

Joint statement from the Chief Nuclear Safety Regulators of France and the UK

In consideration of our duty as independent nuclear regulators to secure the protection of the peoples of our respective nations, and in light of the enhanced co-operation between our two countries on civil nuclear matters announced today, we undertake:

- to establish a joint project approach to the regulation of the European Pressurised Water Reactor should it go on to the next stage of Generic Design Assessment alongside other reactor designs, following the prioritisation process recently announced by the UK government. This will help in better securing common high standards of nuclear safety while recognising our different regulatory systems and methods of working. This joint regulatory project approach is anticipated to increase the scope for enhancing safety, and for optimising delivery of our respective regulatory processes through efficiency gains. It will involve enhanced working together and access to each other's experts and information. This will complement the excellent work that is already underway bilaterally and internationally in the area of regulating new civilian nuclear reactors, in particular the work with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Finnish nuclear safety regulator;
- to combine and reinforce the efforts of our respective independent regulatory organisations to secure the protection of people worldwide as the use of nuclear energy increases, complementing the work of the independent regulators of other major nuclear nations and international organisations such as the IAEA and the OECD, and taking into account activities at the EU level.

DR MIKE WEIGHTMAN

HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations (NII),
Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

MR ANDRE LACOSTE

Chairman
Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (ASN)

27 March 2008

Notes

1. The UK regulators are currently undertaking Generic Design Assessments (GDA) of 4 reactor designs, including the European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR) which has been proposed by Areva/EdF. The UK Government recently announced that in order to meet the UK's energy needs on time, a prioritisation would be undertaken to reduce the current four designs being assessed through the GDA process to a maximum of three. That prioritisation process is likely to be completed by the end of April 2008. If the EPR is one of the reactors selected to proceed through GDA, then the joint regulatory collaboration between the French and UK regulators will not negatively impact on the

assessment of the other reactors which will be going through the UK GDA process alongside the EPR.

2. The French and British nuclear regulatory bodies are in a prime position to assist in developing and securing high standards of nuclear safety worldwide. M. Lacoste is at present chair of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Commission on Safety Standards, and chair of the Multinational Design Evaluation Programme policy group of the independent national regulator authorities of those nations with new nuclear build proposals under consideration. Dr Weightman is chair of the OECD's Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities, and vice chair of the European High Level Group of nuclear regulators.