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Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select
Committee
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1st October 2021

Dear Darren,

I am writing to inform you that today we will publish a green paper on fusion energy regulation: *'Towards Fusion Energy'*.

Fusion could be the ultimate clean power solution, representing a low carbon, safe, continuous and sustainable source of energy. We want to capitalise on the UK's scientific and technical expertise in fusion research and lead the commercialisation of fusion energy technology.

To do this, we need to help the emerging fusion sector to plan with clarity and confidence. This paper looks at how the regulatory framework for fusion can support this growing fusion industry whilst maintaining the UK's high standards of public and environmental protections.

The Government's proposals for the regulation of fusion energy are underpinned by three key objectives:

1. **Safety:** Maintain human and environmental protections, in a way that is proportionate to the hazards and risks involved;
2. **Transparency:** Ensure transparency to enhance public assurance;
3. **Innovation:** Make the UK the best place in the world for commercialising fusion energy through enabling regulation that offers certainty to fusion developers and investors.

This paper examines the key fusion technologies that are being developed and the overall magnitude of hazard of fusion power plants to develop an appropriate regulatory framework. In doing so BEIS has worked working closely with regulators and technical experts considering best available evidence and successes from the current regulatory process applied to fusion research facilities.

It concludes that the hazards of fusion power plants will remain of a similar magnitude to other industrial activities regulated (in England) by the Environment Agency (EA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Based on this conclusion, the paper consults on the following proposals:

1. To maintain the existing 'non-nuclear' regulatory approach to operational permitting and planning of fusion facilities – fusion is currently regulated by HSE and EA in England and we are proposing that this continues;
2. To clarify fusion's status with regards to existing nuclear regulations and introduce some new regulatory provisions;
3. To consider whether and how enhanced engagement and new guidance for fusion developers could help support the safe and rapid deployment and commercialisation of fusion energy technology in the UK;
4. To keep under review related policy areas (eg. radioactive waste from fusion, export controls) as fusion technology develops;
5. To review the UK's overall regulatory approach to fusion no less frequently than every 10 years, on the basis of the technological uncertainties involved.

Proposals in this green paper are for England. Nuclear regulation is a reserved matter so clarifying fusion's status with regards to these will apply throughout the UK. Environmental permitting regulation is devolved to each devolved administration and health and safety regulation is devolved to Northern Ireland. BEIS wants to work with the devolved administrations to maximise the benefits of fusion across the UK. As such, this paper invites the devolved administrations to form their own views on fusion regulation.

Yours sincerely,



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Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy