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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-514
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02600/15

William Powell AM

Chair - Petitions Committee

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Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June to the Minister for Natural Resources regarding Petition P-04-514. I am replying in view of my portfolio responsibilities.

As outlined in the Energy Wales Statement, published on 20 April, energy is one of our most important economic imperatives and the cost and security of energy continues to be one of our priorities. Fossil fuel energy generation continues to have an important role in ensuring security of supply. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) will be key to ensuring fossil fuels have a longer term role in the future energy mix.

CCS technology has not yet been successfully commercialised. We are supportive of demonstration projects, such as the one being undertaken at Aberthaw, which is furthering our understanding of both reducing emissions from coal fired power stations and the viability of running commercial scale carbon capture operations at power plants. My officials will continue to monitor CCS technologies including the Peterhead CCS project in Scotland and the White Rose project in Yorkshire, which will help provide a clearer picture on future commercial scale CCS and the prospects for potential deployment of the technology in Wales.

With regard to the development of Wylfa Newydd, we want to ensure that Wales maximises opportunities and benefits associated with nuclear related investment in Wales and beyond and the successful and timely delivery of this project is one of our key priorities. Hitachi's investment will help enable Wales to effect a low carbon transition and might enable access to future low carbon developments the company may undertake.

In addition, whilst not CCS, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Europe GmbH, the successor to Hitachi Power Europe GmbH, are working on a pilot project in Germany which would convert carbon dioxide from a coal power plant.

Edwina Hart