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Minister of State for  
the Environment, Countryside  
and Local Government

Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 3EB  
Telephone 01-212 3434

// September 1986

Dear Geoff,

**ACID RAIN**

I attach the final, agreed version of the Statement on Acid Rain which was issued as a Press Notice this morning.

I am copying this to Jill Rutter in the Chief Secretary's office, Colin Budd in the Foreign Secretary's office, David Williamson at Cabinet Office and David Norgrove at Number 10.

Yours sincerely,  
*A G Downey*

A G DOWNEY  
Private Secretary

Geoff Dart Esq



# ENVIRONMENT

## NEWS RELEASE

484

11 September 1986

### GOVERNMENT PROPOSES NEW ACTION TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF ACID RAIN

Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, this morning issued the following Statement:

"The Government has authorised the Central Electricity Generating Board to retrofit 6,000 MW of existing generating capacity, equivalent to three 2,000 MW stations (selected to maximise the advantage to be derived from rerouting higher sulphur coals) with flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) equipment, starting with the recently completed extension to the Drax power station. The retrofit programme should be phased over the period 1988 to 1997.

The Government has also announced that it will require future coal-fired power stations to be fitted with FGD, to the requirements of the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate."

These decisions on retrofitting are subject to the necessary detailed engineering studies, appropriate financial arrangements and consultations with planning authorities. These studies and consultations will be undertaken now.

No final decision will be taken to commence the installation of equipment until next Spring's Report from the Royal Society and the Scandinavian Academies of Science on surface water acidification has been received and studied."

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(out of hours: 01 212 7132)  
Public Enquiries: 01 212 3434  
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