

## **Proposed changes to the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate**

16 June 2009

The Government has decided to restructure the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) Nuclear Directorate (ND) to improve the organisational framework for the sustained delivery of robust, effective and efficient nuclear regulation in the UK. This will place the ND in a better position to meet the future challenges posed by ongoing changes to the nuclear industry, including the demands of a possible new nuclear power programme.

Under the proposals, legislation would be used to re-establish the Directorate as an independent Statutory Corporation, within the auspices of HSE.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation and Parliamentary approval, the change will improve transparency and accountability and raise the profile of nuclear regulation. The restructuring will not change the substance or standards of regulation or compromise the independence of the nuclear regulatory body, and will not affect the decisions it takes or the international obligations the Government requires it to meet. If the Parliamentary timetable permits, the aim is to bring the new body into being during 2010.

A further anticipated benefit would be the enhanced ability of the nuclear regulator to attract and retain the right numbers of highly skilled and experienced staff, which will help to deliver regulatory decisions in a more consistent and timely manner.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will run a public consultation on the proposals over the summer.

- ▶ [Department of Energy and Climate Change](#)
- ▶ [www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear](http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear)