



MINISTRY OF ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office

National Assembly Question : 155

155. Mr G MacKay (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Whether, with regard to (a) her department's Integrated Resource Plan 2010-30, as well as (b) recommendations by the National Planning Commission for delaying the procurement of additional nuclear capacity until a future date, she can explain why (i) she and the (ii) national government are aggressively pursuing additional nuclear capacity? NO1631E

Reply:

- (i) The Integrated Resource Plan 2010-2030 (IRP) was approved by Cabinet in 2011. The IRP supports a number of predetermined objectives by providing a balanced energy mix that includes coal, renewables, nuclear, gas and other generation options to generate electricity up to 2030. In terms of the IRP it is clear that nuclear power is critical in meeting these objectives. The IRP proposes that the first nuclear power unit must be commissioned by 2023.

The National Development Plan (NDP) produced by National Planning Commission does not recommend delaying procurement of additional nuclear capacity. The NDP indicates that according to the Integrated Resource Plan, more nuclear energy plants will need to be commissioned

from 2023/24. The NDP observes that “South Africa needs a thorough investigation on the implications of nuclear energy, including its costs, financing options, institutional arrangements, safety, environmental costs and benefits, localisation and employment opportunities, and uranium enrichment and fuel fabrication possibilities.”

- (ii) In response to the IRP and NDP, as part of planning process, the Department of Energy is conducting detailed technical investigation on various aspects of nuclear programme, including employment opportunities, costs of nuclear power, financial options, skills development, industrialization and localization amongst others.