



Newsround May 2025

14 April – Times: Chris O’Shea: Zonal pricing will only generate more problems for energy industry. Charges that reflect local supply and demand are outwardly attractive but in reality risk deep inequalities. Supporters of zonal pricing argue that it will incentivise consumers to adjust energy use based on local prices. But nearly half of UK households still lack a smart meter and focusing on faster rollout and flexible tariffs would manage demand more effectively.

15 April – Times: Plans for China’s state-run nuclear company to develop and operate a proposed nuclear site in Essex will no longer go ahead, The Times can reveal amid renewed focus on Chinese involvement in Britain’s critical infrastructure.

19 April – Renew Extra: Last year, the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) asked the National Energy System Operator (NESO) to provide independent, expert advice on delivering clean power by 2030. NESO’s pragmatic advice was that security of power supply could be provided if we maintain Britain’s fleet of gas power stations but reduce their use to no more than 5% of total generation. That’s quite impressive, given that it supplies around 30% now: renewables will have to ramp up dramatically- new nuclear can’t add much, if anything, by then

[UK Clean Power by 2030](#)

21 April – Times: Britain needs a plan for enough Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to secure component factories, says a leading developer. Britain needs to set out plans to build 20 mini nuclear reactors if it wants to secure factories that will make components for the nascent technology, one of the leading developers has said. GE Hitachi is seen as a front-runner in the government competition to select which SMR designs will share in up to £20 billion of funding to be deployed in Britain.

21 April – iNews: ‘I guarded Britain’s nuclear sites - our security can't cope with new mini reactors'. Matthew Okuhara, a former armed officer with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC), fears plans for a new generation of SMRs will leave the public at risk as sites become a target for terrorists. While serving as an armed officer with the CNC, Matt Okuhara saw every aspect of how the UK’s nuclear power stations and their radioactive fuel are protected from terrorists. He spent years escorting the transport of uranium fuel to and from plants, which would be planned for months in advance. “Nuclear material is at its most vulnerable when it’s in transit,” he explains. “You’ve got to move it as secretly as possible.” However, he believes the situation is “definitely more dangerous now” than when he was serving. Terrorism has become more advanced and there are new fears about so-called hybrid warfare from geopolitical adversaries including Russia

[‘I guarded Britain’s nuclear sites - our security can't cope with new mini reactors’](#)

24 April – The Engineer: The government is being urged to ‘stop dancing around its handbag’ and make a final investment decision (FID) on the building of Sizewell C (SZC) nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast. The call has come from the Unite union, stating that the plant is essential for energy security, plus jobs and skills

[Union urges government to finalise investment in Sizewell C](#)

25 April – FT: EDF’s two UK nuclear construction projects at Hinkley Point and Sizewell should be negotiated as a single financial venture, France’s energy minister has urged, to prevent the French energy giant shouldering significant cost overruns. Marc Ferracci said he had held discussions on the projects with Britain’s energy minister Ed Miliband on Thursday, on the sidelines of an energy security summit in London. “France and EDF are very committed to deliver the projects, but we have to find a way to accelerate them and we have to find a way to consolidate the financial schemes of both projects.”

25 April – Ipswich Star: Tankers full of water are travelling 30 miles up the A12 and B1122 to keep SZC's offices topped up because the local water company cannot cope with demand. Essex and Suffolk Water is the company that supplies the northeast of the county - and it has long been known that it has problems in coping with increasing demand. The company is operating at near capacity - and this problem has forced some development or expansion plans in the area to be cancelled or postponed. It is not able to supply water to the offices that have been built at Sizewell, so a temporary deal has been signed with Anglian Water to bring in supplies

[Tankers travel from Alton Water to Sizewell C every day | Ipswich Star](#)

25 April – Politico: The U.K. government is in talks with its French counterparts about purchasing back three nuclear sites from state-owned energy giant EDF, as Whitehall looks to take control of the upcoming expansion of nuclear power. U.K. ministers are discussing buying up Bradwell B, Heysham and Hartlepool, a French government official Confirmed

[UK in talks to buy back nuclear sites from French firm EDF – POLITICO](#)

26 April – Telegraph: US nuclear giant Westinghouse has pulled out of the UK's SMR design competition. The four companies remaining in the contest were given a deadline of mid-April to make their final bids, but Westinghouse did not submit one following a negotiation process. It means only three finalists – Rolls-Royce, GE-Hitachi and Holtec – remain in the running

28 April – NFLA: With Prime Minister Keir Starmer having recently indicated that the announcement of a FID about SZC might be made in the days immediately prior to the Spending Review being made public on 11 June, campaigners opposed to the nuclear power plant project in Suffolk will be holding a protest action on the preceding weekend. On Saturday 7 June Stop Sizewell C and Together Against Sizewell C are co-organising an 'Outrage' Rally on Sizewell Beach. The Rally will run from 11am to 12.15/30pm, after which participants who are able will be invited to walk up the beach to the SZC site. There will be speakers, including Jonathon Porritt and from Greenpeace UK, interspersed with some music from Peter Kirtley and Gary Morley. Organisers say that outrage was a defining characteristic of legendary campaigner and former TASC Chair Pete Wilkinson, who died in January. Speakers will pay tribute to Pete in whose memory the gathering is in part being held, but marchers do not need to have known Pete to attend

[You are invited to join the 7 June 'Outrage' Rally against Sizewell C](#)

28 April – Guardian: Letter David Lowry: Your report says that "by generating more electricity from renewable energy and nuclear reactors, electricity costs would begin to fall". All reliable recent studies demonstrate this is so for renewables, but not so for nuclear, if the full costs of uranium mining, milling, enrichment, fuel fabrication, radioactive waste management and nuclear facility decommissioning are taken into account. To illustrate this, a very recent report from the US Department of Energy projects to final clean-up costs of Hanford, the US equivalent of Sellafield, but bigger, is an extraordinary \$589bn. These huge sums need to be factored into nuclear power's costs to give the real price of power from splitting the atom

[Scrapping Britain's nuclear power plans would lead to lower energy bills | Energy bills | The Guardian](#)

1 May – Times: Letter: Lord Howell of Guildford, Energy Secretary 1979-81: Tony Blair is not abandoning net zero targets as his critics claim but merely insisting that they should be reset honestly and achievably. The present pathway leads directly to disappointment and betrayal, especially for the younger generation. We should be testing and ordering, as a matter of urgency, hundreds of new-generation, low-carbon smaller nuclear reactors for siting at the many disused or already designated nuclear plant sites, as other advanced industrial countries are doing. These would provide reliable clean electricity when the wind does not blow in this part of Europe (about a third of the time), backed by private finance (not just more bills for the taxpayer and consumer who are already paying top dollar) and ready years sooner than the troubled giant being planned at Sizewell, Suffolk

6 May – Guardian: Keir Starmer ignored warnings from his nuclear safety watchdog that it was wrong to blame regulations for delays building new reactors when he launched a plan to revive the nuclear power industry. The prime minister unveiled the nuclear renaissance strategy in February and said investment had slumped because the industry was "suffocated by regulations". However, a document released under freedom of information law reveals that the UK's Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) told the government in the run-up to the launch that claims about delays to nuclear power in a draft press release were "not true". Despite this, the claims were repeated in the final

release. ONR was asked to comment on a draft government announcement of a taskforce to speed up the regulation of nuclear power. It made four corrections to the draft, which was passed to the investigative journalism cooperative The Ferret, and shared with the Guardian. But none of ONR's corrections were implemented when Starmer made the announcement on 6 February, under the headline "Government rips up rules to fire up nuclear power". The draft release stated that three European regulatory regimes had reached different assessments of the design of the reactors being built at Hinkley Point in Somerset, "leading to delays and increased costs". ONR said this was "not accurate" and that it had refuted such claims before. "Our feeling is that linking regulatory factors into the increasing HPC costs and timeframes isn't true and the sentence doesn't stand up," it said. ONR also suggested that the new taskforce should look at not the "approval" but the "deployment" of new reactor designs. "The reactor approval process has no bearing on the overall speed of delivery, but rather construction," it said. Neither amendment was made in Starmer's announcement, which reiterated the disputed wording in the draft. Two other changes suggested by ONR were also rejected. Dave Cullen, who co-chairs a forum for ONR and campaign groups, described Starmer's announcement as misleading.

[Starmer ignored nuclear watchdog when he blamed regulations for delays | Energy industry | The Guardian](#)

9 May – Enefy Live News: The latest socio-economic report on HPC reveals the transformative impact the project is having on the South West and beyond. There are 26,000 workers across Britain now contributing to the construction of the UK's first new nuclear power station in a generation. Currently employing 18,000 people directly, including 12,000 on site, the project is at peak construction and expected to grow further. An additional 8,000 workers are supporting the project through a national supply chain spanning over 4,000 businesses

[Hinkley Point C could be 'transformational' - Energy Live News](#)

11 May – East Anglian Daily Times: A four-star hotel near Ipswich has been taken over by a plant hire company and will be used to house Sizewell C workers

[Best Western Hotel in Copdock to house Sizewell workers | East Anglian Daily Times](#)

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley May 2025