



Comhshool, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

Ed Miliband, M.P.
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

22 February 2010

Dear Ed,

I am writing to you in connection with the draft National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure published for consultation recently by the United Kingdom's Department of Energy and Climate Change. This letter also constitutes a submission to the consultation on the draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation and associated documents, and to the consultation on your proposed decisions as justifying authority on the regulatory justification of the new nuclear power stations designs. I have therefore sent a copy to the relevant address for consultation responses, as detailed at the end of this letter.

Before raising some specific issues with regard to the draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation, I would like to inform you that the Government of Ireland is reserving its position with respect to the possibility that a transboundary consultation under the Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment may be required in respect of the United Kingdom's new nuclear build programme including the aforesaid National Policy Statements and the justification process. In this regard this letter is without prejudice to submissions and observations that might be made should such a consultation take place.

The Government of Ireland respects the principle that each State is entitled to determine its own energy mix, including its reliance or otherwise on nuclear power. For our part, as a near neighbour, we are entitled to be assured of the protection of our environment and the safety of our citizens.

I would like to take the opportunity afforded by the abovementioned consultations to raise with you a number of matters in this regard and to request information on certain issues of interest and potential concern to Ireland. In each of these instances Ireland wishes to be assured that environmental impacts have been assessed and addressed and alternatives fully considered in particular in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment.



