

### Model Work Health and Safety Regulations for Mining - Public Comment Response Form

<b>Individual/Organisational name:</b> Radiation Professionals	
<b>Regulations Chapter 9: Mines</b>	
Part 9.1	
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Comment</b>
9.1.4	The use of the term “ <b>principle mining hazard</b> ” seems completely at odds with the inclusion of ionising radiation. Though there can be increased potential for fatalities caused from ionising radiation, this is only in the case of extremely high levels of exposure, not the exposure levels that would be associated with NORM industries. At these levels the risk of a fatality is in the extreme low end of the spectrum. This would be analogous with including something like cooking oil in the list of principle mining hazards. At the extreme end if you were to ingest copious quantities it may kill you, this does not reflect reality. In reality use of excess oil in cooking can increase the risk of heart disease, but you don’t include it as a principle mining hazard!
Part 9.2	
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Schedule 9.2 Part 8	Even though this section would be of great benefit to small consulting companies such as my own, it is not justified to require ALL exploration activities to conduct an assessment of the presence of NORM to the degree that is suggested here. I feel a much better approach would be for the more realistic scenarios (mineral sands, rare earths, uranium etc) to <b>consider</b> if an assessment is necessary, however not blanket application of the <b>requirement</b> of an assessment. For non-typical scenarios (where you rarely see radiation as a considered hazard) an approach may be for state regulators to consider forming a national information database on areas in Australia and activities carried out that a company could access to ascertain whether or not they should consider a NORM assessment. However this is well beyond a simple code of practice.
Part 9.3	
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Other Comments</b>	
In general all the comments raised by Nick Tsurikov and the Australian Uranium Association clearly outline the major short comings of the proposed ‘Managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials’ code. I would only go on to repeat all their arguments. Suffice to say the need for this code is dubious at best (in light of existing federal codes from ARPANSA and international codes). Also the quality and content of the code is generally variable and ambiguous as to its intent, with the definition of what constitutes NORM in mining being confusing and potentially forcing the inclusion of all and any mining and exploration activities under this code, hence forcing the requirement of a Principle Mine Hazard plan to be developed with the inclusion of NORM.	

Codes of Practice	
Roads and Other Vehicle Operating Areas	
Section/page number	Comment
Managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials in Mining	
Section/page number	Comment
General	Of significant concern is that in a number of locations in this document, the draft code includes transport of NORM as something seemingly under its pervue. This is definitely <b>NOT</b> correct if the transport is outside the mine boundaries. Transport of <b>ANY</b> radioactive material that requires regulation is done by dedicated, already existing state and federal agencies through existing legislation and codes of practice. It should be <b>explicitly</b> stated that transport outside of the mine is NOT regulated by this code and the WHS act.
The Mine Records	
Section/page number	Comment
WHS Management Systems in Mining	
Section/page number	Comment
Inundation and Inrush Hazard Management	
Section/page number	Comment
Emergency Response in Australian Mines	
Section/page number	Comment
Strata Control in Underground Coal Mines	
Section/page number	Comment

Ventilation of Underground Mines	
<b>Section/page number</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Survey and Drafting Directions for Mine Surveyors	
<b>Section/page number</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Health Monitoring	
<b>Section/page number</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Mine Closure	
<b>Section/page number</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ground Control in Open Pit Mines	
<b>Section/page number</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ground Control for Underground Mines	
<b>Section/page number</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Underground Winding Systems	
<b>Section/page number</b>	<b>Comment</b>