



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
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London
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Pete Wilkinson
Together Against Sizewell C

www.gov.uk

Our ref: MCB2024/21185

Email: correspondence@tasizewellc.org.uk

23 January 2025

Dear Pete,

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2024 on behalf of Together Against Sizewell C, regarding my recent speech to the Nuclear Industry Association's annual conference and my description of nuclear as generating 'clean' power. I apologise for the lateness in my response.

The description of 'clean' power reflects that nuclear power emits no carbon at the point of generation, as well as the conclusion of multiple authorities that the lifecycle impacts of nuclear power are low. These include the UN Economic Council for Europe, unece.org/sed/documents/2021/10/reports/life-cycle-assessment-electricity-generation-options and the International Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment report: archive.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/tar/wg3/index.php?idp=128.

Regarding the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, the plan is clear that nuclear will play an important role in our clean energy system by and beyond 2030, by continuing to deliver a backbone of vital firm low-carbon power. Analysis demonstrates that low-carbon technologies such as nuclear are required in tandem with renewables and flexible sources of generation to lower the cost of a net zero compliant electricity system, as relying solely on renewables only would result in needing to overbuild to account for the intermittent nature of the technology: assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fd3c4b08fa8f54d5ba9c104/Modelling-2050-Electricity-System-Analysis.pdf.

On the points you raise regarding radioactive waste and decommissioning, the Government is committed to addressing the challenge of dealing with radioactive waste arising from current and any new nuclear power stations, to ensure it is managed safely, securely and in ways that protect the public and the environment. For Sizewell C, as required by the Energy Act 2008, the project will provide a Funded Decommissioning Programme for my approval. This will be essential to allowing nuclear-specific construction on the site to begin. These plans – as well as the construction and operations of the plant in general – will be closely monitored by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency. Were these regulators not satisfied with the project's plans they would not allow the project to be developed, built or operated.

The Government also continues to take forward plans for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), which is internationally recognised as the safest and most secure option for disposal of the most

hazardous radioactive waste. The siting process to find a suitable location for a GDF is underway in England and Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Miliband', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RT HON ED MILIBAND MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero