

# Press release: Regulators approve new nuclear power station design

The UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR), designed by Hitachi-GE, is suitable for construction in the UK, the regulators confirmed today following completion of an in-depth assessment of the nuclear reactor design.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, the regulators who undertake the Generic Design Assessment of new reactor designs, are satisfied that this reactor meets regulatory expectations on safety, security and environmental protection at this stage of the regulatory process.

ONR has issued a Design Acceptance Confirmation (DAC) and the environment agencies have issued a Statement of Design Acceptability (SoDA) to Hitachi-GE.

Horizon Nuclear Power is proposing to build and operate two of these reactors in Wylfa Newydd on Anglesey and Oldbury-on-Severn near Thornbury in South Gloucestershire.

Dr Jo Nettleton, Deputy Director for Radioactive Substances and Installations Regulation at the Environment Agency said:

We've concluded that the generic design of the UK ABWR should be capable of meeting the high standards of environment protection and waste management that we require in the UK. We only came to this conclusion after carefully reviewing the submissions provided by Hitachi-GE and their responses to the questions and issues we raised. We've also carefully considered all the comments we received from people during our public consultation and we're grateful for all who took part for taking time to respond.

Mark Foy, ONR's Chief Nuclear Inspector said:

The completion of the generic design assessment of the UK ABWR is a significant step in our regulation of the overall process to construct this type of reactor in the UK, ensuring that the generic design meets the highest standards of safety that we expect in this country. We're already working on our assessment of Horizon's site licence application and on the development of the site specific safety case to progress, in due course, the construction and operation of these reactors at Wylfa Newydd.

Tim Jones, Natural Resources Wales's Executive Director for North and Mid Wales, said:

It is our job to ensure that any new nuclear power station will meet high standards of environmental protection and waste management, ensuring that our communities and environment are kept safe.

Following a public consultation on our initial findings, we have concluded that the UK ABWR design is acceptable. We will now work on the detailed assessments of the permits, licences and consents that Horizon Nuclear Power will need to have in place to build Wylfa Newydd.

The regulators have documented progress of each stage of their assessment through a series of [reports](#).

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Notes to editors

1. The regulators began assessment of Hitachi-GE's UK ABWR in 2013.
2. Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is a joint process between the Office for Nuclear (ONR) Regulation, Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
3. The Office for Nuclear Regulation is the nuclear safety and security regulator for the UK.
4. The [Environment Agency](#) and [Natural Resources Wales](#) are the environmental regulators of nuclear sites in England and Wales respectively.
5. Information on Generic Design Assessment on the joint regulators' [website](#)
6. All assessment reports, decision documents and a copy of the Design Acceptance Confirmation (DAC) and Statement of Design Acceptability (SoDA) are available online.  
[Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)  
[Environment Agency](#)  
[Natural Resources Wales](#)
7. The DAC and SoDA are valid for a period of ten years from issue and can be extended subject to review and agreement of the regulators. The Statement of Design Acceptability (SoDA) is being issued jointly by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales. GDA applies to both England and Wales.
8. The issuing of a DAC and SoDA does not mean that construction of a new nuclear power station can start. In addition to GDA the operator (Horizon Nuclear Power in this case) must obtain a nuclear site licence and relevant consents from ONR, environmental permits from the Environment Agency or Natural Resources Wales and planning permission (Development Consent Order) from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Secretary of State.  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-operators-of-new-nuclear-power-stations>
9. Horizon Nuclear Power submitted an application for a Nuclear Site

Licence to build and construct a UK ABWR power station at Wylfa Newydd to ONR in March 2017. ONR is in the process of assessing the application.

10. Horizon Nuclear Power submitted an [application to NRW for a Radioactive Substances](#) Regulation environmental permit in November 2017.
  11. For more information, please contact the ONR press office on [onr@onr.gov.uk](mailto:onr@onr.gov.uk) or 020 3028 0505.
  12. For the Environment Agency media team contact [newsdesk@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@environment-agency.gov.uk) or 020 3025 5623
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## [Consultation outcome: Drinking water quality: monitoring safety and quality of spring water and bottled drinking water](#)

*Updated:* Summary of responses added.

We want to know what you think about plans to introduce risk-based sampling for monitoring the quality and safety of spring and bottled drinking water. These proposals would implement the measures in [EU directive 2015/1787](#).

We're also proposing to update the current methods of analysis.

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## [Research and analysis: From waste to resource productivity: food waste](#)

It explores the benefits and costs of reducing food waste in the UK and how policy-makers could do this.

Officials in the Government Office for Science wrote this paper based on consultation and seminars with:

- [Professor Sir Mark Walport](#), the former Government Chief Scientific Adviser
- [Professor Ian Boyd](#), the Chief Scientific Adviser of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- experts from academia, industry, government and non-government

organisations

The views expressed in this report do not represent Defra policy.

[Read the main report: 'From waste to resource productivity'.](#)

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## **Research and analysis: From waste to resource productivity**

This report from the former Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA), [Sir Mark Walport](#), is co-authored by [Professor Ian Boyd](#), the Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It explores how we can treat waste as a valuable resource and use new technology and approaches to get the most from it in the UK. The report brings together evidence on waste from a range of industry, academic and government sources.

The report is accompanied by an evidence report that brings together evidence and opinions from a range of stakeholders. The views expressed do not represent those of the GCSA, Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser or the UK government.

[Read the related report: 'Food waste: a response to the policy challenge'.](#)

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## **Notice: ED & AD Cooke, Bourne (Farms) Limited: application made to abstract water**

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by