

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Mr Clegg,

Re: Legacy for future generations

1. We noted with interest your interview broadcast on the Radio 4 today programme this morning, in which you said, in your justification for the level of cuts in public expenditure announced in the budget, that it is not acceptable to leave debts to be collected by future generations. We would contrast this with the handling of the issue of nuclear waste, which leaves a legacy of liability for at least ten thousand years and for which there is no approved system for disposal or storage. Although the cost of this waste management, or at least a "fair share" of it, is due to be recovered from the industry by the flat rate nuclear levy, the nature of that levy will mean that this ambition is not likely to be achieved.
2. In line with the principle that the polluter should pay for the disposal of the waste they create, we believe that the "fair share" of the cost of handling nuclear waste is 100% of that cost. EDF's position that it should only bear 20% of the cost of a deep level storage facility is quite frankly insulting. The nuclear industry will also benefit substantially from carbon credits and floor pricing, in spite of the fact that it is not a renewable resource and the carbon cost of the whole process from mining uranium, extracting fuel and dealing with decommissioning and nuclear waste is significantly higher than renewable alternatives. The true legacy of new nuclear power will be in higher electricity prices and an unsustainable, costly waste management regime. Is this any more acceptable than a legacy of public indebtedness?

Joan Girling, Chair
Pete Rowberry, Publicity Officer
Mike Taylor, Spokesperson

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