

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

13 March 2023

Dear Dame Meg,

Heysham 1 & Hartlepool lifetime review conclusion

I am writing as a follow-up to my letter of 31 January 2023 to confirm the conclusion of a lifetime review for two of EDF's Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) stations; Heysham 1, in Lancashire, and Hartlepool, in Teesside.

These stations, which have a combined output of 2,200MW, were scheduled to end generation by March 2024. I am pleased to inform you that, EDF's licensee board has decided to move this forecast out by 2 years to March 2026.

This decision has been made following a rigorous review of the technical and commercial cases for life extension.

This review was in line with the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation made in its report on *The Future of the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors* (May 2022) that we work with the UK Government and the Office for Nuclear Regulation, to establish what the lifetimes at the remaining operating stations will look like.

It is EDF's objective to continue to maximise output from the existing nuclear fleet, to support energy security with low carbon, weatherproof and affordable power.

The additional 29TWh of electricity these stations could generate over that 2-year period could help to displace 6bn cubic metres of gas. The carbon avoided from this displacement is 10m tonnes, like taking almost 5m cars off the UK's roads for a year.

Today's decision is good news for more than 1,400 skilled people who work at the site and helps preserve valuable technical and operational skills that will be critical as the UK seeks to re-build its nuclear capability.

This date is a forecast. There is an ambition to continue generation for a further 1 year past the March 2026 date but there is still a risk that the new date set today may not be achieved. This will depend on future graphite inspection results and how they are interpreted within EDF and by the independent regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Work is continuing to prepare for defueling at both sites so that this can start promptly regardless of the end of generation date.

Since taking responsibility for the existing UK nuclear fleet in 2009 EDF has invested over £7billion to support extended operating lifetimes and help UK energy security. Output from the fleet has been more than 30% above what was expected when EDF took on the fleet. Over the next five years (2023-27), the aim is to invest more than £1.5billion to sustain safe and reliable generation, alongside delivering defueling and ensuring all AGR stations are preparing for defueling.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Morton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Morton" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Morton
Nuclear Decommissioning Director
Generation