

# Assessing new nuclear power station designs

What we're doing and how you can get involved

**This leaflet explains how and why we are assessing the designs of new nuclear power stations and how you can get involved.**

## Why new nuclear power stations?

The UK needs new and replacement energy infrastructure that can provide secure, reliable, low-carbon electricity. The Government says that nuclear power could play a vital role, alongside renewable energy sources, such as wind and wave power, in making sure that the UK has enough low-carbon electricity in the future.

## What are you doing?

As key regulators of the nuclear industry, we, the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), are working together to ensure that any new nuclear power station built in the UK meets high standards of safety, security, environmental protection and waste management.

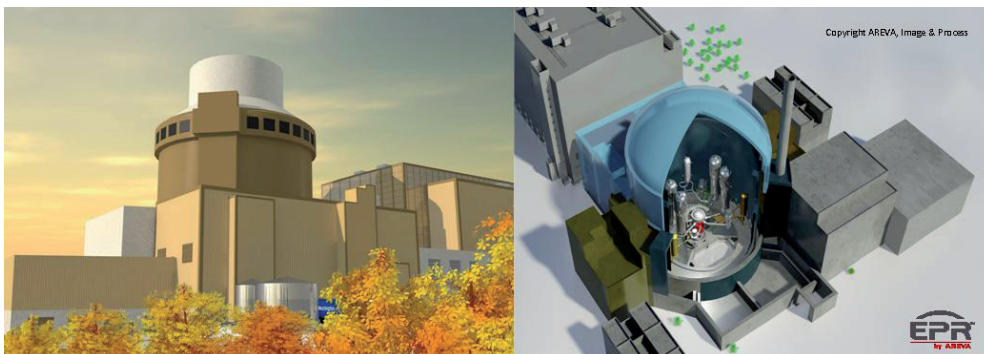
## How will you do this?

We are assessing two different nuclear power station designs. These are EDF/Areva's EPR™ and the AP1000™ designed by Westinghouse Electric Company. We are using a new process we have developed called 'Generic Design Assessment' or GDA. This lets us assess and identify any potential problems with the designs at an early stage so that these can be addressed effectively and efficiently.

## What stage are you at?

In November 2009, HSE published a number of reports for Step 3 of its assessment. These gave a review of overall safety and security of the proposed designs. You can read these reports on the joint HSE and Environment Agency website at [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/reports.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/reports.htm). We will plan to complete GDA Step 4 by June 2011.

The Environment Agency published its initial assessments of the designs in March 2008 and is carrying out its more detailed assessments prior to consulting on its findings so far in summer 2010.



## Where can I get more information?

We want you to understand what we are doing and why it is important. That is why we regularly publish updates, reports and guidance on our joint website: [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors). You can also sign up for free e-mail updates by subscribing at [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm).

We will be continuing to organise and participate in regional and national events and conferences to share the latest information with you.

## How can I get involved?

There are a number of ways in which you can have your say in assessing the designs of new nuclear power stations. You can comment on the designs via the design companies' websites at:

- [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/reactordesigns.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/reactordesigns.htm)
- [www.epr-reactor.co.uk](http://www.epr-reactor.co.uk)
- [www.ukap1000application.com](http://www.ukap1000application.com)

The design companies will respond to you on your questions or comments about their design and we will see both question and response so that we can consider them too. You can also give your views on HSE's Step 3 Assessment Reports at [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/comment-report.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/comment-report.htm).

The Environment Agency will consult on its assessment findings so far in summer 2010. It will look at all the comments and issues raised and use these to help inform its decisions on the designs. To find out how you can take part in the consultation visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk). Or you can write to us or email us at the Joint Programme Office (see contact details below).

## What happens next?

If our findings are that the designs should be acceptable, any company that wants to develop a new nuclear power station will have to show that they can build, operate and decommission it safely, properly protect the environment and manage and dispose of its radioactive wastes. To do this, it must apply for a site licence and relevant environmental permits.

The regulators will carefully consider the company applications and specific proposals for the site including the design and any changes from GDA, the site itself and the company's management arrangements. As part of its decision-making process, the Environment Agency will consult on applications it receives for new nuclear sites.

## Would you like to find out more?

If you would like more information about HSE's and the Environment Agency's work in assessing new nuclear power station designs, you can visit our joint website: [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors).

Email us at: [new.reactor.build@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:new.reactor.build@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Write to: Joint Programme Office, Health and Safety Executive, 4NG, Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 7HS

Call: 0845 345 0055

Sign up: for e-bulletins at [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm)

For more information on our regulation of the nuclear industry, visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nuclear](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nuclear), [www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear](http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear)