



Gareth Davies - Burges Salmon

**G**areth Davies is a Barrister in the specialist nuclear team at Burges Salmon and a regular contributor on legal matters to NuclearCONNECT. In this edition Gareth reviews Stephen Tromans latest Nuclear Law text book. (See page 21)

Lawyers from the nuclear team are actively involved in the industry's main associations and fora both in the UK and abroad, including the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA), the Nuclear Institute, the World Nuclear Association (WNA) and the International Nuclear Lawyers Association. Burges Salmon recently provided a chair to the WNA Task Force on Nuclear Liability and last month Gareth was elected Deputy Chair of the NIA Decommissioning Working Group.

The firm is heavily involved in the sector both in the UK and overseas and is well known for its expertise in international nuclear law. Most recently the firm has advised the NDA on its sale of land for nuclear new build and on the recent transaction at Springfields. The firm is currently working on new build initiatives in several jurisdictions around the world.

If you would like to register to receive Burges Salmon's free nuclear law e-bulletin, or would like to suggest nuclear-related subjects for future articles please contact Gareth on

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## BookReview

# 'Nuclear Law - The Law Applying to Nuclear Installations and Radioactive Substances in its Historic Context'

Published by **Hart Publishing**

**S**tephen Tromans is widely recognised as an environment law expert, particularly in the fields of energy and natural resources. His expertise has developed over a varied career including being a lecturer at Cambridge, and a Partner/ Head of Environmental Law at a London law firm. Just over a decade ago his career took an alternative path. He was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in 1999 and last year was appointed Queen's Counsel.

Earlier this summer, his environmental specialist Chambers, 39 Essex Street, hosted a party to celebrate the launch of the second edition of Stephen's book 'Nuclear Law - The Law Applying to Nuclear Installations and Radioactive Substances in its Historic Context'.

In this second edition, the first 1997 edition has been expanded upon considerably, encompassing not only commentary on key legislation underpinning the sector, but providing greater emphasis on providing a practical guide and sector overview both nationally and internationally. The expanded text also reflects the current marked change in public attitude towards nuclear energy, in light of the debates around fossil fuels and the carbon agenda.

The arrival of this second edition is timely with interest, both domestic and global, in new nuclear power generation now the centre of considerable attention and opportunity.

These opportunities coupled with the pace of change in the renaissance nuclear market have meant that a growing number of professionals across numerous disciplines are entering the sector for the first time. To a large extent Stephen's book, provides an ideal starting place to learn not only about the historic, political and legal contexts of the nuclear industry in the UK and its evolution to the current day, but also provides considerable insight into the sector's governance, and the entwined and ostensibly impenetrable laws and layers of regulation that are in place but understood by few.

With some 13 years passing since the last edition the new book covers important new developments in nuclear law including:

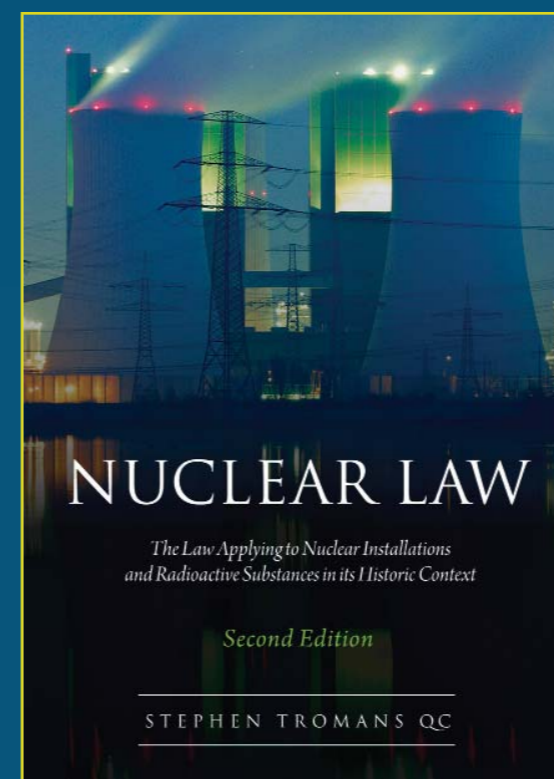
- The establishment of the NDA, the Energy Act 2004 and associated legal development around the new nuclear decommissioning market
- Nuclear new build (political and legal)
- Security post 9/11
- Important developments in other nuclear law areas including, liability, safeguards and safety.

The book will appeal to a wider group than just lawyers. Like the sector it describes, it is multi-faceted with multiple layers of appeal to numerous professional and nuclear-interest groups. It sets the scene for the key issues throughout the nuclear life cycle (through inception, operation, decommissioning and beyond), and delves where needs be into the level of detail needed by practitioners. Where it does not provide the answer it guides the reader towards understanding the issues relevant to determining the answer.

Whilst the launch was timely, it was also written during a time of considerable change with much of how the sector and its political and regulatory frameworks would evolve and develop still in question, particularly in the new build arena. As such the book is prefaced with an Addendum highlighting to the reader important issues unresolved at the time of going to press. Timing the author acknowledges was always going to be a compromise.

The book is logically structured and provides an extensive overview of the subject, with its intersecting themes carefully illustrated. Given the complexity of the subject, the book is easily navigable, the text clear and accessible. The chapters are clearly defined around broad key themes and then broken down into manageable sections, giving the reader the ability to dip in and out with ease. This however may give the reader the misleading impression of simplicity of the sectors regulation. In reality it is author's thorough understanding of the sector and skill at turning complex material into easily digestible chunks of information which creates this impression of order and simplicity.

For those with an interest in nuclear, this book provides an excellent source of information, and is highly recommended.



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