

Dear DECC Colleagues

- The consultation needs to be halted. The Government cannot continue with its 'business as usual' approach for the nuclear industry in the UK. It is a nonsense to continue with proposals to use plutonium-fuel in reactors without regard to major events such as those at Fukushima.
- The Government must reconsider its consultation proposals which were published before the tragedy in Japan.
- The Government has called for a review of nuclear safety in the UK because of the situation in Japan.
- The plutonium consultation must be stopped and proposals reconsidered in light of what emerges from the review of safety - both nationally and internationally - on Fukushima. This could only be done when a detailed picture of the extent of the impact of MOX use in the Fukushima crisis is known.

It is vital to stop now and reassess whether the Government's proposals on MOX are appropriate for safety, costs and proliferation concerns. There has not been a proper debate with all stakeholders on the potential proliferation impacts - internationally - of the UK's plutonium management options and policy decisions.

We strongly urge DECC to halt the current consultation, pause to reassess the issues raised above, and then ensure any proposed expansion of the plutonium economy can only be taken forward after a full and informed debate of proposals.

Best regards - Mike (Franks)

Chair Greater Manchester SERA