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## **Summary of Greenpeace/Green Action letter to the NII**

### **Fatal shortcomings in the NII's investigation into BNFL falsification of mox fuel data**

- The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) report is an inadequate investigation of MOX data falsification. The NII has failed to recognise that BNFL has fundamental production difficulties with the manufacture of MOX fuel, which will not be resolved by sacking workers or managers or partially automating the checks. This means that the NII recommendations are inadequate and that the actions they require BNFL to take to address the problem will fall far short of what is required.
- The NII has wrongly reassured the public in Japan that MOX fuel manufactured at Sellafield will be "safe in use", following an investigation that was not thorough enough to be able to determine this. The NII does not have ultimate legal responsibility for determining the safety of MOX fuel in use overseas, and has been too dependent on the limited information made available to it by BNFL.
- Evidence released since the NII report, in the UK, Germany and Japan, now shows that BNFL could not meet its customers' original quality control requirements for MOX fuel, and that the copying of safety data by workers in the plant was only one means of overcoming this fundamental problem.
- Other practices included: changing the specifications when too many MOX fuel pellets failed the tests; adjusting the position of the automatic laser measurements on the pellets; rotating the pellets in the manual quality control check, in order to find a measurement that fit the specification.
- The NII investigation failed to identify either the full scope of the quality control difficulties experienced by BNFL or the fundamental motivations for the manipulation, adjustment and falsification of quality control measurements. The NII's investigation into BNFL's falsification was too limited: it did not look in detail at MOX fuel manufactured for Germany or Switzerland, and it did not investigate thoroughly the MOX pellet data for Japan.

### **References:**

Letter from Greenpeace and Green Action to the NII, 11 April 2000  
"Critique of the NII report on BNFL's MOX Fuel Quality Control", by Greenpeace and Green Action, April 2000.  
"An investigation into the problem of BNFL fabricated MOX fuel", Kansai Electric Report March 1st 2000, in Japanese;

"Report on the safety of NPP Unterweser, incidents at BNFL in connection with the production of MOX fuel assemblies", TUEV, March 28 2000, report to the Lower Saxony Environment Ministry, in German.