



Newsround

September 2025

11 August – TASC: TASC's new Judicial Review claim calling for Sizewell C's (SZC's) Development Consent Order (DCO) to be revoked or varied has been granted a permission hearing in the High Court

[TASC's new legal challenge against Sizewell C's secret flood defences](#)

12 August – iNews: This once-secret research and testing site in Suffolk is open to visitors and home to an array of wildlife. "This is the scruffiest site that the National Trust owns by a mile," says the cagoule-clad boatman who chugs me and half a dozen other visitors across the oyster-coloured waters of the River Ore. Back in the Cold War era, this three-minute journey would have been impossible, lest you wanted to breach the Official Secrets Act. For, on the other side of the Ore, in this remote corner of Suffolk, was once one of the UK's most secret military testing sites. I'm visiting Orford Ness in the week that investment was secured for SZC, nine miles up the coast. But as denizens of Suffolk know, this is a county whose relationship with the power of uranium atoms goes back a long way. The legacy of this highly classified work means that, even today, it's vital to stick to the pathways on Orford Ness. Increased reliance on American weapons meant that, by the early 1970s, Orford Ness was mostly mothballed

[The remote coastal wilderness with a nuclear past that's only open half the year](#)

12 August – New Civil Engineer (NCE): Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) appears to have chosen Wylfa in Wales as the location for the UK's first Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

[Job ad suggests Wylfa will be first site for first SMRs | New Civil Engineer](#)

12 August – Minex Forum: EdeF Energy has confirmed that Sizewell B (SZB) nuclear power station has been using uranium sourced from Russia, sparking criticism over the UK's reliance on Russian nuclear fuel while simultaneously funding Ukraine's defence against Moscow's invasion

[Sizewell B Confirms Use of Russian Uranium Amid Accusations of "Sheer Hypocrisy" – MINEX Forum](#)

14 August – Morning Star: Rolls-Royce has been accused of making a fortune out of a "toxic, untested new nuclear market" over plans to power Artificial Intelligence (AI) with SMRs

[Rolls-Royce making fortune from 'untested new nuclear market' | Morning Star](#)

16 August – Times: Letter David Lowry: Further to your article "Rolls-Royce's UK plans go nuclear" (Business, Aug 14), I have no doubt Rolls-Royce's aero-engine business will remain remarkably successful but its enthusiasm for land-based SMRs is commercially misplaced. Firstly, SMRs are essentially experimental prototype scale-ups. I would be surprised if savvy companies such as Google and Amazon were contemplating reliance on experimental tech. Secondly, authoritative research by academics at the University of Pennsylvania, in a paper published in May 2022, demonstrated that SMR radioactive waste is harder to handle than waste from Gigawatt-sized nuclear plants

18 August – NFLA: A leading Government body charged with responsibility for monitoring the delivery of major taxpayer funded infrastructure projects has just published a report in which the plan to develop a subterranean Geological Disposal Facility to hold Britain's legacy and future high-level radioactive waste has been 'Red' rated as 'unachievable'. The GDF was previously rated 'Amber' in an assessment by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority published in January of this year

[Unproven and costly: Nuclear Waste Dump 'Red' Rated as Unachievable](#)

18 August – Telegraph: Andrew Orlowski: Nuclear cowboys threaten to derail the industry. What really thwarts the energy sector is not environmental rules but political indecision. Just as nuclear energy is coming back into public favour, along comes something nobody wants: a new wave of nuclear cowboys bent on tearing up the safety rules, senior industry figures fear. Venture capital money has begun to target the nuclear sector, bringing with it the Silicon Valley ethos of "move fast and break things". Impatient and litigious, these companies are suing to weaken the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). They've found an ally in a new wave of policy influencers who say regulators

slow things down too much by gold-plating the safety specifications. They point to thousands of design changes required at Hinkley Point C (HPC), adding billions to the cost. But while smarter and simpler environmental changes are needed to rid us of lawfare and the notorious fish discos, slashing away at safety rules puts confidence in the sector at risk

19 August – Somerset Live: Two companies who are responsible for the construction work of HPC will be prosecuted after a worker was seriously injured by a wall made of steel that fell on him. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has told Bouygues Travaux Publics SAS and Laing O'Rourke Delivery Ltd (together – BYLOR) that they will be prosecuted after the incident which took place three years ago. The charges relate to an incident which occurred on August 20, 2022, in a pre-fabrication yard at the nuclear construction site, near Bridgwater in Somerset. An employee sustained serious injuries when a wall of rebar [steel] mesh fell on him as he was working to remove it from a vertical jig to be transferred to another part of the site

[Nuclear power plant construction firms to be prosecuted after worker is seriously injured - Somerset Live](#)

19 August - Bridgwater Mercury: Building a 1,000-bed campus for HPC workers near the M5 will have no "significant effects" on the environment, Somerset Council has ruled

[No 'significant' harm from planned Hinkley Point campus | Bridgwater Mercury](#)

21 August – Telegraph: Julia Pyke: This is the solution to Britain's energy security problems. SZC will stand as a great engineering achievement. When people talk about energy infrastructure, the conversation often turns to cost. How much will it add to bills? How much will it cost taxpayers? With SZC, I want to explain why this is not just a sound investment for the UK's future, but also one of the most financially responsible energy projects this country has ever undertaken. For the first time in UK nuclear, we are using the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) financing model. This is not an experiment but a proven approach that has already supported more than £200 billion of critical infrastructure in Britain, including Heathrow Terminal 5 and the Thames Tideway Tunnel. In fact, nearly every pound invested in the UK's energy networks over the past three and a half decades has been financed through RAB.

24 August – iNews: When Sir Keir Starmer entered No 10 last summer, it did not take long for him to pick up where his predecessors left off on delivering more nuclear power stations with a promise to “build, baby, build”. The Prime Minister has vowed to “fast forward on nuclear” and so far has stuck true to his word, with the Government taking up a 42% stake in SZC, while loosening planning rules to allow new SMRs to be built across the country. But with the push for more nuclear power, bringing with it a steady supply of low-carbon energy, the question is inevitably asked: what do you do with all the nuclear waste? The answer is to dig a hole nearly the size of Wembley Stadium 1km down beneath the Irish Sea, that could one day see the rise of a new “atomic priesthood” and even, some have jokingly claimed, the creation of glow in the dark cats. But policymakers are aware that to push ahead with this new nuclear drive, they will need to develop a stable, long-term storage facility in which to hold not just future nuclear waste, but all the nuclear waste the country has produced since the dawn of the nuclear energy age in the 1950s. This is what the proposed GDF will provide. And when they say long term, they mean long term. “The purpose of the facility is to keep the radioactivity away from humans and the environment so that it can't cause harm for a sufficient period of time – and that's of the order of a few hundred thousand years,” Neil Hyatt, Chief Scientific Adviser at the Nuclear Waste Services, tells The i Paper.

['Nuclear priests' could warn future people about waste under the Irish Sea](#)

24 August – Beyond Nuclear: A swarm of jellyfish that recently brought four of the six reactors at the Gravelines nuclear power plant in France to a halt, made widespread headlines but, as some reports have noted, this isn't exactly a new phenomenon. The remaining two reactors were already offline for maintenance. As the Guardian reported, “The Torness nuclear plant in Scotland, which is also owned by EDF, was forced to shut for a week in 2021 after jellyfish clogged the seaweed filters on its water intake pipes, a decade after jellyfish shut the plant for a week in 2011

[The jellyfish are the symptom | Beyond Nuclear International](#)

27 August – FT: The design of the UK's latest nuclear power station is “terrifying”, “phenomenally complex” and “almost unbuildable”, according to Henri Proglio, a former head of EDF, the French state-owned utility behind the project. One month after the final green light for SZC, 1,700 workers are on site in Suffolk, on the UK's east coast, preparing the sandy marshland for two enormous reactors that will eventually generate enough electricity for 6mn

homes. The plant will be a replica of the European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) design that is running four to six years late and 2.5 times over budget at HPC, which has had problems wherever it has been built, in France, Finland and China. But unlike at HPC, where EDF was responsible for spiralling costs and took a hit of nearly €13bn after running late and over budget, the UK government and bill payers are on the hook for SZC. The state will provide £36.5bn of debt to fund the estimated £38bn price tag and be responsible if costs go beyond £47bn. “Being able to build an EPR in the timeframe, with the planned costs? I don’t think so,” Proglio, a critic of the design, told the FT. “The EPR is a machine that is phenomenally complex to build, with more rebar than concrete, it is terrifying . . . it’s almost unbuildable. As long as the design has not changed, the difficulty of building will not have changed either.”

30 August – FT: Rolls-Royce explores SMR funding options including IPO. The consortium led by the UK engineer is in talks to finalise a contract with the government later this year. Rolls-Royce has held exploratory talks with advisers over financing options for its small nuclear business, including an Initial Public Offering, amid growing investor excitement about the nascent technology

2 September – Guardian: The lifespan of two UK nuclear power stations that power more than 4m homes a year has been extended by France’s EDF and the British Gas owner Centrica. Heysham 1 in Lancashire and Hartlepool in Teesside will continue generating until March 2028, a year longer than planned. Heysham 1 and Hartlepool began generating electricity in 1983 and both plants were originally slated to be retired in 2014

[EDF extends lifespan of two UK nuclear plants, securing 1,000 jobs for longer | Energy industry | The Guardian](#)

3 September – NCE: The public could be expected to pay for up to £12bn of decommissioning costs of SZC, according to a government minister

[Sizewell C decommissioning costs may reach £12bn, minister admits - Utility Week](#)

5 September – Utility Dive: Amory Lovins: Nuclear power is failing, and AI can’t rescue it. Nuclear generation is expensive and slow to develop. Claims that past failures won’t recur have convinced politicians to socialize investments rejected by private capital markets. An intensive influence campaign seeks to resurrect a “nuclear renaissance” from the industry’s slow-motion collapse documented in the independent annual World Nuclear Industry Status Report. Claims that past failures won’t recur have convinced many politicians that socializing nuclear investments rejected by private capital markets, weakening or bypassing rigorous safety regulation, suppressing market competition, and commanding military reactor and data-center projects as a national-security imperative will restore nuclear expansion and transform the economy. This illusion neatly fits the industry’s business-model shift from selling products to harvesting subsidies. Even the most skilled firms and nations keep delivering big reactors with several times the promised cost and construction time. A swarm of startup firms that have never built a reactor are dubiously rebranding their inexperience as a winning advantage. New designs are said to be so safe they don’t need normal precautions (though not safe enough to waive nuclear energy’s unique exemption from accident liability). Political interference in nuclear licensing is eroding public confidence. **Proposed SMRs cost more per kWh, produce more nuclear waste per kWh, and often need more-concentrated fuel directly usable for nuclear weapons**

[Nuclear power is failing, and AI can’t rescue it | Utility Dive](#)

5 September – ONR: The first hearing of a H&S prosecution following a worker fatality at the HPC nuclear construction site will be held at Bristol Magistrates Court at 2pm on Tuesday, October 14, it has been confirmed

[First court hearing for Hinkley Point C fatality prosecution | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

7 September – Telegraph: JD Vance is teeing up a nuclear building blitz in Britain ahead of Donald Trump’s upcoming state visit, the Telegraph can reveal. During his holiday in Scotland last month, the US vice-president held private talks with a string of major US nuclear companies about projects they are pursuing in the UK. Executives from Westinghouse, GE Hitachi, X-energy, Holtec International and TerraPower, the nuclear developer co-founded by Bill Gates, are understood to have attended the meeting

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley September 2025