

A
CC JV

Mr. [unclear]
Miss [unclear]
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Mr. Clayton
Mr. Henderson
Mr. Moppet
Mr. Piddle
Mr. Bretton
Mr. Lines
Miss Cairns
Mr. Westwood
Mr. Pash

01-211 6402

The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Secretary of State for the
Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1

11/1 January 1983

Tom King

As you know, the main hearing of the public inquiry into CEGB's application to build a Pressurised Water Reactor at Sizewell in Suffolk opened today. The Inspector, Sir Frank Layfield QC, has recently decided that the thorough examination of the many complex technical issues involved is too great a task for himself and his assessors, without the assistance of Counsel to help with the necessary cross-examination of witnesses.

I appreciate that to meet Sir Frank's request could well increase pressure for an Inspector's Counsel at subsequent inquiries. But in all the circumstances I do not believe that refusal would be consistent with the Government's commitment to a full and fair inquiry, nor do I believe it would be a politically tenable position. Accordingly, I am writing to let you know that I propose to accede to Sir Frank's request.

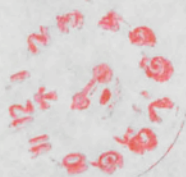
Copies of this go to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Peter Walker, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, John Biffen, Arthur Cockfield, Sir Michael Havers and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Biffen
Nigel Lawson

NIGEL LAWSON

Energy Policy Pt 8

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CC JV

~~App's?~~

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref: K/PSO/10226/83

Your ref:

25th January 1983

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26/1

Dear Nigel

Thank you for your letter of 11 January about Sir Frank Layfield's request for the appointment of Counsel to assist him at the Sizewell Inquiry.

I understand that, as reported in the Press on 19 January, you have in fact now appointed Mr Henry Brooke QC for this purpose. As you acknowledge, this does set something of a precedent for subsequent inquiries, but I agree that it would not have been feasible, to reject Sir Frank's request for such an appointment in this case.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours and also to David Howell.

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TOM KING

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6 JAN 1983

