



13 December 2012

## **Assessing new nuclear power plant designs – our decision**

I am writing to inform you that we have made our Generic Design Assessment decision about the acceptability of the UK EPR™ new nuclear reactor design.

### **Background**

Electricité de France SA and AREVA NP SAS ('EDF and AREVA') submitted their UK EPR™ nuclear reactor design to us for assessment in 2007.

In 2011, we completed our planned assessment of the design, including carrying out a consultation in 2010, and we issued an interim Statement of Design Acceptability (iSoDA) for the reactor. Our (2011) [decision document](#) provides full details of our 'Generic Design Assessment' (GDA) process. We identified in that decision document the issues that EDF and Areva would have to address to our satisfaction before we would issue a full Statement of Design Acceptability.

### **Our decision**

**We've now issued a full [Statement of Design Acceptability \(SoDA\)](#) and published a [supplement to the 2011 decision document](#). This supplement explains developments since then and why we are issuing a SoDA. A summary document is also available in [English](#) and [Welsh](#).**

EDF and AREVA have resolved to our satisfaction all of the GDA issues that we identified when we issued the iSoDA.

In granting a SoDA we are now content that the environmental aspects of the design would meet the high standards we expect.

In parallel with our issue of a SoDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has concluded that it is satisfied with the design with regard to safety and security and has issued its equivalent approval in the form of a Design Acceptance Confirmation (DAC).

### **What does a SoDA (or DAC) allow a potential operator to do?**

These approvals can be used to underpin site specific development proposals on nuclear sites.

A SoDA or DAC does not allow construction of a new power station to start. In order to build, operate and decommission a nuclear power station, the potential operator will need to obtain a number of site specific permissions, including:

- approval of a Development Consent Order by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
- a specific regulatory permission given by ONR under a Nuclear Site Licence Condition
- environmental permits from us.

GDA is not intended to provide a complete assessment of the final reactor design, as there will be other issues, operator-specific or site-specific, that we would expect to be addressed during the environmental permitting and site licensing stages.

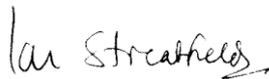
### **What happens next?**

The assessments we've carried out under GDA have been helping inform our work on the site-specific applications that we receive for new nuclear power stations. For example, the generic UK EPR™ design forms the basis of the application by EDF Energy's and Centrica's joint venture company, NNB Generation Company Limited, for environmental permits to operate the proposed new nuclear power station it wishes to build at Hinkley Point in Somerset.

### **Where can you get more information?**

- Supplement to decision document:  
<https://brand.environment-agency.gov.uk/mb/Cn5hrh>  
 or e mail us at [gda@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:gda@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
 or call us on 03708 506 506 - National Customer Contact Centre  
 A summary document is also available (in English and Welsh) at <https://brand.environment-agency.gov.uk/mb/CzytAE>
- Our role in permitting the proposed power station at Hinkley Point and associated developments:  
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/127159.aspx>
- Information on the ONR assessments: [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors)
- Sign up to the Environment Agency/ONR joint eBulletin:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm>

We hope you find this information helpful.



Ian Streatfield  
GDA Manager

**National Customer Contact Centre: 03708 506 506\***

\*Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard geographic numbers (ie numbers beginning with 01 or 02).