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22 December 2009

Ms. Jane Barton
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention
EU and International Coordination
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Area 1 Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Fax: +44 207 238 3057

Dear Ms. Barton,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with provisions of the Convention in connection with an opencast coal mine at Merthyr Tydfil, Wales (Ref. ACCC/C/2009/40)

Further to our email of 11 December 2009, we write to inform you that at its twenty-sixth meeting (Geneva, 15-18 December 2009), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee took note of your letter dated 1 December 2009 requesting a deferral of the deadline for the response to the above communication for a further three months, until 27 March 2009. The Committee also took note of the letter received from the communicant dated 12 December 2009 objecting to a deferral that would result in the discussion of case being postponed until after the Committee's twenty-seventh meeting.

After considering the letters of both the United Kingdom and the communicant, the Committee decided to agree to a deferral of the deadline for the United Kingdom's response from three months from the date of the United Kingdom's letter, namely **1 March 2010**, which would enable the Committee to discuss the substance of the communication at its twenty-seventh meeting as planned.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

pp.

Jeremy Wates
Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Cc: Mr. Paul Stookes, Richard Buxton Environmental & Public Law