

IPPC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Division I/1



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Dear Mr. Scott,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2016 regarding the Implementation Committee's recommendations for Hinkley Point C new nuclear power station.

As you are aware Austria requested notification according to the Espoo Convention and EIA Directive and participated in the transboundary EIA procedure. Austria has considered itself potentially affected by the proposed NPP at Hinkley Point C since significant adverse environmental effects on Austria's territory cannot be deterministically excluded; especially in the context of severe accidents. Hinkley Point C is situated about 1 018 km away from western Austria. In case of severe accidents, like early containment failure or a containment bypass, large releases of radionuclides are likely and may have impacts on Central Europe under certain weather conditions. Even if such severe accidents may be of low probability the effects can be quite significant, substantial and long-lasting.

In this context we would like to draw your attention to the Austrian expert statement, which was elaborated by external and independent experts. The expert statement analysed the documents on an expert level and described the main problems related to likely transboundary impacts. The experts concluded that severe accidents with high releases of caesium-137 (>100 TBq) could not be excluded, although their calculated probability is below



1E-7/a. Therefore, such accidents should be included in the EIA since their effects can be widespread and long-lasting. Consequently, the experts recommend to include a conservative worst case release scenario in the EIA, in particular because of its relevance for impacts at greater distance (expert statement, page 6 available at <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/REP0413.pdf>).

Austria welcomes the UK's intention to notify Parties in the context of any future decision-making regarding the planned construction of nuclear power plants in accordance with the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Minister:
Dr Ursula Platzer-Schneider

Electronically signed.