

Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Team
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Victoria 3
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1A 0ET

28 June 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

The regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up

I write on behalf of the Nuclear Institute in response to the above consultation.

The Nuclear Institute is a learned body representing over 2500 nuclear professionals working throughout all areas of the nuclear sector. As such, we are acutely aware of the importance to all nuclear sites of having as much clarity as possible for the arrangements for managing sites at the end of their lives. Clearly, for those sites already into decommissioning, regulation of site end states is an important and current issue. However, we also recognise the importance of providing clarity now to all sites, such that they have as much certainty in their planning assumptions as possible.

Given that background, the Nuclear Institute welcomes the proposed changes to site end state regulation and is fully supportive of them. We believe that the changes will bring benefits to operators and to the public in allowing sites to be cleared and made available for future use more rapidly and at lower cost while fully maintaining environmental and public protection.

Once nuclear sites have had the bulk of their nuclear inventories removed, bringing their regulation into line with other industrial sites is entirely logical. As well as enabling the safe, environmentally responsible, timely and cost-effective return of sites for future societal use, there is an important aspect of public confidence provided by the proposed changes. Regulating these sites similarly to other industrial sites reduces the stigma attached to former nuclear sites in the eyes of the public, rather than perpetuating the view that nuclear sites are somehow different to other industrial sites at the end of their lives.

In summary, the NI wholeheartedly supports the changes proposed in the consultation document.

Yours sincerely



John Clarke CEng FNucl
President