

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ANSTO

Output Group: ANSTO

DEST Question No. E249_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Paragraph 1.49 of the Quarterly Report says:

“After review and discussion of documents submitted by ANSTO dealing with its approach to the ‘cold’ commissioning of the replacement research reactor..., the CEO advised ANSTO that he proposed to amend License Condition 4.7 covering the Cold Commissioning activities.”

What was the original License Condition 4.7 and what has it been amended to? What are the changes that ANSTO would have to comply with? Why was 4.7 amended? What is ANSTO doing to comply with the amended license condition?

Answer:

Licensing conditions of New Reactor

ANSTO has provided the following response:

The original licence condition read:

4.7 Without derogating from the obligations and limitations imposed by Regulation 54 of the Regulations, the Licence Holder must gain the approval of the CEO of ARPANSA prior to commencing commissioning of any item important for safety, being those items identified as safety category 1 and safety category 2 in the Application.

4.7.1 In seeking such approvals the Licence Holder shall provide information establishing that the commissioning of the item will:

- (a) verify that the item performs in accordance with its safety performance specifications as set out in the Application;
- (b) be under a certified quality assurance program;
- (c) be in accordance with a program that has been documented, reviewed and accepted by the Licence Holder; and
- (d) be under a commissioning schedule that is made available to the CEO of ARPANSA.

The revised licence condition reads:

4.7 Without derogating from the obligations and limitations imposed by regulation 54 of the Regulations, the Licence Holder must gain the approval of the CEO of ARPANSA for the commissioning program prior to commencing commissioning of items important for safety, being those items identified as Safety Category 1 and Safety Category 2 in the Application.

4.7.1 In seeking this Approval the Licence Holder shall provide information establishing that the commissioning program:

- (a) Has been reviewed and accepted by the Licence Holder;

- (b) Will complete the verification that each item will perform in accordance with its safety performance specifications as set out in the Application;
- (c) Will ensure that commissioning of each item is under a certified quality assurance program;
- (d) Establishes a commissioning schedule that may be made available to the CEO of ARPANSA for the purpose of monitoring compliance.

4.7.2 The Licence Holder must, prior to commissioning items important for safety, being those items identified as safety category 1 and safety category 2 in the Application, identified by the CEO, provide any information requested by the CEO that relates to the commissioning of those items or a number of items that comprise a system.

It would not be appropriate for ANSTO to comment on the reasons as to why the CEO of ARPANSA decided to amend the licence condition. We note that the effect is that a single approval for the commissioning program as a whole, rather than separate approvals for the commissioning of each item, is now required. ANSTO submitted a commissioning program to ARPANSA in June 2004. ARPANSA has approved that commissioning program.