

(Office for Nuclear Development)

Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2011 10:26
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

[REDACTED]

The top lines on nuclear in the UK and the incident in Japan remain the same but I just wanted to flag a couple of quotes from Chris Huhne at oral Parliamentary questions yesterday for your info....

Chris Huhne, UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, DECC Oral Questions: 24 March

"The IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) recently noted that the UK has a mature and transparent regulatory system, advanced review process, and highly trained, expert and experienced nuclear inspectors.

"Nevertheless, we take the recent unprecedented events in Japan extremely seriously and I have asked the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

On new build in the UK, Chris Huhne said on 24 March:

"Frankly, I don't think investors are under any illusions about what the position is. I was at the Nuclear Development Forum and I said very clearly that we would continue with the plans as set out in the coalition agreement, that we envisage a role for new nuclear, that we want to see new nuclear come on.

"But we have to have an emphasis on safety. That's why we commissioned the report from Dr Mike Weightman. I don't anticipate that is going to lead to enormous changes but we have to wait and see the result of it, based on the facts."

[REDACTED]
Office for Nuclear Development
Department of Energy and Climate Change
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2011 16:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

I'm sure your comms team are monitoring PA releases but.....

'DON'T RUSH TO NUCLEAR JUDGMENTS'
QUAKE Japan Nuclear
Mar 15, 2011 4:12:14 PM
By Joe Churcher and Emily Beament, Press Association
Page 1

Energy Secretary Chris Huhne has accused other European governments of "rushing to judgments" over the safety of nuclear power in the wake of the Japan crisis. Mr Huhne took a public swipe at "continental politicians" hours after Germany announced it would close down seven older reactors - perhaps permanently.

But he also insisted he was right to order a UK safety review amid warnings from MPs it could hit investment in a planned new generation of domestic nuclear power stations. "I think that in this country we have a good, long-standing tradition of trying ... to base public debate on informed assessment," he told the House of Commons energy and climate change committee.

"I know it can be frustrating in terms of those who want to come to more rapid conclusions but we should not rush to judgment. Let's wait until we have got the full facts.

"And I regret the fact that some continental politicians do seem to be rushing to judgments on this before we have had the proper assessment."

Tory MP Tim Yeo, the chairman of committee, said it was "right and proper" that the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, had been asked to carry out a review.

But he added: "In a climate that sometimes borders on hysteria there is a danger that, to try to assuage public concern, steps are taken that increase cost but are not strictly necessary for safety. I hope you will guard against that."

Mr Huhne said he had commissioned the review from a leading scientist to make sure debate in the UK was based "on reality and on the facts and not on a load of supposition".

And he added: "That frankly appears to be a risk, not least in some other countries at the moment."

Responding to complaints from one MP that he was failing to make enough public statements about the crisis, he said Dr Wightman's review "is going to be more reassuring to public opinion, whatever conclusions that he comes to, than if I was to start grandstanding, shooting my mouth off, saying something was X when it is frankly too early to tell."

Firm information about what happened at Fukushima was still hard to obtain, he said.

"It is not possible to pick up the phone and have a sensible conversation with an informed person in Japan for the obvious reason that they have a lot of things on their mind and briefing me or anyone else is not a high priority and nor should it be.

"We have to wait and see. I know sometimes that can be frustrating but it is the safe and sensible thing to do."

It was "far too early to tell whether there will be any impact on the investment climate", he said, but there was "an on-going potential risk" that it could damage the market.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 March 2011 14:22

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@areva.com]

Sent: 15 March 2011 12:56

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

[REDACTED]

Sent from my HP iPAQ

----- Message d'origine -----

De: [REDACTED]

Env: 15 March 2011 14:04

À: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Objet: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

[REDACTED]

Just to keep you informed the latest HMG lines are attached.

[REDACTED]

Key messages:

- * We are concerned about latest developments, and continue to follow them closely.
- * Following the explosion at Fukushima nuclear plant, the Japanese government has advised all people between 20 and 30kms of the plant to stay inside and keep windows closed. The 20km exclusion zone remains in place.
- * The UK Government advises all British citizens to follow this guidance.
- * As the Chief Scientific Adviser stressed this morning, the Japanese Government's advice is entirely proportionate and appropriate to the risk.
- * He also stressed that it is wholly wrong to compare the situation to Chernobyl, which fired a radioactive cloud 30,000 feet into the air for a long period of time. In the worst case scenario at Fukushima, a plume would only be fired to a maximum height of 500m so any radioactive cloud would land very close to the reactor. A 20km exclusion zone and a further 10km zone where residents are advised to stay indoors would be entirely appropriate for minimising health effects from direct radiation exposure.
- * Our travel advice is kept under constant review, and is directly informed by the best scientific advice.

In a statement to the House of Commons on 14 March, the Prime Minister said:

"This is clearly a fast moving and rapidly changing picture, and the

Japanese Government are doing everything they can to manage the situation they are facing. We are in close touch with the Japanese authorities and have offered our nuclear expertise to help manage this very serious incident.

"The Energy Secretary has asked Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr. Mike Weightman, for a thorough report on the implications of the situation in Japan. The UK does not have reactors of the design of those in Fukushima and neither does it plan any. Nor are we in a seismically sensitive zone. But if there are lessons to learn, then we will learn them."

Chris Huhne, UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change said:

"We take this incident extremely seriously even though there is no reason to expect a similar scale of seismic activity in the UK. I have called on the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr. Mike Weightman for a thorough report on the implications of the situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned. This will be prepared in close cooperation internationally with other nuclear regulators.

"It is essential that we understand the full facts and their implications, both for existing nuclear reactors and any new programme, as safety is always our number one concern."

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 March 2011 10:30

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

[REDACTED]

It makes sense for the industry to have a coordinated approach but the Government lines are as follows:

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne said:

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If you want to copy me into any material you develop that would be most welcome.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@areva.com]
Sent: 13 March 2011 12:07
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@bis.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 13 March 2011 11:40
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

[REDACTED] and All - Including [REDACTED]

* With regard to the nuclear events in Japan. I have been watching over the wkend. We need to work together on this and have very strong coordinated messages. There is a risk here that this event could impact on the global industry. We need to ensure the anti-nuclear chaps and chapesses do not gain ground on this. We need to occupy the territory and hold it.

- From web searches I can see anti-nuclear people across Europe have wasted no time of blurring this all into Chernobyl and the works.

* I am off for a couple of weeks - Flying out to Sri Lanka Monday morning. In my absence to coord with HMG I suggest you use [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who you know and also [REDACTED] at BIS. - You can work with [REDACTED] he is a good egg.

* We need to get into context - show that the events in Japan - whilst looking dramatic are all part of the safety processes of this 1960s reactor. We also need to pull out the additional safety of Gen III. Robert's interviews on Friday where he talked about Gen III meaning what goes on inside the reactor stays inside the reactor should come to the fore.

* Should also highlight and show that this is what has happened even with the 1960s reactor in Japan, radiation released has been controlled - the reactor has been protected.

* We really need to show the safety of nuclear. We need to quash any stories trying to compare this to Chernobyl - by using the facts to discredit.

We do not want to be on the back foot with this. People at new build sites are likely to be following closely.

We should all work together - including with the NIA to be robust. Everything in life is with risk - but the mitigation with nuclear is so high that the risk is minimal - as demonstrated in Japan - despite the extraordinary context the plant had gone through.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can work with any messaging that you can supply them on EPR safety etc and inform ministers and our press sections. OND as well involved in local engagement at the nuclear new build sites - which will need separate messaging.

We have a METI secondee at BIS if there are any specific Japanese questions. Field through [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
| Department for Business, Innovation & Skills |
| 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET |
| Mobile [REDACTED] | www.bis.gov.uk
<<http://www.bis.gov.uk/>>

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Subject: RE: Nuclear Lines Safety of Nuclear

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2011 13:04
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Cc: [REDACTED]
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