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Dear Johnny

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Following the regular dialogue meeting between our officials on the 14 June to discuss general nuclear related issues, and my announcement that we will be re-consulting on all the Energy National Policy Statements (NPS) in the Autumn, I thought it would be helpful to write to set out our position on the Nuclear NP Sand try to ease any worries you may have regarding effects on the environment of the Republic of Ireland.

Having reviewed all the data and the advice from the Environment Agency and Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, we believe that the construction of new nuclear power stations, in line with the Nuclear NPS, is not likely to have any significant effects on the environment of the Republic of Ireland. Since that meeting my officials have also written to yours, guiding them to the relevant sections of the Appraisal of Sustainability documents and providing them with the further information they have requested.

The Appraisal of Sustainability has assessed the environmental impacts of the Nuclear NPS, and identified that there is a possibility of transboundary effects in the event of a significant unintended release of radioactive emissions e.g. as a result of an accident. The Appraisal of Sustainability was informed by the views of both the Environment Agency and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, who advised that due to the robustness of the regulatory regime, there is a very low probability of an unintended release of radiation. This is based on expert judgment and experience; supported in the case of the new nuclear power reactor designs by the regulators' findings so far from Generic Design Assessments.

The nuclear regulatory bodies will need to be satisfied that the radiological and other risks to the public associated with accidental releases of radioactive substances are as low as reasonably practicable and within the relevant radiological risk limit. As part of the site licensing process, a potential operator will be required to demonstrate that the nuclear facility is designed and can be operated such that several levels of protection and defence are provided against significant faults or failures, that accident management and emergency preparedness strategies are in place and that all

