**By email to:** abwrjustification@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir

**Response to DECC's consultation on Regulatory Justification for the UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR).**

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on your proposed decision on Regulatory Justification for the UK ABWR.

The proposed decision document notes that Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is being undertaken on the UK ABWR by the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation. Hitachi-GE plans to build the UK ABWR at Wylfa in North Wales and Oldbury in South Gloucestershire. Natural Resources Wales, whose responsibilities include environmental regulation of nuclear sites in Wales, are working with us on GDA for this reactor.

I am pleased to report that we have now completed our first assessment step of GDA for the UK ABWR. In that initial assessment we examined Hitachi-GE's submission on the UK ABWR from an environmental perspective with the aim of identifying whether we require further information, if there are any matters that are obviously unacceptable, and if any significant design modifications are likely to be required.

We have published our assessment report that sets out our conclusions at this stage. Our key conclusions include:

- The submission does not adequately address all of the information requirements for GDA. Hitachi-GE has committed to providing the required information on a timescale that, subject to the information being of adequate quality, should enable us to complete the GDA process within our indicative target of four years.
- We have not at this stage identified any matters that are obviously unacceptable.
- We have not at this stage identified any significant design modifications that are likely to be required.
- Hitachi-GE has an appropriate management system in place to control the content and accuracy of the information it provides for GDA.
- The annual radiation dose impact of the UK ABWR design on people would be below the UK constraint for any single new source.
- Based on the information we have at present, it is likely that radioactive discharges would not exceed those of comparable power stations.
- The generic site description is broadly consistent with the potentially suitable coastal sites identified in the nuclear national policy statement.

I also confirm that, we will use our regulatory powers to ensure that:

- The discharges and disposals of radioactive waste from any new nuclear power stations in England using the UK ABWR are within dose limits and constraints and are optimised such that doses to people are as low as reasonably achievable and that the impact on the environment is small.

- The impact on people and the environment from other, non- radioactive wastes and discharges at any new nuclear power station in England based on the UK ABWR is minimised and acceptable.