



Comhshaoi, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



Our Ref: PL 2/4/5/12
Your Ref: EIA/IC/INFO/12

Mrs. Vesna Kolar Planinšič,
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
In a Transboundary Context

22 November 2013

Response to Implementation Committee Queries Regarding Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Plant

Dear Mrs. Planinšič,

I refer to your letter of 14 October 2013 to my predecessor Mr. Philip Nugent on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991). I have replaced Mr. Nugent as the Irish national focal point under the Convention.

As you will be aware, under the provisions of the Convention, the “Party of Origin” is required to notify and consult with “Concerned Parties” where it considers that a proposed development is likely to have significant adverse transboundary impacts.

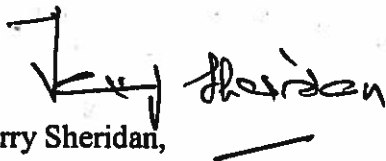
In December 2012 a transboundary screening assessment on the proposed Hinkley C development was prepared by the UK Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 24 of their Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. The assessment which concluded that the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA State was endorsed by the UK Secretary of State for Energy. Having carried out a screening assessment and concluded that the proposed development would not be likely to give rise to significant adverse transboundary impacts, the requirements under the Convention regarding notification to

other States do not arise. Accordingly, the UK authorities did not formally notify Ireland under the provisions of the Convention.

The Irish Government however have been aware since 2009 of the UK's plans to build new nuclear power stations at sites judged as potentially suitable. Ireland has been actively involved in the consultations process on the proposed new build programme including correspondence at Ministerial level outlining issues of concern including effects on the environment and the management of radioactive waste. There is also regular contact at official level on a range of nuclear related matters. In addition the Government asked the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) to prepare a report on the potential radiological implications for Ireland from the proposed new nuclear power plants in the UK. This report, published in May 2013, is available at <http://www.rpii.ie/RPII/files/e8/e8fd1b92-0f67-415a-a37a-d4cb97023eb0.pdf> and will inform future Irish engagement on these issues.

I trust that this information is of assistance to the Committee. If I can be of any further assistance please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Terry Sheridan,
Principal Officer,
Planning Section,
Department of the Environment,
Community and Local Government
Custom House, Dublin 1,
Ireland