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The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP  
Secretary of State  
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*CDJ*  
*12/11*

12 November 1986

*N Ridley*

ACID RAIN: DRAFT EC DIRECTIVE ON LARGE COMBUSTION PLANTS

I welcome the concessions made in your letter of 6 November which have enabled officials to develop the revised UK Presidency proposal described in Geoffrey Howe's minute of 7 November.

I am content with the revised proposal on the basis discussed by officials - that it is strictly a Presidency package, leaving the UK delegation no freedom to accept anything more onerous; and that there can be no question of incurring additional expenditure, or pressing the CEGB to accelerate their FGD retrofit programme, to achieve the SO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets in 1995 and 2005.

I consider that, notwithstanding inevitable criticism from those seeking excessively stringent standards, the Presidency package is positive in opening the way to progress on standards for new plant, while safeguarding our position on existing plant.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(A), Sir Geoffrey Howe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Peter Walker*

PETER WALKER

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ENV AFFAIRS: Acid Rain Act

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