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Derbyshire
DE56 2FZ

Your reference:

Our reference:

08 August 2005

Direct line : 0151 951 3860

For the attention of Phill Jones

Dear Sir,

HSE'S LAND USE PLANNING OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

Thankyou for your email of 22nd March 2005 to my colleague John Allen. We are grateful for your time and effort in providing comments as part of our Feedback Exercise. Please accept my apologies for the long delay in replying to you.

I would like to make a number of general points in response to your comments, and bring you up to date with the current position on the Objectives and Principles. You have raised a number of issues that go beyond the scope of the Objective and Principles Feedback Exercise. I have copied your original letter and this reply to colleagues within HSE to make them aware of the points you raised.

The HSE Objectives and Principles (O&Ps) Feedback Exercise has been completed, and the feedback considered. It has been decided, however, that publication of the O&Ps will not be pursued at this time. This is due to timing issues - HSE is currently in discussion with a number of other Government departments on how risk should be factored into LUP decisions in the future. It is therefore felt inadvisable to issue a set of O&Ps that these discussions may impact upon, and which may necessitate further changes in them.

You will be aware that HSE's land-use planning Objectives and Principles are an update from the principles contained within the 3 ACMH reports on major hazards of the late 1970s and early 1980s. They have been updated in a process that has involved stakeholders from industry, public, and government. They put into context the advice that HSE currently provides when we are consulted on developments near existing major hazards and pipelines or on whether new hazardous installations should be granted consent.

Already published on the HSE IFRLUP website is the first of three documents that, taken together, review the technical basis for HSE's land-use planning advice. That

document reviews HSE's models and methodologies, as applied at the time of the review. The second document, due for publication shortly is an independent review of the risk analysis and protection based approaches for land-use planning. The third document is a 'technical reference document' that details HSE's land-use planning methodologies. By placing this in the public domain HSE hopes to promote further transparency on the methods used in arriving at the land-use planning for hazardous installations and pipelines. The document should be in place on HSE's web site in Autumn 2005.

Thank-you once again for your comments.

Yours faithfully,

Stuart Reston
Project Manager,
Implementation of the Fundamental Review of Land Use Planning Project.

Cc Moira Wilson HID Chemical Industries Division Unit 5
 Tom Maddison HID Chemical Industries Division Unit 4