

THE RT HON JOHN WAKEHAM MP



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Malcolm Buckler Esq
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30 November 1989

See Malcolm

with CAS.

Your Minister wrote to mine on 27 November concerning the release of our study report on Control Measures for Energy-related Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Our officials have liaised on the PQ reply we are issuing today and I can confirm the points raised by Treasury have been taken on board. I enclose the final text. The report itself is winging its way to the IPCC in Geneva.

I am copying this letter to Caroline Slocock and to Roger Bright.

*Yours
David*

DAVID MURPHY
Private Secretary

THURSDAY 30 NOV 1989

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342 Mr Patrick Thompson (Norwich North): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy, what is the status of the report that his Department is preparing on possible further United Kingdom greenhouse gas emissions for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climatic Change; and if he will make a statement. ¶

Mr John Wakeham

I am pleased to tell you that the study entitled "An Evaluation of Energy Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Measures to Ameliorate Them" for the Energy and Industry subgroup of the Response Strategies Working Group of the UNEP/WMO Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is now ready and has been sent to the IPCC. The UK along with certain other countries volunteered to submit such urgent studies in order to assist the subgroup in its work. The aim of the studies is to illustrate, from the national perspectives of participating countries, the practical technical options and their possible costs, which may be available to curtail emissions of the "greenhouse" gases from the many energy related activities of society.

Of necessity, the study has to consider the size of future emissions of the greenhouse gases and the shape of the then energy system, as background against which the technical measures can be analysed. Such scenarios of future emissions, being very dependent on the input assumptions, are only intended to provide a framework for assessing the options. They are not predictions of the future. Similarly the impact of any one technical option is uncertain; and since each option in the paper has been considered in isolation it would be wrong to draw any conclusion from any combination of them.

It is clear that the UK is responsible for only a fraction (approximately 3%) of the World's CO2 emissions and that this is likely to decline proportionately in the future. Therefore tackling the problem of climate change needs truly international action, as all recent studies of the subject (including the recent valuable contribution from the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology) have stressed. That is why it is important for all countries to concentrate their efforts on the work of the IPCC. Once its advice is available, it will be for the international community to decide what measures should be taken, and how best individual countries can contribute to the global response.

I have today placed a copy of the study report in the Library of the House.

EW Atkins
Acid Rain. Pt 12.

