

Dr Roger Howsley  
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*Dear Dr. Howsley,*

I am writing to express our support for the establishment of the World Institute of Nuclear Security. This is both a timely initiative and a necessary reaction to the situation we all face.

Over the years British Energy, the operator of all but two of the UK's nuclear generating stations, has benefited immensely from the exchanges in relation to good practice and safety made possible through the auspices of WANO. The improvements in safety culture and operating performance at British Energy made in the past few years owe much to our ability to draw on world-wide experience and take part in peer evaluation and information exchange. The arrangements for exchanging safety information across the nuclear industry are, I suspect, better than the arrangements in any other sector and reflect both the safety culture that is essential for nuclear operations and a realisation that an event anywhere in the world will impact public confidence, regulatory attitudes and investor sentiment affecting every industry participant.

For many years the security threat to our industry has had a similar potential, but has not had the same profile. Particularly since 2001 we have worked to improve our security arrangements and make sure that, within the Company, security ranks alongside safety as an essential pre-requisite of our licence to operate. Externally, however, the ability to share good practice and exchange ideas on mitigation of threats has been a difficult area restricted by national security considerations and often more effectively conducted through regulators. I believe more could be achieved with an effective and trusted means by which operators could work together to deliver a more secure industry and learn from the issues encountered by their peers. We see WINS having the potential to fill that gap and, as we move into an investment phase, it looks an increasingly appropriate development.

I wish you well in the task of getting WINS off the ground.

*Yours sincerely*

*Adrian Montague*

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