Hitachi has suspended work on the Horizon project at Wylfa. The Horizon project at Wylfa was part of the UK’s nuclear new build programme which was set to see up to 18GW of new nuclear capacity deployed at six sites across the country. These would ensure security of power supply and would help meet the country’s climate obligations.

Hitachi had been in talks with the UK government over finding a financing and funding structure that met everyone’s requirements. As no agreement was made, Hitachi has now decided to suspend its nuclear new build activities.

Hitachi has issued the following statement:

“We have made very strong progress on all aspects of the project’s development, including the UK design of our tried and tested reactor, supply chain development and especially the building of a very capable organisation of talented and committed people.

“We have been in close discussions with the UK Government, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, on the financing and associated commercial arrangements for our project for some years now. I am very sorry to say that despite the best efforts of everyone involved we’ve not been able to reach an agreement to the satisfaction of all concerned.

“As a result we will be suspending the development of the Wylfa Newydd project, as well as work related to Oldbury, until a solution can be found. In the meantime we will take steps to reduce our presence but keep the option to resume development in future.”

Addressing the effects that this decision will have, Mr Hawthorne said:

“Clearly this will have a significant impact for all involved with our project. We will look to minimise this as much as possible as we move into this next phase and we will begin consultation on the implications immediately with our staff who have shown extraordinary talent, resilience and determination to take this complex and exciting project to this stage.

“We will also engage closely with the many international and UK-based stakeholders who have strongly supported the project’s development, especially our lead host community of Anglesey in Wales, represented by the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Welsh Government, and the key representatives around Oldbury.”

Mr Hawthorne said nuclear remained critical to delivering the secure, low carbon and affordable energy the UK needs.

“As shown by our completion of the Generic Design Assessment for the UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor, I am confident that the technology can play an important role in helping tackle our energy needs and meeting our climate change targets. Wylfa Newydd on Anglesey remains the best site for nuclear development in the UK and we remain committed to keeping channels of communication open with the Government and our other key stakeholders regarding future options at both our sites.”
The Nuclear Industry Association will do all it can to ensure new nuclear is built on the site and has issued the following statement.

Tom Greatrex, Chief Executive of the Nuclear Industry Association, said:

“Today's news is disappointing, not just for the Wylfa Newydd project but for Anglesey and the nuclear industry as a whole. Wylfa remains a strong site for vital new nuclear power for the UK.

It's regrettable that this project has been suspended, especially as a considerable amount of groundwork has already taken place on the Wylfa project, including creating a supply chain to deliver the project. Nuclear at Wylfa has huge local support, and the Horizon project would provide 60 years of reliable, secure, low carbon power for homes, businesses and public services – with a strike price much below any offshore wind project generating power now and cost competitive with all low carbon generation. It is imperative that new nuclear at this site goes ahead and the barriers to that are removed.

Wylfa is part of the UK's nuclear new build programme, which is proceeding with Hinkley Point C build which is on track, with more than 3,600 people currently working on the construction site. A third round of consultation for Sizewell C is underway and the approval process for the reactor design at Bradwell B is proceeding.

The urgent need for further new nuclear capacity in the UK should not be underestimated, with all but one of the UK's nuclear power plant due to come offline by 2030. If we want a balanced generation mix, Government must work with industry to deliver that vital capacity on this site. At stake are our ability to provide bulk, low carbon power, energy security, and the potential loss of the chance of thousands of highly skilled, well paid jobs in Wales and North West England.

Without a diverse low carbon mix and with increasing demand to power electric vehicles, we run the risk of becoming more reliant on burning fossil fuels to produce our electricity.

KEY POINTS

Facilitating new nuclear build as part of a reliable, low carbon power mix must be a priority for the UK government to ensure security of electricity supply and meet our carbon reduction targets.

- **Wylfa Newydd**
  The Wylfa Newydd project had made huge progress in key areas – site development, permitting, organisational development, supply chain, technology, developing our local 'social licence' to operate.

  Wylfa remains a strong site which remains a designated site for nuclear new build.

- **Nuclear Power**
  This Nuclear power produces 21% of electricity and 41% of low carbon supply to the grid. This is produced from 15 reactors over eight sites, however all but one will retire by 2030.

  Nuclear is the bedrock of low carbon power, and it is important new nuclear is built so we are not reliant on.

  The need for sustainable financing for new build projects as building these projects is critical if we are to meet the UK's energy needs.

  The current fleet is coming offline so we need to ensure it is replaces, if we are to keep the lights on.

- **Meeting carbon emissions**
  Nuclear If the UK is going to decarbonise its power supply, and meet our obligations to reduce carbon emission, we need to replace this low carbon, reliable, secure energy urgently. New nuclear is an integral part of our current power supply and integral to the future.

  Last year, Massachusetts Institute of Technology published an in-depth and authoritative report on global power systems, which showed that if nuclear were excluded in the UK, the total system costs of deep decarbonisation would be more than twice than that with nuclear as part of the future mix.

  We need a mix of low carbon generation sources including nuclear and renewables. Renewables cannot do this alone.
ABOUT WYLFA NEWYDD

The Wylfa Newydd site, on the Isle of Anglesey, is on land beside the former Magnox Wylfa Power Station. It provides good foundation conditions for a new nuclear power station and is high above sea level, which simplifies the process of managing flood risks.

With billions of pounds of new infrastructure, Wylfa Newydd would bring significant investment and benefits to the region. Once complete it would create up to 850 permanent jobs – the majority of which help by people living on Anglesey – and operate for 60 years, offering employment to skilled workers for generations to come. With a construction workforce of around 4,000 workers for the majority of the time. Up to 9,000 workers would be needed at the peak of construction.

In 2017 the UK ABWR completed an extensive Generic Design Assessment. This rigorous, UK-specific process scrutinises reactor technology and ensure that the safety case if robust. This comprehensive technology assessment carried out by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency determined that the UK ABWR technology was appropriate to move to the site-specific licensing stage.

Wylfa Newydd was expected to start generating in the mid-2020s and to generate 2.9 gigawatts of electricity, which is the equivalent of powering five million homes.

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