

## INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR FIRST NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS - UPDATE, AUGUST 2010

The Government is committed to enabling new nuclear power stations to come forward by removing unnecessary obstacles to investment, without providing public subsidy.

There has been some slippage since the indicative timeline was last published in November 2009 - detailed below. However, the timeline shows how the path to commercial operation of the first new nuclear power station by 2018 is still achievable. Generic Design Assessment and planning remain the two key workstreams on the critical path.

In line with announcements from prospective operators, other new nuclear power stations are expected to become operational after 2018.

### Changes since previous version of the timeline

- Waste and decommissioning funding (line 1) – The previous version of the timeline showed guidance being published in Q2/Q3 2010 and regulations coming into force in Q4 2010. In order to give new Ministers enough time to consider thoroughly responses to the recent consultations, it is now expected that revised guidance will be published and regulations will be laid in Parliament in Q4 2010, with the regulations coming into force in Q1/Q2 2011.
- Regulatory Justification (line 2) - The previous version of the timeline indicated that decisions on Regulatory Justification may be made in around Q2 2010. The new Secretary of State needs to assure himself that he is satisfied that the reasoning for his decisions is robust and that responses made to the consultation have been taken into account. In view of this, the Secretary of State intends to make his decisions by Q4 2010.
- Generic Design Assessment (GDA) and site licensing (line 3) – In June the nuclear regulators published guidance on the end of GDA<sup>1</sup>. This makes clear that the assessment will complete in June 2011, and that developers will need to agree with the regulators resolution plans for any residual issues before final Design Acceptance Confirmations can be issued. The regulators will continue to assess site-specific issues throughout the lifetime of any new nuclear power stations.
- National Policy Statement and planning (line 4)<sup>2</sup> – The previous version of the timeline indicated designation of the Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS) occurring in around mid-2010. Following the consultation undertaken earlier this year, and in particular due to changes which have been made to the Appraisal of Sustainability for the Overarching Energy NPS, the Government will be launching a re-consultation on the draft energy NPSs in Autumn 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/reports/management-gda-outcomes.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Government outlined its plans for wider reform of the planning regime – including abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission – in a Parliamentary Statement at the end of June: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100629/wmstext/100629m0001.htm#1006294400004>

The intention is to present finalised NPSs to Parliament for ratification next Spring.

- Electricity Market Reform (line 5) – Electricity market reform has been added to the timeline, given its importance to investment in all forms of low-carbon generation. In the Budget<sup>3</sup>, the Government announced that this Autumn it would publish proposals to reform the climate change levy in order to provide more certainty and support to the carbon price. Subject to consultation, the Government intends to bring forward relevant legislation in the Finance Bill 2011. In addition to this, in the Annual Energy Statement<sup>4</sup>, the Government announced that it would this Autumn issue a consultation document on broader electricity market reform, ahead of a White Paper in Spring 2011.
- Construction (line 6) – This line shows estimated timing of the various phases of activity by prospective operators on site. Timings are in broadly line with those shown on the previous version of the plan.
- Grid connection (line 7) – This line shows the various phases of work required to connect new nuclear power stations to the electricity transmission system. Plans and timings for specific sites are based on dates set out in connection agreements between prospective operators and the National Grid.

**Office for Nuclear Development  
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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget\\_complete.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_complete.pdf) pg.28

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\\_we\\_do/uk\\_supply/aes/aes.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/aes/aes.aspx) pg.13.