



MEDIA

Response to Die Burger

REF: 9/1/03-06

Gino Moonsamy
t.012 – 674 711
e.gmoonsamy@nnr.co.za

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Dear Malherbe Nienaber

Please find NNR response to your email enquiry as **ref: radioactive material to be removed in Karoo?**

The NNR supports responsible journalism and as such I would like to thank Die Burger for sharing this information with the regulator and affording the competent authority an opportunity to comment.

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999). The fundamental objective of the NNR is to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices suited for South Africa. To give effect to this objective the NNR authorises nuclear activities subject to regulatory safety conditions and implements a series of compliance assurance measures aimed at ensuring that those undertaking nuclear activities are operating within the scope and ambit of the authorization granted by the regulator.

The NNR confirms a complaint was registered with the regulator by Dr Cramer regarding this issue. The complaint received serious attention by the NNR and in response, a regulatory investigation was conducted. As a result the NNR issued a report to Dr Cramer which was shared with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape Government and the National Department of Environmental Affairs. It is unfortunate that Dr Cramer did not respond directly to the NNR with his objections but instead he submits his objections to the news media to solicit a reaction. This is a highly technical issue and could have been resolved or cleared up had Dr Cramer sent his objection to the report directly to the NNR. So why didn't he? Based on this, one can only speculate on the credibility and intentions of those individuals who lay claim to act on behalf of protecting South Africans and who choose to only follow certain state institutional procedures as it suits their agenda.

The NNR's response to Die Burger is as follows;

Based on the outcomes of the regulatory investigation, the NNR can confirm that there is no transgression of the regulatory requirements by the authorisation holder and that the NNR's internal compliance evaluation and monitoring process such as the public safety assessment requirement amongst others is an ongoing process and will continue as planned. Stakeholders can be assured that any transgressions to the NNR requirements on all matters will be dealt with as appropriate without comprising safety to people and environment.

The NNR welcomes all concerned members of the public to lodge complaints, objections, views, etc on this matter to the NNR for response. We believe that through collective efforts we can strengthen nuclear safety in South Africa.

Should you require more information, please contact me.

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