

Malaysia rare earths plant wins license to operate

5 September 2012

(AP)—Australian miner Lynas Corp. says it has secured the Malaysian government's approval to fire up a controversial rare earths plant.

The operating license ends months of delays sparked by safety concerns surrounding the Australian company's plans to process rare earths crucial for manufacturing high-tech products.

Lynas said in a statement Wednesday it can now transport rare earths concentrate to Malaysia and potentially start the [refinery](#) in October.

Civic groups have staged numerous [protests](#) supporting residents near the 2.5 billion ringgit (\$793 million) plant in eastern Malaysia who fear leaks of [radioactive waste](#).

Lynas reiterated Wednesday the plant was "fully compliant with international standards."

The refinery is to be the first in years outside China, which has restrictions on rare earth exports.

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