Natural Resources Wales

The Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004. Consultation on the Secretary of State's Proposed Decision as Justifying Authority on the Regulatory Justification of the UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR)

Thank you for consulting Natural Resources Wales on your proposed decision on Regulatory Justification for the UK ABWR being proposed by Hitachi–GE Nuclear Energy Ltd. We are aware of the plans of Hitachi-GE to build the UK ABWR at Wylfa in North Wales and Oldbury in South Gloucestershire.

Volume 2 of the proposed decision document notes that Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is being undertaken on the UK ABWR by the Environment Agency (EA) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are actively involved in the GDA process for the UK ABWR.

I can confirm that Natural Resources Wales, whose responsibilities include environmental regulation of nuclear sites in Wales, are working closely with the EA and ONR on the GDA programme for this reactor design and are represented on the EA GDA Programme Board.

The joint regulators have now completed the first assessment step of GDA for the UK ABWR and published their assessment reports that sets out their conclusions at this stage.

I can also confirm that, Natural Resources Wales will use our regulatory powers to ensure that:

- The discharges and disposals of radioactive waste from any new nuclear power stations in Wales 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 Wales based on the UK ABWR is minimised and acceptable.

We look forward to continuing to work with our regulatory partners during the next phase of the Generic Design Assessment process for the ABWR.
Please contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect in more detail.
Yours sincerely,