

POULTRY LITTER-FIRED POWER STATION, HAZARD ASSESSMENT OF AMMONIA NITRATE

776. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer the Minister to the assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority on the 'Poultry Litter Fired Power Station' and ask -

- (a) what hazard assessment has been conducted on the handling of poultry litter fuel storage and handling;
- (b) is the Minister aware that poultry litter produces ammonia nitrate;
- (c) is the Minister aware that ammonia nitrate is a major component of explosives;
- (d) is the Minister aware that ammonia nitrate, mixed with diesel fuel makes a powerful explosive compound;
- (e) will the Minister have this hazard assessed; and
- (f) if not, why not?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a)-(f) No hazard assessment has been undertaken on the handling and storage of poultry litter. Significant quantities of poultry litter are handled and stored on poultry farms everyday. Poultry litter consists of chicken excrement and bedding material: it is not comparable to ammonium nitrate and is not an explosive. The Environmental Protection Authority's report and recommendations for this proposal is currently the subject of appeals under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.