

22 March 2005

The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Dear Minister,

Re: An holistic view of the Atomic world and nuclear energy.

I know that the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management has been set up to advise you on policy as regards the future management of our nuclear wastes. I feel the need however to write to you directly and tell you of my concern that the remit given to CoRWM is far too narrow and constrained to do justice to a subject that I believe deserves a much deeper and wider kind of inquiry.

With all due respect Minister, I see that CoRWM are seeking to address but a detail of a much larger scenario. I believe that if we can make better sense of the larger picture, of the whole nature of the Atomic world and the relationship between it and Humanity, we will be better placed to respond to this challenge of managing the radioactive waste materials.

As regards the larger picture, there is ample evidence coming out of our many nuclear projects, that the particle world is implicitly social in its organisation and behaviour: And under duress, exudes a range of emotional effects which suggest that it is far more sentient than we have so far cared or dared to consider.

Our predicament is that we have inherited from our predecessors an excellent understanding of the physics of the atom. But the metaphysics, the subjective nature, of this same world has been entirely neglected. Our predicament is compounded by the built-in bias of the scientific method that chooses to ignore and discredit information with subjective and mythic attributes. In any other setting within our society, an hospital for instance, such an attitude would be prosecuted for its' criminal negligence.

The opportunity now presents itself for us to expand our field of view and more fully explore the subjective nature of a dimension that is both parallel and internal to our Human plane of existence.

I made representation to CoRWM early this year along these same lines and would dearly like to summarise for you the salient points of the awkward and unbalanced situation that I see we are in.

1. I would say that our present knowledge and approach to the Atomic world derives entirely from a male way of observing the phenomena of our world.

My sense is that when we look as-it-were with women's eyes into the affairs of the particle world, a very different picture emerges. It becomes clear how atoms are the family and community structures of the particle population. And nuclear fission is nothing less than the destruction of family and community life within a certain element of the atomic world. And radiation is simply a measure of the pain and distress that arises in the particle world as their social structures are destroyed by the scheme we call fission.

2. Even as we consider the process of fission in the atomic world, I believe it useful that we be aware of the deeply fissioned form of knowledge that is current in our own culture.

For instance, the centuries-old separation of knowledge about our universe into scientific and religious fields does not serve us now that we are working in another part of our Universe.

One consequence is that no one has the remit or authority to seriously consider the spiritual qualities and effects of the energy we extract from the Atomic dimension. The scientific community does not give it any attention, thinking I suppose that it is a subject for the Church(es). I have lobbied the twenty six bishops in the House of Lords, outlining for them how nuclear energy at its' source has qualities normally ascribed to the Holy Spirit. They too turn away from considering this remarkable similarity, indicating it is an issue for the scientific community to resolve.

3. I think there is much to be gained from reviewing British history and noting the imperial pattern that often drives our attitudes and work in other continents.

We might observe the way that British interests 'discovered' Africa and went on to develop the Atlantic Slave Trade, in order to provide cheap labour for the new industries in the Americas. In our time, this same inquisitive and adventurous spirit 'discovered' the Atomic world, and the same military and commercial interests have been instrumental in creating a process that enslaves and extracts labour from the native population of this seemingly distant and smaller realm.

It is this kind of analogous thinking that we need to bring to the whole awkward situation we are now in, as a consequence of our modern use of nuclear power.

The UK is basically a civil and kind-hearted society. We need to value this aspect in ourselves and consider our responsibility for the well-being and security of the Atomic realm, in much the same way that we seek to alleviate the excessive distress that is now in parts of Africa.

4. An awareness for the need of a balanced and holistic kind of knowledge now influences just about every field of human endeavour. The nuclear industry lags way behind in this respect. A whole and holistic view of the particle world should not be regarded as a challenge to conventional knowledge so much as deepening our understanding of it. It is not as easy as the reductionist knowledge that now prevails, but in the end it will surely be far more useful.

If we can attend to and develop an account of the Atomic world that values both masculine and feminine perceptions of it, then we will be much better placed to develop an effective way to treat the radioactive waste materials.

I have created a web site that seeks to elaborate on details of this whole approach: The web address is: www.holisticphysics.net

It is surely imperfect, but hopefully makes headway in outlining the processes of marrying objective and subjective information into one understanding.

Thank you then for helping bring the rad.waste subject into a more open forum for discussion. I would reiterate my abiding sense that any policy or plans to manage the radioactive materials that continues to ignore the social and spiritual nature of the smaller world of the atoms - is simply a stop gap measure.

The way forward is surely for us to go much deeper into this whole subject and allow it to be sensible and essential that we become curious and then familiar with the implicit wholeness of the atomic world. An attitude of concern and responsibility for the level of suffering that now accumulates in the dimension that is below and even inside of us - that feels like a useful mood from which to consider anew how to respond to the situation we are in.

An holistic view of the particle world adds weight to the perception of holographic processes running through the energetic systems that together form our Universe. It is this perception that opens the door for us to anticipate that some kind of working relationship between the universal energy that is in our human selves and in the particle world can be developed.

We have some good idea about how this work could be progressed, Your interest is welcome. I will in any event keep you informed of how things develop.

With best wishes, yours sincerely

Ian Turnbull