

The British Parliament has confirmed the need to develop nuclear energy in the UK, marking a milestone for EDF in its plans for the UK

Last night, the British Parliament voted on the National Policy Statement for Nuclear, ratifying the programme for building new nuclear power plants in the United Kingdom. This vote is the confirmation of the government's decision to use nuclear power to meet the UK's growing need for low carbon electricity production.

The Parliament has also confirmed the list of sites able to host new nuclear plants, which includes Hinkley Point and Sizewell, the two priority sites identified by EDF for the construction of its future power plants.

This vote is a major step forward for the development of nuclear power in the UK, as it gives EDF and the different stakeholders involved the political and regulatory framework they need to move forward with the construction of new nuclear plants. It also means that they can continue with the national and local consenting processes required as well as consultation with the local communities affected.

It follows on from the British government's confirmation, on 12th July, of its willingness to go-ahead with the reform of the electricity market in Great Britain. This reform created favourable conditions for investment in low carbon energy, including nuclear, by setting a minimum price for carbon and a guaranteed price for the production of low CO₂ electricity.

This vote also follows the Chief Nuclear Inspector's interim report into implications of Fukushima published mid-May. This report found that the UK nuclear industry had reacted "responsibly and appropriately", displaying a strong safety culture. It concluded there was no reason for curtailing the operation of existing plants, nor to change the current siting strategy for new nuclear.

Henri Proglio, EDF's Chairman and CEO, declared: *"The British Parliament's vote in favour of nuclear power represents an important step forward for the EDF Group and its new nuclear plans. Alongside its partner, Centrica, EDF is now able to pursue its plans to build new nuclear power plants in the United Kingdom, which will help make the Group a key player in the future of electricity, and a market leader in the field of decarbonized electricity"*.

Vincent de Rivaz, CEO of EDF Energy, declared: *"This vote also reflects the significant support of politicians, consumers, industry and the public in the United Kingdom for nuclear energy, which has been maintained after the events at Fukushima. This vote follows the reform of the electricity market confirmed on 12th July, which is favourable to operators willing to commit to low carbon energy in general and specifically to nuclear. It completes the definition of a clear investment and regulatory framework from which investors and consumers will benefit through safe, competitive electricity, with prices that remain stable over the long term"*.

The EDF Group, one of the leaders in the European energy market, is an integrated energy company active in all areas of the business: generation, transmission, distribution, energy supply and trading. The Group is the leading electricity producer in Europe. In France, it has mainly nuclear and hydraulic production facilities where 95% of the electricity output is CO2-free.

EDF's transmission and distribution subsidiaries in France operate 1,285,000 km of low and medium voltage overhead and underground electricity lines and around 100,000 km of high and very high voltage networks. The Group is involved in supplying energy and services to approximately 28 million customers in France. The Group generated consolidated sales of € 65.2 billion in 2010, of which 44.5% was achieved outside of France. EDF is listed on the Paris Stock Exchange and is a member of the CAC 40 index.



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