



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Henley PC
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000

E enquiries@beis.gov.uk

W www.gov.uk

26 March 2019

Dear Colleague

RE: Revised requirements for radiological protection

Further to Richard Harrington's letter of 22 October, I wanted to write to you to let you know that legislation to bring into effect the changes set out in his letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. I have also deposited a working draft of guidance to support this legislation alongside a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses. The effect will be that the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations ('REPPiR') 2001 will be revoked and replaced with REPPiR 2019. Following the completion of 40 sitting days a 12-month transitional period would begin, by the end of which duty holders would have to be compliant with their updated duties. This gives a compliance date for existing duty holders of 22 May 2020.

As set out previously, Great Britain has well developed emergency response arrangements and there is no change in radiological risk; it remains extremely low. Great Britain has benefitted from over 60 years of clean and safe nuclear power. However, we are committed to continuously improve our emergency preparedness policies and regulations in line with international best practice. This emphasises our position as a leading and responsible nuclear power. We have therefore worked with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to deliver these improvements and apply a consistent approach across the civil nuclear, defence nuclear, and radiological sectors.

Going forward, the existing **Detailed Emergency Planning Zones** will be determined by local authorities based on technical advice from the operator. The operator will provide the local authority with a recommended minimum technical distance, having identified all hazards on a site that could result in a radiation emergency and used a **standardised scientific assessment** to analyse their potential offsite consequences. The local authority may choose to add 'lumps and bumps' to that recommended distance to take account of local factors such as evacuation routes and any desire, for example, not to bisect local communities. This process of adding lumps and bumps (or choosing not to) determines the final extent of a detailed emergency planning zone.

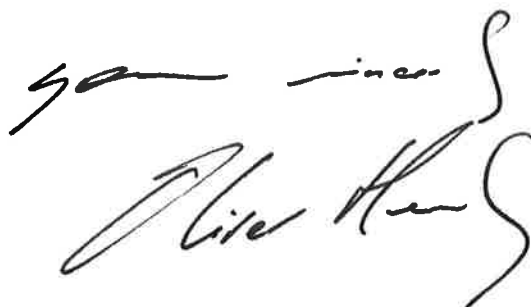
A key change is the introduction of **Outline Planning Zones** to plan for less likely but more severe emergencies, including unforeseen events. For civil nuclear sites, these are pre-set based on an analysis of their inventories using the standardised scientific assessment. MOD will provide outline planning distances for defence nuclear sites to operators and local authorities based on scientific analysis. Radiological sector operators and their local authority will discuss the need for and extent of any outline planning on the basis of the standardised scientific assessment undertaken by the operator.

There is also a more flexible framework in place to allow more effective provision of **stable iodine** to those who may need it in a radiation emergency.

The net result of these changes will be outcome focused and enabling regulation which delivers emergency preparedness and response arrangements commensurate to the potential consequences of radiological hazards for a site.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation and HSE have drafted an Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and Guidance to accompany REPPiR 2019. This provides practical advice to duty holders on compliance. The ACOP will be subject to a public consultation shortly; as mentioned above, I have deposited a copy of the working draft for members information in the libraries of both Houses. While the final ACOP following consultation may not be published until the late summer, operators and local authorities have been closely engaged on its drafting, and so should be well placed to implement the regulations in the period between the regulations coming into force and publication of the final ACOP.

We have worked closely with a range of stakeholders across all sectors in developing REPPiR 2019, including through public consultation. We have engaged at length with operators and local authorities throughout the development of Government policy, and as we drafted the regulations; they have been incredibly valuable in shaping REPPiR 2019. Their contributions have helped to ensure, in the Government's view, that REPPiR 2019 is workable, places the duties on those who are best placed to fulfil them, does not present undue burden, enhances public protection and ensures Great Britain remains a leading nuclear power. We are grateful for their valuable contributions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rt Hon Lord Henley', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Rt Hon Lord Henley