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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

23 February 1988

ROYAL COMMISSION'S 12TH REPORT

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 22 February with which you enclosed the Royal Commission's 12th Report, "Best Practicable Environmental Option", which will be laid before Parliament today.

It was good of you to send me this advanced copy of the report.

N L WICKS

B. Glicksman, Esq.

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CF.
What did we
do with these
reports when we
received them
in previous years?

**Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution**

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Your reference

Our reference RC/95/2

N W Wicks Esq CBE
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
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22 February 1988

Dear Wicks

N. L. U

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THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S TWELFTH REPORT

The Royal Commission's Twelfth Report, "Best Practicable Environmental Option", was sent to the Home Office for submission to Her Majesty the Queen on 11 February and is due to be laid before Parliament tomorrow. The Chairman, Sir Jack Lewis, and his colleagues will be holding a press conference in Church House, at 11 am this Wednesday 24 February, to mark the publication of the report.

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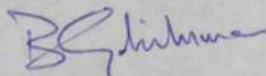
I am pleased to enclose an advance copy of the report, which is the Commission's contribution to European Year of the Environment. It explains how pollution control measures can be developed to take account of risks to the whole environment - air, water and land - rather than dealing with each element in isolation. The Commission's report sets out a procedure for finding the 'best practicable environmental option', termed the 'BPEO', when projects affecting the environment are being planned.

BPEO has its origins in the concept of 'best practicable means' which has served as a statutory basis for industrial air pollution control for over 100 years. The Commission would like to see the technology controls that have evolved under 'best practicable means' extended to apply to discharges to water and the treatment and handling of solid and liquid wastes for disposal to land.

As part of the study the Commission looked at pollution control overseas, particularly the 'precautionary approach' which is gaining favour in West Germany and elsewhere, and has concluded that the 'BPEO' approach is entirely compatible with these developments.

✓ Copies of this letter and further advance copies of the report go to Bright, Watts and Heron (Environment), Walker and McHardy (Trade and Industry), Hadrill (Energy), Mrs Stagg (Agriculture), Jeffery (Education and Science), Turner (Employment), Shortridge (Welsh Office), Crawley (Scottish Office), Watkins (Northern Ireland), Galsworthy (FCO) and Wooley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely



B GLICKSMAN
Secretary to the Commission