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CCBG



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Pine Mints ⁽²⁾
 to see.
 M&A 1/8

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley Esq MP
 House of Commons
 LONDON SW1A 0AA

31 July 1986

D. Ridley

*Can we
 find a better
 name?*

UNIFIED POLLUTION INSPECTORATE

Your letter of 29 July ^{at flap} proposes that the Unified Pollution Inspectorate (UPI) should be set up on 1 April 1987 and that should be the date from which the transfer of the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate (IAPI) to DoE takes effect. I agree that this is sensible and takes account of the need for officials to discuss the manner in which this transfer take place.

An announcement on Thursday 7 August will enable me to inform the Health and Safety Commission who are meeting on 5 August of the decision and I have accordingly written to their Chairman Dr Cullen.

Our Officials have discussed the terms of announcement. I attach a revised version which, subject to agreement could be put to the Prime Minister as she has requested.

The Prime Minister also asked for proposals as to the publication of the Efficiency Scrutiny. As this has already been seen by the CBI and TUC Commissions on the HSC and by the Trade Unions concerned it would seem sensible to make it available to MPs and Lords by laying it in the Library and for you or the Cabinet Office to make it available to those few others who may wish to see it.

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I am copying this to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry, Energy, Scotland and Wales, the Minister of Agriculture, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Clarke", written in a cursive style.

KENNETH CLARKE

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DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A UNIFIED POLLUTION INSPECTORATE

Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, today announced the Government's intention to bring together the central government pollution inspectorates to form a Unified Pollution Inspectorate (UPI). The Inspectorate's objectives will be to develop a more coherent approach to the control of industrial emissions and discharges to air, water or land in England and Wales and to provide advice that will help the other pollution control authorities to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

"A Unified Pollution Inspectorate will be an instrument for developing coordinated and practical measures for environmental protection" said Mr Ridley. "In creating this new body we are responding to calls from industry as well as from environmentalists for a clear focus to ensure the most effective use of resources available to control industrial pollution and to provide advice on ways of dealing with industrial wastes".

The Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Wales are already responsible for Air Pollution Policy. At present, they are advised on the control of Industrial Air Pollution by the Health and Safety Commission.

The PM has now agreed that
this transfer should take place
and that the IAPU should form part
of a unified pollution inspectorate.

The creation of the unified inspectorate will involve the transfer to the
Department of the Environment of the Health and Safety Executive's Industrial
Air Pollution Inspectorate which enforces the relevant legislation. UPI will also
draw together staff already in DoE, in the Radiochemical
Inspectorate and in the Hazardous Waste Inspectorate. In
addition the new Water Pollution Inspectorate proposed in the
Government's consultation paper "The Water Environment: The Next
Steps" would form part of it.

The new inspectorate will come into being on 1 April 1987.
The transfer of functions from the HSC to the Department of the
Environment will take place in the context of arrangements
designed to ensure close co-operation between the new
inspectorate and the HSE. The other HSE inspectorates, which
will not be affected by the change, will continue to exercise the
functions arising from the HSC's responsibilities for the safety
of industrial processes, and the arrangements for co-operation
will provide for the necessary liaison between the new Unified
Pollution Inspectorate and those inspectorates.

One of UPI's major tasks will be to develop an approach to
pollution control which seeks the "best practicable environmental
option" (BPEO) in relation to industrial emissions and
discharges. The need for a concerted approach to the problems of
air, land and water pollution was first proposed in the fifth

report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 1976. The Royal Commission are now engaged on a further study of this issue, and their conclusions will be an important input to the work of the inspectorate. UPI will also need to work closely with the water authorities and local pollution control authorities.

UPI will contain staff dealing with air and water pollution and hazardous wastes. However, its work will not diminish the statutory responsibilities of the water or waste disposal authorities. Discussions will take place with these authorities on the implications of the establishment of UPI for their particular responsibilities and on appropriate liaison arrangement. There will be early consultations with departmental trade unions representing the staff affected in both DoE and HSE.

The Government has announced that it proposed to review air pollution control legislation and to publish a consultation paper discussing options for effective powers which could be made available, as necessary, to either a central inspectorate or to local authorities. It is expected that a consultation paper will be published in the autumn.

Arrangements in Scotland, where a unified pollution inspectorate already exists, will not be affected by the new Inspectorate for England and Wales.

ENV AFFAIRS Acid Rain PT4

