



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



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

Charles Hendry MP
Minister of State
Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW
United Kingdom

24 January 2011

Dear Charles,

I refer to your letter of 27 July 2010 to my predecessor, M John Gormley, TD, on the subject of the UK draft Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS).

I welcome the fact that this correspondence takes place in the context of regular and useful dialogue between our officials on nuclear issues in general. This dialogue has recently included discussion of the issues raised in Mr Gormley's letter of 22 February 2010 to then Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband MP, regarding areas of potential concern for Ireland in relation to the proposed UK new nuclear programme.

As you will be aware, the Government of Ireland, in its engagement with neighbouring countries which have nuclear power programmes, places the highest priority on the protection of the Irish population and the environment and is committed to engaging constructively in order to pursue that policy priority and defend those interests. In that context, I am grateful for the steps taken to address the Government of Ireland's concerns on the issue of possible transboundary effects from the proposed programme on the environment of Ireland, both in your letter, and in the ongoing dialogue between our officials.

I note your view that the construction of new nuclear power stations, in line with the Nuclear NPS, is not likely to have any significant effects on the environment of this State. I note however that you have identified the possibility of transboundary effects in the event of a significant unintended release of radioactive emissions, e.g. as a result of an accident, and that you have assigned a very low probability to such an unintended



