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Presentation to PIME Conference

February 2006

Sellafield Background

- Sellafield site is one of the largest nuclear engineering centres in the world. For over 30 years, BNFL has owned, managed and operated the plants on Sellafield site.
- Now managed and operated by British Nuclear Group, the main focus is on the decommissioning of historical liabilities.

Agreement on the Exchange of Information

- Both Ireland and the United Kingdom are parties to the International Atomic Energy Agency Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. This Convention also provides that State Parties may also consider, where deemed appropriate, the conclusion of bilateral arrangements relating to the subject matter of the Convention.
- Ireland and the United Kingdom negotiated and concluded a bilateral agreement under this provision. It was signed by both parties on 10 December 2004.

Visits and Exercise Observations

- The United Kingdom invited the RPII to visit Sellafield to assist it in evaluating the associated hazards in the context of emergency preparedness and to enable the RPII to better advise and inform both the Irish Government and the public.
- An Garda Síochána visited Sellafield at the invitation of the then United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary in June 2004, now renamed the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC).
- Delegations and individuals regularly attend nuclear exercises in the UK and Ireland.

RPII access to RIMNET

- The United Kingdom has in place a remote countrywide network of equipment that monitors radiation levels in the environment on an ongoing basis.
- Direct access for Ireland on an ongoing real time basis to the RIMNET information system was provided by the United Kingdom and is now in place.

Improved Communication and Co-operation between Irish and United Kingdom Regulatory Authorities

- A formal arrangement for the Exchange of Information between the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) regarding the regulation of the safety of nuclear installations was renewed by the RPII and the HSE in May 2003.
- Regular meetings between the RPII and the HSE supplement this arrangement.

Development of Enhanced Contacts

- The Contact Group, which meets twice yearly, plays a key role in communication and co-operation between both Governments.

Conclusions

- Communication is key