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17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Ms Fernandes

Thank you for your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019, enquiring as to ONR's position concerning the application by Horizon Nuclear Power Wylfa Limited (Horizon) for a nuclear site licence to install and operate two UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR) units at its Wylfa Newydd site.

We confirm that Horizon has formally withdrawn the application for a nuclear site licence that it submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and that all assessment work by ONR was ceased in response to this. ONR is confident that had the assessment continued, it is likely that a nuclear site licence would have been granted in October 2019. However, the licensable organisation that was put in place by Horizon to satisfy the requirements of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 has now been dismantled and, consequently, there is no likelihood of a nuclear site licence being granted to the applicant as currently constituted.

*Licensing Nuclear Installations* (ONR 2015) provides ONR's high level guidance relating to granting a new nuclear site licence. It notes that the three key themes ONR addresses in assessing a licence application are:

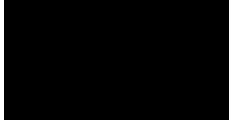
- the capability, organisation and resources of the applicant corporate body;
- the nature of the prescribed activities and the relevant safety case; and
- the nature and location of the site.

ONR has completed significant assessment work related to the third key licensing theme to confirm that the Wylfa Newydd site is suitable for installing and operating two UK ABWR units. Progress with this assessment up to early December 2018 was included in ONR's Written Representation to the Planning Inspectorate dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Subsequent to providing this Written Representation, the recent amendments to the Development Consent Order (DCO) to limit the occupation of the site campus (WN22) (based on demographic considerations) and to improve the protective provisions for both Magnox and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) (schedule 15, parts 3 and 4) were made in response to suggestions by ONR and ONR and NDA respectively. ONR had identified no suggestions for further requirements to be imposed on the DCO at the time it suspended its assessment of Horizon's nuclear site licence application.

At the time of writing Horizon does not possess any capability, organisation or resources which would justify the grant of a nuclear site licence. If an application for a nuclear site licence to install and operate two UK ABWR units at the Wylfa Newydd site were to be re-submitted, ONR would regard it as a new application and the applicant would have to rebuild

the necessary organisational capability and demonstrate the existence of adequate resources before a nuclear site licence could be granted. ONR would also need to complete its site suitability assessment; which was substantially complete prior to the withdrawal, and the other work required for licensing before a nuclear site licence could be granted

Yours faithfully



N C Cooper  
Nuclear Site Licensing Specialist