

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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Our ref:

9 August 2012

RE: FOI request.

Thank you for your email of 24 July where you requested *all emails from May 1, 2012, relating to the Government's response to Recommendation FR-5 of Dr Weightman's final report on the Fukushima accident published September 30th, 2011.*

The information you requested is enclosed.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Department of Energy and Climate Change, Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

From: REDACTED [mailto:REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:05
To: REDACTED (Office for Nuclear Development)
Cc: REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED
REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED
Subject: RE: Government Response to the Final Weightman report. - June Update.

REDACTED, apologies for the belated reply.

You note that the response to the Weightman Report said that:

The ONR included Dr Weightman's recommendation on planning controls around nuclear sites in their consultation response to the Government's proposed National Planning Policy Framework for England (NPPF). Work on the NPPF is ongoing and the recommendation will be considered further in that context.

Planning is a devolved matter and, as such, the Government's NPPF process only applies to England, however we will continue to work closely with our colleagues in the Devolved Administrations on this issue.

The NPPF has now been published:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>

The key refs are para 172 (plan making - evidence base): Planning policies should be based on up-to-date information on the location of major hazards and on the mitigation of the consequences of major accidents

Also 194 (decision taking): Local planning authorities should consult the appropriate bodies when planning, or determining applications, for development around major hazards.

It is made clear that this also refers to nuclear facilities through the glossary:

Major Hazards: Major hazard installations and pipelines, licensed explosive sites and nuclear installations, around which Health and Safety Executive (and Office for Nuclear Regulation) consultation distances to mitigate the consequences to public safety of major accidents may apply.

You will also want to note that REDACTED REDACTED has taken over REDACTED role as Deputy Director, Planning Development Management.

Regards, REDACTED.

REDACTED REDACTED
Planning - Development Management
REDACTED REDACTED
Department for Communities and Local Government
1/J3 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU
Tel : REDACTED
Mobile: REDACTED

From: REDACTED (Office for Nuclear Development) [mailto:REDACTED@decc.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 2:09 PM
To: REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED
Cc: REDACTED; REDACTED; REDACTED; REDACTED;
Subject: Government Response to the Final Weightman report. - June Update.

All, (with apologies to anyone who has moved jobs since last November...)

You may recall that at the end of last year we pulled together a Government response to the Chief Nuclear Inspectors report on Fukushima and lessons that could be learned for the UK. The e-mail chain below includes some of the discussion at the time as a refresher.

The Chief Nuclear Inspector noted in his report that he would require further responses from involved parties in June of this year so that a progress report could be compiled in October. We are now in the process of providing a Government update on actions in response to the CNI's recommendations.

On the subject of planning the Fukushima Report said....

Recommendation FR-5: The relevant Government departments in England, Wales and Scotland should examine the adequacy of the existing system of planning controls for commercial and residential developments off the nuclear licensed site.

And the agreed response was...

Action

The ONR included Dr Weightman's recommendation on planning controls around nuclear sites in their consultation response to the Government's proposed National Planning Policy Framework for England (NPPF). Work on the NPPF is ongoing and the recommendation will be considered further in that context.

Planning is a devolved matter and, as such, the Government's NPPF process only applies to England, however we will continue to work closely with our colleagues in the Devolved Administrations on this issue.

I would appreciate if you could let me know if there has been any further action from your relative departments/devolved authorities in relation to this recommendation. For instance I note that the NPPF was published in March but I'm not aware what the answer to the ONR consultation submission was.

Apologies for the short timeline but I would be grateful if you could let me know if there are any updates to be included by Close on Friday (18th May).

Regards,

REDACTED
Office for Nuclear Development
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Tel + REDACTED