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21 March 2023

The Future of the UK's AGR Nuclear Power Stations

Dear Mr Morton,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2023 with regard to the Committee's 2022 report on the future of the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) fleet. It was helpful to have an update with regard to recommendation 4a of our report regarding whether it would be technically feasible, safe and cost-effective to extend the lives of any of the remaining operating stations.

Your letter mentions that there are four AGR stations still generating — Hartlepool, Heysham 1, Heysham 2 and Torness. You state that in light of the pressures on domestic energy security, EDF is reviewing whether or not Heysham 1 and Hartlepool could reliably generate beyond the current forecast closure dates and that you expect to conclude those reviews soon. Your letter does not say what is happening at Heysham 2 and Torness. The Committee would like to know of your plans for those two stations. Have you reviewed the possibility of extending their generating life and if so, what has been the outcome?

The Committee asks that you respond to these points before the House returns from the Easter recess.

Yours sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts