



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
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Alan Downey Esq
Private Secretary to
The Minister of State for the Environment
Countryside and Local Government
Department of the Environment
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BY HAND

// September 1986

Dear Alan

ACID RAIN

WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED

We spoke about Helen Ghosh's letter of 10 September. I explained that my Secretary of State is strongly opposed to giving details of potential costs, or of any effect on future electricity tariffs. It is clearly unnecessary to do so at this stage, and the point is in any case covered by the reference to the need for further discussion of financial arrangements.

We also suggest a slight reordering of the first paragraphs of the statement as per the enclosed revised draft.

I am copying this letter and enclosures to Jill Rutter (Treasury), Colin Budd (Foreign Office), David Williams (Cabinet Office), Brian Unwin (Cabinet Office) - with whom I have discussed these changes - and David Norgrove at Number 10.

G S DART
PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY

Yours ever,

Geoff

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

GOVERNMENT PROPOSES NEW ACTION TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF ACID RAIN

Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, this morning issued the following statement:

"The Government has authorised the Central Electricity Generating Board to retrofit 6,000 MW of existing generating capacity, equivalent to three 2,000 MW stations (selected to maximise the advantages to be derived from rerouting higher sulphur coals) with flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) equipment, starting with the recently completed extension to the Drax power station. The retrofit programme should be phased over the period 1988 to 1997.

The Government has also announced that it will require future coal-fired stations to be fitted with FGD to the requirements of the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate.

The decisions on retrofitting are subject to the necessary detailed engineering studies, discussion of appropriate financial arrangements and consultations with planning authorities. These studies and consultations will be undertaken now.

No final decision will be taken to commence retrofitting installation until next Spring's Report from the Royal Society and the Scandinavian Academies of Science on surface water acidification has been received and studied".