

Reply to: [REDACTED]  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
Direct Fax: [REDACTED]  
Your Ref: 5.1.3.1344 – TRIM 2010/347638  
Unique No: ALD 70884  
Our Ref: NII 157-020 R

Aldermaston • Reading  
Berkshire • RG7 4PR  
Tel 0118 981 4111

For the attention of [REDACTED]  
HM Superintending Inspector (Nuclear Installations)

[REDACTED]  
Nuclear Directorate  
Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside L20 7HS

26 August 2010

Dear [REDACTED]

### **SOLID ILW PROCESSING PLANT**

Thank you for your letter (Ref 5.1.3 1344) requesting further feedback on recovery of the programme for delivery of the Solid Intermediate Waste Processing Plant Project.

On the subject of your specific question on timescale slippage, the design basis of the SILWTP has seen significant recent changes as a result of the AWE challenge process, which identified issues with the integration of COTS plant with the DBA methodology.

This has required a full review of the safety justification in the three key areas of seismic withstand, criticality and containment in support of our very clear accountability to produce an adequate and ALARP safety case.

The Project process that led to this position is subject to an independent review, which will conclude by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. The results of this review will be shared with the NII and as previously reported will be forwarded to the Major Projects process owner for consideration of further action.

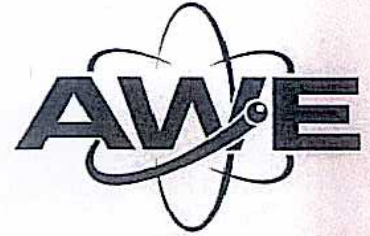
In response to your second question on staged safety report submission dates, the detailed design review in the above areas which are fundamental to the content of the PCSR1 and PCSR2 has now been concluded. Significant opportunity for improvements in the design of the plant and supporting safety features have been identified in the areas outlined and are now being integrated into the PCSR submission and delivery programme.

A core deliverable in the NII requested monthly reporting process for September 2010 will be the integrated safety led, design and assurance, manufacturing, construction, test and commissioning programme, which underpins the timely closure of the associated Licence Instrument.

AWE is a Government Owned Contractor Operated organisation. AWE is operated by a joint venture of Jacobs Engineering, Lockheed Martin and Serco. AWE is the trading name of AWE plc. Registered in England and Wales. Registration no. 02763902. Registered office: Aldermaston • Reading • Berkshire • RG7 4PR







Staged Safety report submission dates have been identified, reported and discussed at the first Level 3 Project RIM held at AWE on the 19th August 2010. It is acknowledged that these will require further discussion with the NII Inspection and Assessment Teams in terms of your review time line requirements. This follow up is scheduled for the September Level 3 RIM meeting supported by the Integrated Programme.

The Project Team has been further strengthened in a number of key areas with the appointment of a full time Sponsor who, following due process, will take up his post on September 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 and additional dedicated safety case resource to manage the generation of the PCSR1 in support of the Project Assurance Manager.

AWE has already instigated a monthly reporting process in line with both our and NII requirements to maintain detailed Project performance oversight in this recovery stage. In response to your requests, clear forward Project progress deliverables have been identified for review at the September Level 3 RIM and these will be formally forwarded to the relevant NII Inspection Team direct by the Project Team in good time for your review.

The AWE Sponsor has agreed the interface arrangements with the NII on Level 3 Programme and Level 4 Technical RIMs, with a detailed discussion on the key current design issue of seismic withstand, to be scheduled at your Cheltenham Office prior to the next Level 3 meeting.

I trust this response and measures AWE have and continue to take, reassure the NII of AWE commitment to and progress in delivering the SILWTP Project to meet the LI closure date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Jupp', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Andrew Jupp  
Director Infrastructure Programme

Copies to



DNSR  
EA