

RADIATION FREE LAKELAND RESPONSE TO:

Government's consultation on the proposed justification process for the reuse of plutonium.

The Government has already set out its intention to manage the UK's stockpile of around 100 tonnes of 'weapons-useable' plutonium – re-using it as Mixed Oxide (MoX) fuel.

EXPENSIVE - MOX 1 MOTHBALLED BY NDA

This time last year the NDA admitted " "[We have] concluded that in order to ensure that the UK taxpayer does not carry a future financial burden from [Sellafield Mox plant] that the only reasonable course of action is to close [Sellafield Mox plant] at the earliest practical opportunity."

MOX x2 MILLION TIMES MORE DANGEROUS THAN URANIUM

Plutonium-uranium fuel mixture is far more dangerous than typical enriched uranium—a single milligram (mg) of MOX is as deadly as 2,000,000 mg of normal enriched uranium i.e. 2 million times more dangerous than uranium fuel. Spent MoX fuel is much more radioactive because it contains on average five times more plutonium than spent uranium oxide fuel. After 10 years, the heat generation from spent MoX fuel is twice as high as that of spent uranium fuel. After 100 years, it is three times higher. Given the very long half-life of Pu- 242 (380,000 years), and Neptunium-237 (2.14 million years), it is much more complicated to store MOX than normal spent fuel. Instead of partially solving our high level waste problem, using MoX as a reactor fuel creates even bigger waste problems: it needs more and longer cooling needing profligate use of freshwater resources; it has to be stored much longer; it is more dangerous; and the costs are therefore higher.

BRIBERY OF JAPAN'S FUKUSHIMA PLANT TO ACCEPT MOX

In 2002 The Local governor (now ex local governor) in the area of Fukushima REFUSED to allow MOX to be loaded into the reactors because the fuel is much more volatile and the nuclear plant was known to be damaged with cracks to pipes. Japan admitted in 2002 that it has found cracks in the pipes of Fukushima - the plant destined to burn mixed oxide (Mox) fuel made at BNFL's Sellafield Mox Plant in Cumbria in a process known as reprocessing.

Reprocessing makes already dangerous spent fuel, sent from Japan to Cumbria many times more dangerous. The high level wastes from reprocessing are left here while dangerous MOX fuel is sent by armed ship back to Fukushima. In 2002 The Independent reported that at Fukushima nuclear plant.. "Details of cracks have been kept secret for more than two years. Tepco has shut down the two reactors at Fukushima Daiichi and Kashiwazaki Kariwa and has delayed restarting them until hundreds of pipes are checked. Both reactors were scheduled to be test sites for the burning of new Mox fuel shipped from either BNFL or the Belgian-French

reprocessing company, Cogema. Tepco has now delayed the tests indefinitely. The discovery has led to bitter recriminations, with local governments in Japan vowing not to allow Mox fuel to be loaded into any reactors.

The local authorities were bribed and groomed by Japanese taxpayer money, in much the same way as we are here in Cumbria. Japan began offering subsidies of \$250,000 a year for five years to local governments that agreed to the use of the fuel in the reactors in their regions, according to documents available on the Tokyo-based Citizens' Nuclear Information Center website.

The Fukushima plant received Mox in August 2010 despite the warnings of whistleblowers. Following the terrible natural disaster which triggered the manmade catastrophe.

PHASE OUT

Radiation Free Lakeland support the call that instead of holding consultations over yet more nuclear developments such as MOX 2 the UK government should be:

Phasing out all Nuclear facilities.

Bring in outside expertise to manage this process - it should not be left to the nuclear industry.

The use of Public relations companies should be banned immediately - Cumbria is being groomed to accept dangerous new build (Moorcote), MOX and the insane dumping of high level wastes deep underground.

UNJUSTIFIABLE

MOX 2 is unjustifiable. Public money and public health would be jeopardised by MOX 2.

refs

NDA - MOX TAXPAYER £MILLIONS

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/news/smp-future.cfm>

HEALTH

E.S. Lyman, "Public Health Risks of Substituting Mixed-Oxide for Uranium Fuel in Pressurized-Water Reactors," Science and Global Security, Vol. 9, pp. 33-79, 2001

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Japan Bribery to Accept Mox

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