

Respondent Details	
Name:	Peter Sharpe

Please select the category below which best describes who you are responding on behalf of.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Business representative organisation/trade body
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charity or social enterprise
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large business (over 250 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium business (50 to 250 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Micro business (up to 9 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small business (10 to 49 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade union or staff association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe):

The consultation document sets out the Government's proposed approach to the longer term management of the UK's plutonium stocks for public scrutiny and consultation. Comments on any aspect of this issue are welcome, but the key questions posed in this consultation are:

No	Question
Q1	Do you agree that it is not realistic for the Government to wait until fast breeder reactor technology is commercially available before taking a decision on how to manage plutonium stocks?
Response	<p>Fast breeder technology is available, but it is not currently 'commercially' necessary to use it because uranium prices are low. If global nuclear power generation increases rapidly, as seems to be happening, breeder technology will become more attractive as part of a nuclear fuel cycle.</p> <p>I agree that a strategy should be in place.</p>
Q2	Do you agree that the Government has got to the point where a strategic sift of the options can be taken?
Response	Yes, but we should not foreclose options at this stage. Within one or 2 decades the picture may be very different.
Q3	Are the conditions that a preferred option must in due course meet, the right ones?
Response	<p>Yes. I would add:</p> <p>It must be based on a long-term view of the value of plutonium as an energy source.</p>
Q4	Is the Government doing the right thing by taking a preliminary policy view and setting out a strategic direction in this area now?
Response	Yes.
Q5	Is there any other evidence government should consider in coming to a preliminary view?
Response	Uranium reserves, if used in a once-through cycle in an expanding power industry, will not last indefinitely. For the sake of future

	generations, we should be planning for a nuclear fuel cycle which makes best use of that resource by reprocessing and breeding technologies. As part of this cycle we should regard plutonium as a valuable energy source, not merely as a waste product.
Q6	Has the Government selected the right preliminary view?
Response	Yes.
Q7	Are there any other high level options that the Government should consider for long-term management of plutonium?
Response	Have you considered E-Bay?