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The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Security Bureau

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

11 July 2019

Miss Betty MA Clerk to Panel on Security Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss MA,

## Panel on Security of the Legislative Council Letter from Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Thank you for your letter of 26 April 2019. Our reply to the issues raised by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki regarding the safety of components used in the Taishan Nuclear Power Station is as follows:

The construction and operation of nuclear power stations in the Mainland must comply with the national regulations enacted in accordance with international standards. As a member state of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), China is also required to observe the conventions it signed to assume responsibilities for nuclear safety, safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, early notification of nuclear incidents, as well as provision of relevant assistance in case of nuclear incidents and radiological emergencies. It also has to enact laws in respect of safety management, site selection, design, production of equipment, operation, contingency preparedness and reporting in relation to nuclear facilities, with reference to the safety standards and guidelines issued by IAEA. The nuclear power stations in the Mainland have all along maintained a good safety record.

With the exception of Daya Bay Nuclear Power Stations (DBNPS), other Mainland nuclear power stations are at least 130 km from Hong Kong. Assessments based on general international standards reveal that the risk posed by such nuclear power stations to Hong Kong in case of a nuclear accident is far lower than that by DBNPS. Even in the event of an off-site radioactive release caused by a nuclear accident, the possibility of having to take full-scale countermeasures against the impact of radioactive plume on Hong Kong would be very low, as radioactive materials will be continuously diluted when they disperse from the nuclear power station. Nevertheless, the Government has drawn up a comprehensive Daya Bay Contingency Plan to set out the emergency measures to be taken in Hong Kong in the event of a nuclear The Plan is also applicable to all other nuclear power stations in accident. Guangdong Province that are in operation. In addition, a standing warning system comprising the radiation monitoring network of the Hong Kong Observatory, water contamination monitoring systems of the Water Supplies Department, and food radiation monitoring by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, has been set up for regular monitoring of possible radiological impacts on Hong Kong as a precautionary measure to enable timely adoption of contingency arrangements. Furthermore, regular co-operation and communication channels are in place between the Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong authorities for periodic exchanges on issues related to nuclear nuclear accident monitoring and notification emergency (including arrangements) as well as emergency response co-operation.

As regards the issue concerning the falsification of inspection records by the component supplier mentioned by Dr Hon Kwok, we understand that the Nuclear Safety Authority of France, in a notice issued in May 2016, announced the discovery of irregularities in the manufacturing checks on about 400 forgings produced by Creusot Forge since 1965. Those irregularities comprised inconsistencies, modifications or omissions in the production files, concerning manufacturing parameters or test results. In July 2018, Framatome, Creusot Forge's holding company, completed the review of the production records of all the parts supplied to the nuclear power plants within France. The result showed that the deviations in the relevant records did not affect the safety of reactors. To date, France has yet to identify any quality problems associated with this issue during the use of those products. We understand that, as Creusot Forge was one of the suppliers of forgings for the Taishan Nuclear Power Station, Taishan Nuclear Power Joint Venture Company Limited has set up a task group in July 2016 to conduct a comprehensive verification of forging

records and files of the two units of the Station. The relevant work has been fully completed at the end of 2016, and the result showed that the forgings of both units met the design and specification requirements.

Unit 1 of the Taishan Nuclear Power Station entered commercial operation on 13 December 2018 and has been operating in a safe and stable manner so far. Unit 2 was also issued an operation licence by the National Nuclear Safety Administration in April 2019. The Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong authorities will continue to maintain communication on nuclear emergency issues through regular co-operation channels.

Yours sincerely,

(Amy/YEUNG) for Secretary for Security