



Impact of withdrawal from Euratom

LEAVING THE EUROPEAN UNION:

Supply of nuclear fuel components from the EU

“If tariffs and/or trade barriers are introduced, such as a requirement for export and import licences, this could cause difficulties and disruption to the supply of nuclear fuel components to the UK”

Background information and context

Westinghouse own and operate the Springfields nuclear licensed site near Preston in UK, from where Westinghouse supplies fuel to all UK AGR reactors which generate circa 20% of UK electricity demand. It is the only facility in the world qualified to supply AGR fuel and its importance to meeting UK electricity demand means that Springfields is regarded as a strategic national asset.

Approximately one third of the AGR component and material budget necessary for the manufacture of AGR fuel is consumed by suppliers based in the EU.

These include

- procurement of graphite components from Germany using feedstock produced in France.
- procurement of stainless steel castings from France used in the manufacture of large fuel assembly components.
- procurement of stainless steel strip from Sweden for manufacture of AGR fuel and stringer components.

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If the UK withdrawal from EU triggers new or transitional arrangements requiring suppliers to apply for export or import licences, or creates other barriers to trade (including tariffs) in nuclear fuel components, it will likely cause supply chain difficulties that could impact UK electricity generation output from nuclear power stations.

Such an outcome would not be in the longer term interest of either the EU supply chain companies, or UK electricity generation and security of supply.

KEY MESSAGES

The UK exit from Euratom creates risks for both the EU and UK

- **For EU suppliers who currently supply nuclear fuel components for the UK nuclear fleet and**
- **For UK electricity generation output and future security of supply**