Newsround

September 2026

30 August – Express: Former Green Party candidate accused of stopping cheap energy plans. The boss of Natural England has been accused of blocking plans to build power plants that could bring down energy bills. Tony Juniper, chairman of Natural England - an arm of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - has been slammed by campaigners who say his organisation is blocking the power stations Britain needs to cut bills (or in the case of HPC, demanding further environmental mitigation). Former Green Party candidate accused of stopping cheap energy plans | Politics | News | Express.co.uk

1 September – East Anglian Daily times (EADT): Hundreds of people turned out to find out more about a once-in-a-generation development on the east coast that will power up the region. Jobseekers are now one step closer to new opportunities after a careers fair led to apprenticeship interviews. Almost 300 people attended the Sizewell C (SZC) jobs fair in Lowestoft, where around 25 supply chain partners showcased roles linked to the large-scale clean energy project. Hundreds learn about Sizewell careers at Lowestoft jobs fair | East Anglian Daily Times

1 September – Scotsman: Letter Paul Dorfman: Brian Wilson suggests that renewables are the problem, with fossil fuels and nuclear as the way forward (Scotsman, 29 August). Perhaps he should consider the following: In 2025, wind and solar became the bedrock of European energy self-reliance, with power generation from renewables in Europe reaching a new record of 384.9 TWh. Meanwhile, Norway has just said no to nuclear power, and Nato now backs renewables as the solution to energy security. In 2025 renewables made up 85.6% of all new global power capacity additions. Renewables are now 53% cheaper than nuclear for total system costs and, with a doubling cost over-run, nuclear remains the most expensive power source. With construction of just one station taking 20 years-plus, nuclear projects in Europe run years behind schedule and vastly over budget. Nuclear power construction has an average time over-run of 64%. The fact is, each year nuclear adds only as much net global power capacity as renewables add every two days. For Scotland, the direction of travel is clear. The challenge now is not just generation, but how quickly grids, batteries and flexibility can be deployed.

1 September – Euronews: The war on Iran has triggered calls to double down on nuclear power. But is it really 'clean', can Europe's energy grid cope and will it survive the wrath of climate change? An expert from the University of Oxford has warned that new nuclear capacity will not fix today's energy problems – urging policy makers to consider the true risks of nuclear. "In the high-renewables systems of Europe, the problem is increasingly not how to generate more electricity but how to access it when and where it's needed," says Dr Bettina Wittneben, a lecturer in Management at Oxford's Saïd Business School and associate fellow at Pembroke College and the School of Geography and the Environment. Heatwaves and secret emissions: Why nuclear power may not be as 'green' as you think | Euronews

4 September – Telegraph: British workers will build steam turbines for Rolls-Royce's fleet of mini-nuclear reactors in a boost to domestic manufacturing. Siemens Energy will produce the huge machines for a new generation of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at its factory in Newcastle. They will be used in the three Rolls-designed SMRs that are being built in Anglesey, as well as further reactors set to be built in the Czech Republic and Sweden. It will be the first time large steam turbines have been made domestically in more than 20 years. The expansion will follow an investment in the Newcastle factory understood to be worth tens of millions of pounds. It is expected to create 550 jobs. It follows concerns raised by MPs that SMR components were set to be built abroad.

5 September – Renew Extra: This summer has seen nuclear power facing some big climate problems. Six of the seventeen reactors that have been out of service due to the heat wave in Europe are on the Danube - four in Hungary two in Romania. The river levels began to fall. In France, EDF temporarily shut down units on the banks of the Rhône, Meuse & Garonne rivers, to comply with regulations on the release of cooling water. Eight other reactors operated at reduced capacity. In all 6.4GW was lost in France, with jelly fish adding to the problem. To add to EDFs ongoing cash issues, the almost new Flamanville 3 EPR is now to shut for a year for a refit of the reactor containment vessel- a new lid has to be installed. None of this make nuclear look very robust- or economic. No wonder then that Greenpeace Spain says it would be cheaper to shut the Almaraz n-plant than to continue its operation, although it's been allowed to run to 2030. A nuclear summer

6 September – Observer: Rolls-Royce boss bets big on new engines and nuclear. Having led an extraordinary turnaround since 2023, Tufan Erginbilgiç is staking the company's continued growth on SMRs and a return to the single-aisle commercial jet market. Rolls-Royce boss bets big on new engines and nuclear

7 September – World Nuclear News: Local ceasefire in place for Zaporizhzhia power line repairs. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says that a seventh ceasefire is in place to allow demining and repair work to take place to restore external power to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

8 September – New Civil Engineer (NCE): EDF's HPC has told NCE it has requested permission to appeal against a tribunal ruling in favour of an argument from campaigners which would subject the nuclear power station to environmental information transparency rules. Hinkley Point C seeking appeal against environmental data transparency tribunal ruling | New Civil Engineer

14 September – NCE: The development of SZC has reached a major construction milestone with the arrival of the first commercial freight train via its new Green Rail Route (GRR). The train arrived at the project's Temporary Construction Area (TCA) in the early hours of 8 September, carrying materials needed to build the new nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast.

15 September – Whitehaven News: Ten Sellafield leaders earn more than the Prime Minister. Senior figures at the West Cumbria nuclear decommissioning operation are earning more than the Prime Minister, public records show. Ten Sellafield leaders earn more than the Prime Minister | Whitehaven News

15 September – Energy Voice: Nuclear jobs in the UK tops 100,000 for the first time. It comes as Andy Burnham has put reindustrialisation at the heart of his government's ambition. Civil nuclear jobs in the UK have topped 100,000, according to the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA). In its updated annual jobs map, the association claims the sector has grown 67% over the last five years, up from 61,371 in 2021 to 102,606 in 2026. This surge in roles has been driven primarily by construction at HPC and government investment in upcoming projects, such as the first SMR project at Wylfa in North Wales. Nuclear jobs in the UK tops 100,000 for the first time

15 September – Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR): ONR, along with the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), have been asked to begin a 3-step Generic Design Assessment (GDA) for X-energy UK Holdings Ltd.'s Xe-100 high-temperature gas-cooled Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) reactor design. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) made the request to the regulators following its readiness review of X-energy UK Holdings Ltd.'s application. Regulators asked to commence GDA on X-energy reactor design | Office for Nuclear Regulation

16 September – Nation Cymru: £1.4bn in contracts up for grabs as major Ynys Môn nuclear project gathers pace. Up to 3,000 jobs could be supported in north Wales as UK businesses are invited to bid for £1.4bn worth of contracts linked to a major nuclear project. Rolls-Royce SMR has launched a new supplier programme as preparations continue for the Gwyndod Power Station at the former Wylfa Newydd site on Ynys Môn. £1.4bn in contracts up for grabs as major Ynys Môn nuclear project gathers pace

16 September – EA: The EA's response to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on implementing the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce Review (Fingleton Review). It sets out the EA's plans to improve the pace, predictability and proportionality of nuclear regulation while maintaining high standards of environmental protection and public confidence. Implementing nuclear regulatory taskforce review: letter from Philip Duffy to Chancellor of the Exchequer - GOV.UK

18 September – Tunnel & Tunnelling: SZC receives planning approval for tunnel segment facility. The factory in Bristol will produce 38,000 pre-cast concrete segments. SZC has secured planning permission for a tunnel segment production facility in Avonmouth, Bristol. The factory (which previously manufactured tunnel sections for HPC) will manufacture the 38,000 pre-cast concrete segments, as well as tunnel heads, for SZC's three marine tunnels. The completed components will be transported to SZC by rail and sea, supporting the project's commitment to move at least 60% of construction materials by rail and sea. Subject to conditions being met, production of the tunnel segments and heads is expected to begin in 2028. Sizewell C receives planning approval for tunnel segment facility

18 September – Reuters: France's EDF plans to build 10 SMRs in the European Union by 2035 under a project aiming to help the bloc reduce its dependency on fossil fuel imports, an EDF executive said. The state-owned French power group plans to use a technology developed by its NUWARD subsidiary for the SMRs. France's EDF plans 10 small nuclear plants in Europe by 2035 | Reuters

24 September – Somerset County Gazette: HPB emergency zone cut as decommissioning looms. Evacuation plans for one of Somerset's nuclear sites have been scaled back ahead of formal decommissioning. Every UK nuclear power station has a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ), with plans in place for all residents living within this zone to be evacuated in the event of a meltdown or other nuclear incident. HPB stopped generating electricity in 2022 (after 46 years of operation), was declared free of nuclear fuel in January 2026, and is now moving towards decommissioning. Following a report by EDF Energy in March, Somerset Council has now agreed to reduce the size of the DEPZ around the former power station, claiming that "urgent protective actions are no longer justified". The DEPZ originally covered all land and properties within a 3.5km (just over two miles) from the HPB site - which includes the village of Stogursey, the hamlets of Burton and Shurton, and a small section of the Steart Marshes nature reserve. Under the agreed changes, the DEPZ will be removed in its entirely, with EDF Energy arguing it could "no longer justify" its inclusion following the defueling of the site. Hinkley Point B emergency zone cut as decommissioning looms | Somerset County Gazette

25 September – Les Echos: Nuclear: EDF wants to raise the maximum temperature standards of rivers in France to avoid a nightmare summer again. According to our information, EDF wants a revision of environmental standards to record the warming of waterways regardless of its hot water discharges, after a scorching summer marked by massive reactor shutdowns. Nucléaire : EDF veut relever les normes de températures maximales des fleuves pour ne pas revivre un été cauchemardesque - Les Echos

25 September – Liberation: EDF wants to review river temperature standards in the face of global warming. While the discharge of water from power plants can cause the water in rivers to warm up by 4 to 6 degrees, the public company fears that it will have to shut them down more frequently. Nucléaire : EDF veut revoir les normes de température des fleuves face au réchauffement climatique – Libération

27 September – Telegraph: SH Patron Dale Vince believes the Government is warming to the idea of severing the link between gas prices and green energy, which can cause the artificial inflation of British energy bills if global gas prices increase. Mr Vince said: "I think everybody can see that we need to break the link between the price of gas and the price of all other electricity made in our country. "We've been lobbying this for about five years. I feel confident that the Government will do something about the link. There's other energy market reforms that we're suggesting, which I think have had a good hearing too."

28 September – NS Energy: The sudden and dramatic growth of AI and the massive energy requirements this entails looks like it will finally turn the tide. A wave of recent Big Tech company announcements reveals they have apparently committed en masse to nuclear energy and started openly investing in advanced nuclear developers. What started as a trickle quickly became a flood as Google has signed power purchase agreements with Kairos that will support the future development and commercialisation of its KP FHR design, a TRISO- fueled molten salt technology; Amazon, alongside some partners, decided to invest approximately $500 million into X-energy and to support the initial project in central Washington. The companies aim to bring as much as 5 GW online by 2039; Microsoft has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Constellation Energy, which will lead directly to the restart of Three Mile Island unit 1; even Apple quietly changed its environment statement to now recognise nuclear as 'clean' energy. The scale of Big Tech interest has not just benefited the nuclear companies listed, but appears to have lifted all boats - with both NuScale and Oklo noting very significant share price rises. Nuclear's Next Chapter: The AI Effect - NS Energy

29 September – West Somerset Free Press: The next chapter is being opened in HPB's long history as its decommissioning transfer moves a step closer. Key regulatory approvals have been put in place for the site's transfer from EDF to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) on 1 October. ONR granted a site licence to NRS, while the EA issued an environmental permit. Nuclear Restoration Services taking over control of Hinkley B station | wsfp.co.uk

29 September – Ian Fairlie: Hypothesis to explain increased child leukemias near Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs). Official Rebuttal of Tritium Hypothesis. It has recently come to my attention that in 2016 a rebuttal was published in an official report of my hypothesis to explain increased incidences of cancers among children residing near NPPs. The rebuttal is contained UNSCEAR (2016) Annex C: Biological Effect of Selected Internal Emitters -Tritium. Although this rebuttal was published 10 years ago, it's the only official response to my hypothesis so it's worth examining the matter. I shall show here that the UNSCEAR riposte has several shortcomings which render its argument unreliable. The main conclusion is that the absence of increased leukemias could be due to several naturally-occurring processes factors and does not necessarily invalidate the NPP hypothesis. Hypothesis to explain child leukemias near NPPs - Rebuttal rebutted - Dr Ian Fairlie

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley September 2026