

## **Third Party Nuclear Liability: The Case of a Supplier in the United Kingdom**

**EPRG Working Paper 1205**

**Cambridge Working Paper in Economics 1207**

**Anthony Thomas and Raphael J. Heffron**

With a return to nuclear new build expected in the UK, the clarification of the position of a Supplier and their potential to be liable for nuclear damage is of vital importance for a functioning nuclear supply chain. The term “Supplier” is used in this paper and, depending on the context, is intended to cover all parties in the supply chain providing services, equipment or technology (e.g. the EPC contractor, the reactor vendor, the owner engineer, architect engineer, or the Parent Body Organisation responsible for decommissioning one the UK legacy nuclear installations).

There are resource shortages already in the nuclear energy industry, and currently the Supplier to the nuclear industry is over exposed. This situation needs to be resolved and a new legal definition of nuclear damage enacted. Further, the level of liability for a UK Supplier to a nuclear project outside the UK needs to be reviewed as there remains too much ambiguity regarding liability in an international nuclear law context. The research explores the nuclear liability legislation in the UK and identifies the gaps and limitations in existence. The latter problems pose a risk for the Suppliers to operators in the nuclear energy industry, and consequently some approaches that can mitigate those risks are advanced and assessed.

Contact  
Publication  
Financial Support

rjh211@cam.ac.uk - corresponding author  
February 2012  
AMEC plc and Electricity Policy Research Group,  
University of Cambridge

[www.eprg.group.cam.ac.uk](http://www.eprg.group.cam.ac.uk)