

Prime Minister (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

1) Copy to D Pascall pcc
2) Pa.

and

26/7

MR BARCLAY

24 July 1984

SELLAFIELD

The Prime Minister was concerned this morning whether the measures proposed will produce a clean site at Sellafield and whether expenditure of the order of £290 million is necessary to achieve this.

The important point to appreciate is that the current reprocessing plant does not have a dedicated effluent treatment plant. As a chemical engineer, I was amazed during my recent visit that this was the case for a plant of the sensitivity and complexity of Sellafield.

Our problem therefore is not that Cap de la Hague has newer technology but that they have an effluent treatment plant and we do not.

This situation needs to be remedied as soon as possible. The effluent treatment plant currently under construction (the Sixep plant) will treat only one of many effluent streams, ie from the storage ponds. The technology proposed under options 1/2 will ensure that the principal contaminated effluent streams from the reprocessing plant are chemically treated. Although costs have not yet been assessed in detail, £290 million does not appear an unreasonable first estimate.

D.P.
DAVID PASCALL