

Letter to Industry

Kevin Allars

From: Kevin Allars  
Sent: 25 March 2011 08:57  
To:



Cc:

Subject: FOR RESPONSE (PROTECT - POLICY): HSE/EA/Industry/DECC Meeting to discuss the implications of Japan on New Build work - 31 March 1pm London

Importance: High

PROTECT - POLICY

To:

From: Kevin Allars (and also on behalf of the Environment Agency)

Some of you will have heard my oral report to the Nuclear Development Forum last week. In that report I said that, as a result of the recent events in Japan, and the subsequent review signaled by the Secretary of State, that it would be sensible to take account of that review before concluding our assessment of the design safety cases, which we had planned to do in June. Whilst the review is ongoing, it would seem sensible for the Requesting Parties to continue to address those areas that we had highlighted as emerging GDA Issues, and particularly those areas that we already know contributed to the Japanese incident. We did, of course, always intend to close those GDA Issues out within the GDA process.

Mike Weightman's interim report on the lessons learnt from Japan will not be available until mid May, and his full report not for around 6 months. We need to take the outputs from those reports into account in our assessment and reporting timescales, and may also need to look early into some of the site-specific issues, such as those concerned with seismicity, flooding, cooling water and grid connection resilience, to provide increased confidence that the generic safety cases do, as intended, envelope the expected site-specific safety cases.

I said, at NDF, that our regulatory proposal, building on the earlier Secretary of State's comments, was to sit down with the Requesting Parties and potential Operators to look at what we should do, and by when, to address what we have already gleaned from Japan. We need to consider the implications for a revised and sensible timescale for concluding on the GDA work both in its interim status, potentially with Interim DACs and SoDAs with GDA Issues attached, and also the projection to the completion of GDA and any implications for industry's new build programmes, which we have not yet been provided with.

We always intended to produce Technical Assessment Reports, and to put those into the public domain and subsequently then to up-rev them as GDA Issues were addressed. Whilst the timescales for producing some of those public domain reports may now change, the overall GDA process should be largely unaffected. However, we will need to make it very clear on the source data that has been used to draw the conclusions in any published report.

The substantive change to the process is not to issue Interim DACs and SoDAs in June 2011. By waiting, and taking account of the review, we should be able to signal more certainty on the acceptability of the claims and arguments in the safety cases, and any later Interim DACs and SoDAs we issue would have fewer caveats, ie. less GDA Issues attached, and hence more answers than questions. Mike Weightman's review is also relevant here

when we discuss timescales.

Key to all of this potential change is the open and transparent dialogue with both yourselves and our other stakeholders, which will continue. It is with that in mind that we are now calling this meeting with all of you, so that we can plan the way forward. Your thoughts and input to that planning process will be most welcome.

**We're proposing that that meeting takes place at EdF's Cube Building in London at 1pm on Thursday 31 March, under our regulatory Chairmanship. It would be really helpful if you could attend and also nominate up to two other supporting company representatives to attend with you.**

The aim of the meeting will be to discuss the way forward for GDA, the public lines (including that on reporting on GDA), and how we can take our regulatory new build programme forward whilst ensuring that the lessons from Japan are learnt and included in that process. The report from Mike Weightman will have a key input to that process.

Our present HSE line on New Build is that *"As well as considering the implications for our existing nuclear reactors, the review being taken forward by Mike Weightman will consider if there are implications for our new nuclear build programme. It is too early to say what the impact will be on the timeframe for our work on the Generic Design Assessment and site licensing."* Mike Warnes has distributed to some of your Press Offices draft revised lines that it would be good to discuss and agree at the meeting, before we revise them formally for use by HSE.

We'll send to you early next week the developing draft lines to take, and some outline proposals for taking GDA/New Build activity forward. They will form the basis of the discussion on Thursday, with the outcome being an agreement on how we move forward with GDA and associated Licensing/Permitting activity.

Whilst I recognise that the notice for this meeting is rather short, we would be very grateful if you could make every effort to participate in the meeting. We recognise that there will be commercial issues around this subject, and we will not stray into those areas on Thursday.

I'm very thankful to EdF for agreeing to host the meeting in London. The regulatory attendees are likely to be myself, Len Creswell, [REDACTED] We'll take short notes of the meeting, and intend for the key parts of those notes to form the substantive part of a short GDA Quarterly Report.

Please let me know if you can attend, and who will accompany you. We'll coordinate with EdF from here, via the JPO.

Many thanks,

Kevin

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