

British Energy News

EDF Energy begins nuclear land sale process

7th May 2009

Sites at Heysham and Dungeness offered to nuclear new build developers

EDF Energy will tomorrow initiate a sales process relating to the divestment of land potentially suitable for new nuclear build. The process will result in EDF Energy selling one site, at Dungeness in Kent or Heysham in Lancashire. These sites were acquired as a result of EDF Energy's integration with British Energy in January.

The sale will allow EDF to deliver on a commitment it made to the European Commission as part of the acquisition of British Energy. This is also in line with the policy of the UK Government to have more than one developer of new nuclear power plants in the UK.

In the first stage of the sale process, which starts tomorrow, EDF Energy will invite credible nuclear operators to come forward with expressions of interest in the sites. The sale process will be advertised in the Financial Times tomorrow.

Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson, Managing Director Nuclear New Build, said:

"We believe these sites have good potential for new build and will be attractive to potential developers of nuclear power plants. This is an important step towards Government's objective of competition in new nuclear build in the UK. It goes hand in hand with our own plans to build and operate four EPRs in the UK with the first operational by the end of 2017 as we seek to help address the country's long-term energy issues."

For further information, please contact:

Kaa Holmes 020 7752 2179

Sue Fletcher 01355 846282

Notes for Editors

- The land will only be sold to a credible nuclear operator, i.e. an organisation that currently operates a nuclear power plant anywhere in the world and operates an electricity generating station subject to UK regulations, or is committed to doing so.
- The decision on which of the two sites will be sold will be a matter for the successful bidder. The purchaser will be allowed to carry out further investigations before reaching a decision.
- The sale does not affect the operational power stations at Heysham and Dungeness which will continue to be operated by British Energy (part of EDF Energy).
- The combination of EDF Energy and British Energy forms one of the UK's largest energy companies. The combined business is the UK's largest producer of electricity. With a current installed capacity of around 16.5GW, we produce almost one-quarter of the nation's electricity from our nuclear, coal and gas power stations, as well as combined heat and power plants and wind farms.
- We provide power to a quarter of the UK's population via our electricity distribution networks in London, the South East and the East of England and supply gas and electricity to over 5.5 million business and residential customers.
- Through Our Climate and Social Commitments we have launched the biggest environmental and social packages of any UK energy company. The company is also a key player in national infrastructure projects including management of private electricity networks serving four London airports and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, the country's first major new railway in 100 years.
- EDF Energy and British Energy together employ nearly 20,000 people at locations across the UK. The combined companies are part of EDF Group, one of Europe's largest power companies. EDF is the official energy utilities partner and sustainability partner of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.