

## **MOD's INTERNAL NUCLEAR REGULATOR COMPLETES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ROSYTH PROPOSAL**

August 2001

The MoD's internal nuclear regulator, the Chairman of the Naval Nuclear Regulatory Panel (CNNRP), has today confirmed that the effect of the environment of a proposed pilot project to dismantle the nuclear submarine HMS Renown at Rosyth Dockyard would be low.

CNNRP's agreement is not an instruction to proceed with dismantling. The MoD is still considering whether to proceed with Babcock Rosyth Defence Ltd's proposal.

The proposal to dismantle HMS Renown, which has been removed from active service and laid up at the dockyard, was submitted by the dockyard owners, BRDL last year.

In support of their proposal, BRDL submitted an Environmental Statement describing the potential environmental impact. CNNRP has consulted various organisations and has conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed activity. CNNRP has now confirmed that, while the effect on the environment of the BRDL proposal, based on the Environmental Statement, would be low it could only be taken forward with significant qualifications.

CNNRP states that, although the Environmental Statement demonstrates that the effect on the environment of the pilot project would be low, BRDL have not considered any alternatives to the proposal, hence the environmental statement does not demonstrate that the proposal represents the best environmental option for disposing of decommissioned nuclear submarines.

CNNRP's agreement to the proposal is therefore subject to the following conditions:

- The discharge of any material from the site must be authorised by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and this authorisation must be in place before dismantling commences.
- This agreement applies to the pilot project only, to inform the MoD's wider strategy, and is not agreement to the proposal as the preferred option for additional vessels.
- CNNRP must be notified if the actual quantities of material disposed of to the different routes or stored in the on-site Intermediate Level Waste Store differ from the estimates quoted in the Environmental Statement.
- There must be a commitment to maintain and operate the purpose built on-site Intermediate Level waste Store until an alternative disposal route becomes available for the material stored therein.
- Evidence must be provided of BNFL Drigg's agreement to accept the residual Low Level waste from this project.