

Dr M Weightman  
HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations  
Head of ONR

by email

15 April, 2011

Dear Dr Weightman,

I write on behalf of the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF) to welcome the setting up of the review into the implications of the Fukushima accident for nuclear installations in the UK and to make some suggestions for issues that should be included within its scope.

NuLeAF's primary interest in this matter concerns the potential implications for the management of legacy nuclear materials and radioactive wastes. There are several aspects of this management which we would suggest be included within scope.

These include:

- The interim management of spent fuel – for example, might there now be a stronger case for moving away from wet storage of spent fuel to dry storage systems?
- High hazard facilities – for example, is there confidence that sufficient effort and resource is being put into dealing with the legacy ponds and silos at the Sellafield site?
- Moves towards the consolidation of treatment and storage of ILW at a smaller number of sites – do issues arise that strengthen or weaken the case for such consolidation?
- Use of MOX fuel and management of spent MOX fuel – do issues arise that need to be taken into account by the Government when considering its preferred strategic option for managing UK plutonium stockpiles?
- Tolerability of risk – should the accident cause a rethink to the safety regulator's approach to judgements of what constitutes a 'tolerable societal risk'?

In general terms, we would like to highlight the importance of a robust and open review process that lays the foundations for developing public confidence that the lessons of the accident have been identified and can be appropriately applied.

We would also like to ask whether in principle you would be prepared to attend a future meeting of our Steering Group to explain the review findings, particularly as they pertain to nuclear legacy management issues.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Barker

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