

To DECC Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place London SW1A 2AW

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.

My response to the above consultation is below.

Question 1 I disagree. . The prospective builders of new nuclear power stations should be required to ensure

- 1 that the stations produce only waste that is manageable
- 2 that they build waste storage facilities that are safe from terrorist attack or a dedicated geological disposal facility concurrent with the operation of the power station.

Such modification of the previous governments proposals may go some way to providing that people 100 to 160 years from now and their descendants will not be exposed to the costs of dealing with waste long after those who benefitted from “cheap” electricity have gone.

It is simply not possible to predict investment performance and discount rates so far into the future. These “Monte Carlo” methods of cost estimation have similarities with Enron style accounting and other unrealistic and fraudulent business practices of recent experience that led to near collapse of the economic system. The common ingredient is the claim to solvency on the basis of “assets” which are in fact toxic debt. Even the proposed power stations exist only as incomplete designs. To burden future generations with such detriments and the possible failure of a geological disposal facility to contain the hazards is an immoral breach of intergenerational equity.

My concerns are discussed in my response to the previous government’s proposed justification of new build which I sent to DECC by e-mail on 16 February this year and to Chris Huhne, the newly appointed Secretary of State, on 16 May. A copy is attached to this e-mail.

Please acknowledge your receipt of this response.

Christopher Gifford 5 June 2010