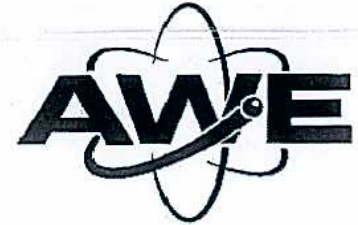


Reply to: [REDACTED]
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]
Direct Fax: [REDACTED]
Our Ref: NII 032-001R



For the attention of Dr D Lacey
HM Deputy Chief Inspector (Nuclear Installations)
Head of Division 3
Nuclear Directorate
4S.2 Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bottle
Merseyside L20 7HS

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

28 July 2010

Dear Dr Lacey

**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 TREATMENT PLANT (SILWTP)**

Thank you for your letter expressing NII concerns on SILWTP project progress in support of closure of Licence Instrument No 511.

The SILWTP project has been subject to a deep review of issues and risks associated with meeting the demonstration exercise for ILW encapsulation by 20 February 2014.

This review concluded that Design Principle changes are necessary in the areas of seismic withstand and criticality safety. The latter in the context of schedule risk in securing a CIDAS omission case agreement with the NII.

These changes will significantly reduce the NII permissioning risk, but they have however required a project impact review.

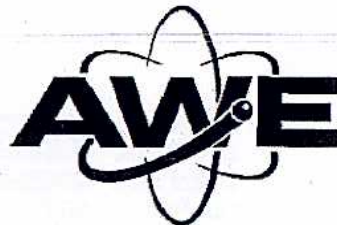
The conclusion of this review is that the revised schedule, taking into account these design changes, supports completion of the demonstration exercise in line with the Licence Instrument requirement, but with minimal programme float. A high level programme schematic overview is enclosed.

The revised schedule does include a two component PCSR submission, with the first (PCSR1) justifying enabling civil works. We note your concern on this concept and we will ensure full NII dialogue before these works are undertaken.

Further confidence refinement of the schedule is to be undertaken via integrated workshops with the supply chain and operators in the first two weeks of August. A key assumption in the revised programme is the justification of a seismic withstand of 10^{-3} and this is currently subject to discussion with your Assessors.

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The Project and Project Sponsor now have a good understanding of why timescales have slipped and we can take you through the reasons in due course.

Significant additional resource has been made available to the Project to maintain confidence in delivery. These include provision of enhanced leadership of the safety basis justification, recruitment of an experienced Senior Engineer Manager, with detailed knowledge of the Sellafield Waste Treatment Complex, to augment the current team, and appointment of a full time sponsor during this important stage of project recovery.

Detailed RIM interactions continue at monthly frequency with the facility established for detailed technical exchanges at your Cheltenham offices. Finally we would be happy to take you through the revised Integrated Project baseline at the end of August.

A formal RLI will be undertaken to capture the key learning points arising from the SILWTP Project Delivery. The conclusion of this will be subject to follow up review by the DMP Major Project Process Owner.

I trust this response answers your initial questions and reassures you of the leadership oversight now in place, to put the SILWTP Project on a sound footing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Jupp', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Jupp
Director, Infrastructure Programme

Enc Programme

Project: SOLID INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WASTE TREATMENT PLANT

Draft C, dated 21/07/2010

