CANADIAN NORM GUIDELINES AND ISSUES FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

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It is well recognised that the potential radiation hazards from naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) are the same as those from radioactive materials controlled by the regulatory body, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). In Canada, NORM-related activities fall under the jurisdiction of the provinces and territories. The Canadian NORM guidelines were prepared and developed by the NORM Working Group of the Federal Provincial Territorial Radiation Protection Committee (FPTRPC) to harmonize standards and reduce jurisdictional gaps or overlap. The Guidelines set out principles and procedures for the detection, classification, handling and material management of NORM in Canada, and also include guidance for compliance with federal transportation regulations. NORM guidelines were originally developed for radiation management in NORM industries. However, the guidelines have been often consulted by many other industries not commonly considered as an NORM industry. The broad use of NORM guidelines out of the original scope has demonstrated the needs to revise the guidelines for practical use. Some issues for further development are discussed here.