



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Ynni a Diwydiant Cynaliadwy Cymru  
Sustainable Energy and Industry Wales

Consultation of the Financing  
of Nuclear Decommissioning  
and Waste Handling  
Regulations,  
Office for Nuclear  
Development, Area 3D  
Department of Energy &  
Climate Change, 3 Whitehall  
Place, London SW1A 2AW

8 June 2010

Dear Sirs

**CONSULTATION ON A METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINING A FIXED UNIT  
PRICE FOR WASTE DISPOSAL AND UPDATED COST ESTIMATES FOR  
NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WASTE  
DISPOSAL**

**CONSULTATION ON THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR  
DECOMMISSIONING AND WASTE HANDLING REGULATIONS**

The Assembly Government has call in and appeal functions in respect of certain applications made to the Environment Agency concerning radioactive waste under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993. The Assembly Government also has relevant planning powers in this area. Section 71 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 also enables the Welsh Ministers to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any of their other functions. In the light of these powers the Welsh Assembly Government wishes to respond to both the above consultation papers.

The Assembly Government remains of the view that the high level of interest in exploiting the huge potential for renewable energy reduces the need for other, more hazardous, forms of low carbon energy and obviates the need for new nuclear power stations. The Assembly Government continues to support the call for a public inquiry on dealing with the waste arising from new nuclear build on the grounds of concern over the safety and security of its management, which carries with it the implication that any proposed new nuclear power station must contain credible plans for nuclear



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waste management. However the Assembly Government recognises that decisions about the development of new nuclear power stations in Wales will be taken by the United Kingdom Government.

The Assembly Government therefore wishes to make the following comments in respect of the two consultation papers mentioned above. The Assembly Government:

- supports proposals by the UK Government that the full costs of waste management and decommissioning of any new nuclear power stations should be met by the operators;
- notes that DECC and its predecessors have consulted on proposals to establish an independent fund for waste management, and proposes to offer a fixed unit price including a premium element for the future geological disposal of wastes, and that these consultations are continuing;
- notes that DECC have established the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board (NLFAB) to provide independent assessment of the robustness of funding arrangements for waste management and considers that the working and conclusions of the NLFAB should be fully open and transparent;
- considers that following the current consultation there should be an opportunity for public comment on any final, costed, proposals for funding arrangements, including arrangements for the fixed price and premium element for geological disposal, in order to ensure transparency and public confidence.

Yours faithfully

**Robert JT Williams**  
**Head of Radioactivity & Pollution Prevention Branch**