Dear Sir/Madam,

I believe that you need to halt the consultation on the UK's plutonium stockpile.

Following events in Japan I think it is only sensible that we wait until a full review of the Fukushima accident is published.

Given that your consultation proposals were published before the tragedy in Japan I think it is important that the UK only moves forward when we have a clearer understanding of exactly what happened at Fukushima.

As an additional observation it does concern me that there has been no nationwide debate on the nuclear industry in this country. I am sure that you will respond by saying that consultations such as this allow for public involvement. However, this type of consultation probably only involves a very small percentage of the population. My concern is that there hasn't been a general discussion on TV by politicians.

Regards,
Chris Reed

CONSULTATION ON UK PLUTONIUM STOCKPILE

- CALL A HALT

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE

It is vital the Government gets as many emails as possible - from groups and individuals - asking them to call for a halt to this consultation.

DEADLINE: 10th May

Respond to: plutonium@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Friends

This email concerns the Government's current consultation on the UK's plutonium stockpile.
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/plutonium-stocks/1243-uk-plutonium-stocks.pdf

The Government's preferred option is that the stockpile be re-used in nuclear reactors in plutonium-uranium fuel (known as mixed-oxide - MOX - fuel).

Since the launch of the consultation there have occurred the tragic and serious events at the Fukushima nuclear reactors.

Ongoing problems in No 3 reactor at Fukushimna may be linked directly to the MOX fuel in the reactor. Given what we know about Fukushima - and what we have yet to learn - it is simply not sensible for the Government to continue with this consultation. The full extent of these risks are not fully understood in an accident situation.

Even under normal conditions there are a number of issues regarding the use MOX fuel in reactors. It gives rise to risks greater even than using 'conventional' uranium fuel. Burning MOX creates spent fuel which is even more radioactive and problematic to deal with than the high-burn up fuels which would result from new build reactors.

Estimates show that disposing of MOX fuel is much more costly than the very high costs of dealing with spent fuel from current reactors and proposed new build.

We are asking that you ask the Government call a halt to this consultation because

a.. It was launched before the accidents as Fukushima. No decision of any kind can be made until the full impacts of MOX in an accident situation is understood.

a.. It is not reasonable to carry on with a 'business as usual' approach to nuclear power - and related consultation - given what has happened in Japan.

Xxxxxxxx
on behalf of Greenpeace Nuclear Campaign

Suggested action/response

We strong suggest you reply to this consultation - and use the following points.

a.. 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.

a.. The Government must reconsider its consultation proposals which were published before the tragedy in Japan.

a.. The Government has called for a review of nuclear safety in the UK because of the situation in Japan.

b..

c.. 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.

a.. 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.