

AWE plc  
Regulatory Interface Control Centre (RICC)  
Building E1.1.  
Atomic Weapons Establishment  
Aldermaston  
READING  
RG7 4PR

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Nuclear Directorate  
4S.2 Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside L20 7HS  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

10<sup>th</sup> August 2010

**Our Ref:** 5.1.3.1344 – TRIM 2010/347638  
**Unique No:** ALD 70884

For the attention of Dr A Jupp – Director, Infrastructure Programme

Dear Dr Jupp

**NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS ACT 1965 (as Amended)  
NUCLEAR SITE LICENCE NO. 77  
ATOMIC WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT ALDERMASTON  
LICENCE CONDITION 32(4) ACCUMULATION OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
SOLID ILW PROCESSING PLANT**

Thank you for your letter, NII 032-001 R, responding to ND concerns about the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Processing Plant Project. ND has reviewed your response and although ND acknowledge that AWE is undertaking significant additional effort on this project, ND is concerned about the amount of slippage in the delivery programme from the dates given in the April 2010 workshop. This includes AWE's ability to address the issues surrounding DBA, relevant fault schedules, criticality, civil design and therefore suitability of location. In order to gain confidence that AWE will achieve the Specification end date, please provide the following additional information:

- the reasons why timescales have slipped to allow us to assess whether the enhanced measures outlined by AWE are likely to be suitable and sufficient to ensure project delivery
- the dates when the safety documentation (including PCSR 1, PCSR 2, Pre Commissioning Safety Report (inactive), and Pre Commissioning Safety Report (active)) will be submitted to NII

Additionally, to increase regulatory confidence, please provide a monthly Programme progress letter. We wish to be in receipt of this the Thursday before the regular level 4 meeting. The required contents of the letter are listed in Annex 1.

It should be noted that we consider the design principle changes outlined in your letter are not about reducing the NII permissioning risk, but to ensure AWE has an adequate safety case that demonstrates it has undertaken all measures, so far as is reasonably practicable, to reduce the potential for harm to their workers and the public.

A response is requested by the 31st August 2010. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am copying this letter for information to [REDACTED] DNSR and [REDACTED] EA.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HM Superintending Inspector (Nuclear Installations)  
Distribution (via e-mail)

[REDACTED]

## Annex 1 – Content of Programme Progress letters

The letter should be a high-level, succinct and descriptive explanation of the programme and its progress.

### The Letters should

- Provide the expected date when the various safety submissions will be delivered to NII.
- Compare this date with the date given in the previous letter and explain the reason for any proposed change. Any such change is to be confirmed at the Level 3 Rim and recorded in the Hold Point Control Plan
- Describe what has been achieved in the period addressed by this letter.
- State what will be achieved in the period to be addressed by the next letter
- Detail any changes in the scope, aims or objectives of the Project compared to the detailed description previously provided to NII
- Provide any other information that the Licensee considers relevant to the timely delivery of the programme.

### The Letter should not

- Include Gantt charts (or similar).
- Include details of any financial matters, man-power commitments (or similar) except where it is necessary to explain one of the above “shoulds”.
- Describe detailed technical aspects of the programme. Instead headline statements should be provided, which can be used as triggers for NII to seek further detailed information, if and when we consider this to be necessary.
- Include matter of peripheral/indirect relevance to the programme.
- Be considered as the means by which the Licensee justifies to NII that its activities are reducing risks to ALARP – these letters are intended to focus on programme delivery, which is only one aspect of the total ALARP picture.