

# Office for Nuclear Regulation

An agency of HSE

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22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012.

Dear Peter

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. Thanks again for sight of your report. It's a very useful piece of work and certainly provides food for thought in our considerations around improving openness and transparency.

At present, there are no powers held by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to compel a nuclear site licensee to conduct community engagement, though as you will recall, this was a suggestion made at the last ONR / NGO forum.

As you would expect, ONR does have influence with industry operators and will continue to advocate greater openness and transparency in their activities. In fact, I was pleased to read that the members of the AWE Local Liaison Committee have noted that ONR (then NII) inspectors have taken the time to help the members to understand the issues and our regulatory approach. This is something I strongly support and I have reminded all of our inspectors that this is very clearly an important part of their work.

As you have identified in your report, recommendation IR4 of my report on Fukushima and the implications for the UK nuclear industry states:

"Both the UK nuclear industry and ONR should consider ways of enhancing the drive to ensure more open, transparent and trusted communications, and relationships, with the public and other stakeholders." Recommendation IR-4, 'Japanese earthquake and tsunami: Implications for the UK nuclear industry', HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, September 2011<sup>1</sup>.

Nuclear site licensees have responded positively to the report with various commitments to address recommendations, including that on openness and transparency. AWE, for instance has indicated in its submission (published at on the [ONR website](http://www.onr.gov.uk)<sup>2</sup>) that it intends

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/final-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/submissions/326525.pdf>

to conduct a 'stakeholder management process review' in quarter 4 of this year and it has committed to a 'review of effectiveness of existing forums through which the public and other stakeholders are engaged', in the first quarter of 2012.

We await the detail from AWE, but it would be my expectation that the latter review will at least acknowledge and seek to address the points you have identified in your report.

My team has started dialogue with a number of site licensees about how they and ONR are considering fulfilment of the recommendation. This will feed its way into the public domain via the operators and ONR in due course and will be reported on formally in my implementation report in the summer of 2012.

Thank you again for sharing your work with us. It is very helpful. I asked my team to consider carefully its findings in the context of the work to improve openness and transparency.

I am copying this letter to AWE management so that they are clear about our expectations.

Yours sincerely



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HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations  
and Executive Head of ONR**