



A National Strategy for the Management of Disused Radium Sources in the Philippines

**E.M.Valdezco, E.A. Marcelo, E.S.Caseria, D.S. Salom and J.S. dela Cruz
Radiation Protection Services
Philippine Nuclear Research Institute**

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute has established and is currently operating a centralized facility for low level radioactive wastes. This facility which is briefly described in the paper has largely been established through a technical assistance project from the International Atomic Energy Agency and has conducted twice a regional demonstration course on predisposal methodology of radioactive wastes for the East Asia Pacific region. The paper will describe the efforts taken by the regulatory body in the formulation of a national radium policy and the subsequent steps towards its effective implementation. following its participation in the IAEA Inter Regional Radium Conditioning Project.

The paper will describe in detail the procedures that have been followed by a national team under the guidance of an IAEA Expert in the actual operations wherein more than 500 mg. of radium have been conditioned in accordance with Agency recommended procedures. The radiation protection control program to ensure that exposures of personnel directly involved in the process is likewise described as the results of workplace monitoring as well as personnel exposures to radiation in every aspect of the overall process are outlined.

Future plans involving the reconditioning of old radium sources previously conditioned in cemented 200 liter drums will be presented as well as an update on the current effort to site a final repository for low to intermediate level radioactive wastes in the country.