



Consenting Procedures for New Nuclear Power in the UK

David Goodman



Hammonds

Consenting Procedures

- **Existing consents procedure**
 - Site licensing
 - Section 36 consent
- **Inhibitors to change**
- **Improving the system**



Consents Procedures

- **Nuclear Installations Act 1965 – site licence**
- **Nuclear Safety Directorate of HSE**
- **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**
- **Relationship to other consents**
- **Design, organisational arrangements and safety arrangements**



Consents Procedures

- **Section 36 Electricity Act 1989**
- **Role of the planning authority**
- **Environmental impact assessment**
- **Other relevant consents**
- **Delays within the system**



Inhibitors to Change

“You are calling for greater certainty over licensing. You are calling for shorter planning processes. You are calling for the scope of planning inquiries to be restricted. My challenge to you then is to show me how this might work in practice. How might you achieve these things whilst still maintaining the same high levels of scrutiny and safeguards we have now?”

Malcolm Wicks, Energy Minister

21 March 2006



Inhibitors to Change

- **Consistency with existing procedures**
- **Compliance with European legislation**
- **Operation of the liberalised market**
- **Engendering public confidence**



Improving the System

- **Policy guidance**
 - **Targets for nuclear capacity**
 - **Location guidance**
- **Regulatory framework**
- **Licensing procedures**
- **Other consenting procedures**



Improving the System

“Many of the documents now required to support planning applications are of extreme length and yet have limited impact on the decision-making process. These documents do little to demystify the planning process in the eyes of the public and act as a barrier to effective community engagement.”

Planning Officers’ Society 2006



Improving the Existing Process

- **Environmental impact assessment**
- **Resources and training for planning authorities**
- **Role of the Planning Inspectorate**
- **Role of the NII**
- **Major infrastructure projects procedure**





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