Cover Letter to Draft Guidelines for the Application of UNFC-2009 to Uranium and Thorium Resources

The Task Force on the Application of UNFC-2009 to Nuclear Fuel Resources of the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC) is pleased to present for public comment the draft document “Guidelines for the Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) to Uranium and Thorium Resources”.

The purpose of the document is to facilitate the application of UNFC-2009, incorporating Specifications for its Application (as set out in ECE Energy Series No. 42), to uranium and thorium resources. The development of the guidelines follows the finalization of the Bridging Document between UNFC and the “Red Book” – the Uranium Classification of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November 2014. The Bridging Document ensures that IAEA member States have easy access to UNFC in its context as an international standard that encompasses the total resource base and all extractive activities. Guidelines, as used in UNFC terminology, are not rules or specifications, but merely guidance on how to apply those rules or specifications in particular situations. Eight case studies, including in Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Malawi, Niger and United States, are provided to further elaborate the guidelines.

UNFC-2009, which has been developed by the Expert Group on Resource Classification under the auspices of UNECE, is applicable to all extractive activities worldwide with work underway to broaden application to encompass renewable energy. It should be noted that the draft guidelines are prepared as the basis for public comment in order to receive input from all stakeholders for further consideration, prior to finalization and publication.

The public comment period will run from 25 June until 20 August 2015. Comments may be provided via e-mail, an online form or by mail – full details are available on the UNECE website at: http://www.unece.org/energy/se/reserves.html.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the members of the Nuclear Fuels Task Force for their efforts in preparing the draft guidelines and the accompanying case studies.

Yours sincerely

Scott FOSTER
Director, Sustainable Energy Division
UNECE

Harikrishnan TULSIDAS
Chair
EGRC Nuclear Fuels Task Force