



Impact of withdrawal from Euratom

LEAVING THE EUROPEAN UNION:

Sizewell B Control and Safety Systems

“When Britain leaves Euratom, the UK will need a new bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with the United States in order for continued access to critical support services for the Control and Safety Systems at Sizewell B.”

Background information and context

Sizewell B Power Station in Suffolk, owned and operated by EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd, is the UK's only Pressurised Water Reactor providing around 3% of the UK electricity demand.

Sizewell B is a Westinghouse design Pressurised Water Reactor and the Sizewell B Control and Safety Systems are proprietary Westinghouse Systems with lifetime support provided by Westinghouse US. The Westinghouse Systems are supplied worldwide across the Westinghouse PWR fleet and are underpinned by the technologies, skills and processes in the US. Securing continued operation of the control and safety systems at Sizewell B through to the end of life, requires that lifetime obsolescence, upgrades and associated safety case reviews and assessments are provided by specialist Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) support.

The provision of services to support the Sizewell B Control and Safety Systems from the US is conditional on a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between the UK and US. This is currently achieved through UK membership of Euratom where a bilateral agreement is in place between Euratom and US. When Britain leaves Euratom, the UK will need a new bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with US in order for continued access to critical support services for the Control and Safety Systems at Sizewell B.

Impact of withdrawal from Euratom

Following the UK's withdrawal from Euratom, a new US/UK Nuclear Cooperation Agreement needs to be put in place in order for Sizewell B to continue to access Control and Safety System Support Services from the US. In the event that an NCA which allows for the same provision of services currently provided was not in place, then EDF Energy would not be able to access the support for the hardware, software, skills and experience of the control and safety systems and the operation of the plant would be impacted potentially reducing the electricity supplied to the grid.

The UK Government must ensure that an equivalent Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between UK and US is in place to ensure continuity of support services for Sizewell B Control and Safety Systems.

KEY MESSAGES

The UK needs a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with US in order to continue trading with US companies when Britain leaves Euratom and enable critical support services to continue to be supplied for Sizewell B Power Station.

The UK Government must ensure that the new Nuclear Cooperation Agreement is equivalent to the NCA in place with Euratom and is in place immediately after Exit.