

Trades Union Congress

UK Energy Review

The TUG welcomes the Government's review of energy policy. In particular we would like to offer our support for the submissions made by Trade Unionists for Safe Nuclear Energy (TUSNE), the Electricity Supply Trade Union Council (ESTUC), and Prospect.

It is important that the United Kingdom meets its commitment to reduce emissions in line with Kyoto in a planned and managed manner that ensures the long-term stability of our energy industry and the people it employs.

A successful energy industry requires investment, security for employees and a safe and secure supply. We believe that this requires urgent action from the Government in support of increased research and development across all energy sectors to maintain fuel diversity, meet emissions targets, and ensure that the UK is able to compete in the growing world market for environmental technologies.

The last large coal fired electricity generating station was commissioned more than 20 years ago and, in current circumstances, it is unlikely that any new nuclear capacity can be commissioned in the short term. In order to ensure that the Government's energy policy objective of fuel diversity can be achieved the TUG believes that the Government should underwrite a programme of new clean coal power stations that would be environmentally benign and provide an opportunity for UK manufacturing to generate export earnings.

The TUC considers the recommendations contained in the submissions of TUSNE, ESTUC and Prospect outline a positive framework for the future of the energy industry in the UK. We urge the Government to give them serious consideration.