysis covers both strengths and weaknesses of the radioactive waste management as a preparation for Malaysia in the future i.e. should Malaysia choose to venture into nuclear energy and built a nuclear power plant. The aim of this project paper is to review the present laws and highlight the changes that it needed. In doing so, this project paper makes several comparisons with the laws of other countries and also international law. It is to ensure that Malaysia will obtain vast knowledge for the radioactive waste management in the future. The methodology used for this study is qualitative in nature using the library as a main source. Primary and secondary sources was gathered and analysed. A comparative study was carried out with the radioactive waste management laws in the United States of America and Malaysia. The finding of this project is hopeful as an added material for future research in this area. As a conclusion, the research that has been conducted is hoped to be able to help the development of laws and guidelines for an environment friendly and safe nuclear power plant in Malaysia. A comprehensive legal framework is paramount in order to meet local demand for nuclear power plant and radioactive waste management.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter critically analysed the adequacy of the Atomic Energy Licensing Act (Act 304) 1984 and the Atomic Energy Licensing (Waste Management) Regulation 2011(P.U. (A) 274) for governing radioactive waste management in Malaysia. The structure of this chapter begins with a background that explains the problems faced by Malaysia pertaining radioactive waste management. This paper is an attempt to review the laws on radioactive waste management in Malaysia by comparing the laws at present with the laws of the United States of America (US). The US is made as comparison because the laws on radioactive waste management in the US are with reference to the use of nuclear energy and the waste management of its nuclear power plant/reactor. This study is made with the view that should Malaysia venture into nuclear energy in the future, the laws on radioactive waste management must be adequate for it.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nuclear energy is said to be the next viable source for power. Countries around the world turn to this form of energy as their saviour for their hunger for energy.¹ Hence, nuclear energy is considered one of the alternatives measures taken by Malaysia to improve its generation of electricity. Malaysia broke ground in the atomic or radioactive substance field in the year 1968 with the implementation of the Radioactive Substance Act 1968. Subsequent to this Act, in the year 1984, the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (hereafter to be known as AELA 1984) was

¹ "Plans For New Reactors Worldwide." WNA Sources. February 2012. Extract from <http://www.worldnuclear.org/info/inf17.html>.