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Regulatory Interface Control Centre (RICC)
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Atomic Weapons Establishment
Aldermaston
READING
RG7 4PR

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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**

Licence Instrument No. 511, Specification under Licence Condition 32(4) dated 9 March 2007 requires that at least 1000 nominal 205 litre Intermediate Level Waste feed drums are reduced in volume and encapsulated by 20th February 2014. I understand from my inspectors that the project for a facility to treat the intermediate level waste is failing to deliver safety documentation to AWE's declared programme and the PCSR is expected to be two years behind schedule. In addition, I am concerned that regulatory interactions in support of a request to undertake early civil works have identified a number of technical and safety issues that impact on the proposed civil design. Whilst I am aware that the company and the NII have recently reached an improved understanding of the key issues, I still do not have confidence that the project will be delivered to time.

In view of the challenge to meeting a formal regulatory requirement, I wish to understand the current position to allow a regulatory strategy to be determined in accordance with our enforcement management model. In order to assist me in coming to a view on the issue, please provide a written summary of the project position and the forward programme covering the following specific areas and any related subject you consider appropriate:

- Project status
- Outstanding issues
- Forward programme
- Confidence levels in the forward programme and scope for its recovery
- Your view on why the timescales have slipped
- Your reasons for confidence that further slippage is unlikely

In light of my understanding of the project timescales, the position and forward programme should be delivered to me before the end of July 2010.

Yours sincerely

DR DEREK LACEY
HM DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR (Nuclear Installations)
and HEAD OF ND 3