



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XVIII)/INF/149
6 September 1974

GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH

Eighteenth regular session

ADVANCES IN THE APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

Information transmitted by Governments

Note by the Director General

On 2 September the Government of Ireland transmitted to the Director General for the information of the General Conference material on the advances made in Ireland in the year 1973/74 in applying nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The material in question is reproduced below.

1. In the course of the year under review the Government of Ireland approved in principle a project by the Electricity Supply Board, the national electricity undertaking, for the construction of a nuclear power station to be commissioned in 1982-83. The capacity of the proposed unit would be about 500-600 MW(e) and the cost of the project is estimated at about £150 million at current prices. A final decision on the project will not be taken until after a detailed review of the proposal has been completed, but, in the meantime, the Electricity Supply Board is to proceed with preliminary planning for the project.
2. The Government, in its approval of the proposal, is fully conscious of the importance of the protection of the environment. All environmental considerations, including the problems of atmospheric pollution and disposal of waste, will be taken fully into account at all stages of the project.

3. In February 1974 the Government announced the establishment of An Bord Fuinnimh Nuicleigh (Nuclear Energy Board) in accordance with the provisions of the Nuclear Energy Act, 1971, with the primary responsibilities of advising the Government on nuclear energy and matters connected therewith and of keeping itself informed of developments in nuclear energy, with particular reference to the implications for the State of such developments. The particular functions of the Board include advising on the acquisition of nuclear reactors and of radioactive devices for training and research purposes, and on all aspects of their location, installation and operation; on proposals for the construction and supervision of nuclear power stations; on the preparation of draft safety codes and regulations; and on the promotion of research in nuclear science and technology. The Board is in the process of recruiting the necessary technical and other staff to enable it to discharge its responsibilities.

4. As regards other developments in peaceful uses of nuclear energy during the year under review, there has been a steady growth in the uses of radiation methods in industry and of radioactive materials in medical diagnosis. The national radiation monitoring service continues to monitor levels of radiation exposure in hospitals and research and industrial establishments. In the field of scientific research, radioactive substances were increasingly used in both the physical and biological sciences. University College, Cork has recently acquired a plutonium-beryllium neutron activation source, and it is hoped to install there shortly a sub-critical assembly to facilitate reactor physics and neutron diffusion studies.