
Committee Stage: Thursday 25 November 2021

Nuclear Energy (Financing) Bill (Committee Stage Decisions)

This document sets out the fate of each clause, schedule, amendment and new clause considered at committee stage. A glossary with key terms can be found at the end of this document.

First to Sixth Sittings

FIRST AND SECOND SITTINGS

Greg Hands

Agreed to

That—

(1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Tuesday 16 November) meet—

- (a) at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 16 November;
- (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 18 November;
- (c) at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 23 November;
- (d) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 25 November;
- (e) at 9.25 am on Tuesday 30 November;

(2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

| Date | Time | Witness |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 16 November | Until no later than 10.25 am | Sizewell C Company; Westinghouse Electric Company; GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy |
| Tuesday 16 November | Until no later than 11.25 am | Prospect; Unite The Union; GMB |
| Tuesday 16 November | Until no later than 2.30 pm | Citizens Advice |
| Tuesday 16 November | Until no later than 3.30 pm | Atkins Global; Doosan Babcock Ltd; Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.; Rolls-Royce Holdings plc |
| Tuesday 16 November | Until no later than 4.15 pm | The Confederation of British Industry; The Nuclear Industry Association; Energy Industries Council |

| Date | Time | Witness |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 16 November | Until no later than 5.00 pm | Mycale Schneider, Convening Lead Author, The World Nuclear Industry Status Report; Professor Stephen Thomas, Professor of Energy Policy, University of Greenwich; Greenpeace UK |

- (3) proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clauses 1 to 42, the Schedule, Clauses 43 to 45, new Clauses, new Schedules, remaining proceedings on the Bill;
- (4) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 11.25am on Tuesday 30 November.

Greg Hands

Agreed to

That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, any written evidence received by the Committee shall be reported to the House for publication.

Greg Hands

Agreed to

That, at this and any subsequent meeting at which oral evidence is to be heard, the Committee shall sit in private until the witnesses are admitted.

The following Witnesses gave oral evidence:

Julia Pyke, Director of Financing, Sizewell C Company; David Powell, VP Nuclear Power Plant Sales and Head of UK Business Development, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy; Michael Waite, Director New Plant Market Development, Westinghouse Electric Company

Sue Ferns, Deputy General Secretary, Prospect Trade Union; Charlotte Childs, GMB National Officer, GMB Trade Union; Simon Coop, Acting National Officer for Energy and Utilities, Unite the Union

Richard Hall, Chief Energy Economist, Citizens Advice

Chris Ball, Managing Director EMEA Nuclear, SNC Lavalin; Dawn James, Vice President Nuclear, Jacobs; Cameron Gilmour, Vice President Nuclear, Doosan Babcock; Alan Woods, Director for Strategy and Business Development, Rolls Royce

Tom Thackeray, Director for Decarbonisation, Confederation of British Industry; Tom Greatrex, CEO, Nuclear Industry Association; Rebecca Groundwater, Director of External Relations, Energy Industries Council

Mykle Schneider, World Nuclear Industry Status Report; Professor Stephen Thomas, Emeritus Professor of Energy Policy, Greenwich University; Doug Parr, Policy Director and Chief Scientist, Greenpeace UK

THIRD AND FOURTH SITTINGS

Matthew Pennycook
Dr Alan Whitehead
Alan Brown

Withdrawn after debate **1**

Clause 1, page 1, line 15, at end insert—

“(6) “Owned by a foreign power” means owned by a company controlled by a foreign state and operating for investment purposes.”

Clause agreed to.

Matthew Pennycook
Dr Alan Whitehead
Alan Brown

Negated on division **2**

Clause 2, page 2, line 14, at end insert—

“(c) the nuclear company is not wholly or in part owned by a foreign power.”

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 3
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 2, page 2, line 14, at end insert—

“(c) the Secretary of State is of the opinion that the nuclear company is able to complete the nuclear project.”

Clause agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 4
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 3, page 2, line 37, at end insert—

“(5) Prior to consulting persons under subsection (3)(g), the Secretary of State must publish a statement setting out why it is relevant to consult those persons.”

Clause agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 5
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 4, page 3, line 24, leave out “5” and insert “4”

Dr Alan Whitehead **Not called** 6
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 4, page 3, line 33, leave out “5” and insert “4”

Clause agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Not moved** 7
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 5, page 4, line 16, leave out “either” and insert “any”

Clause agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 8
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 6, page 5, line 3, at end insert—

“(2A) Prior to exercising the power under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must publish a statement setting out how the exercising of the power will facilitate investment in the design, construction and commissioning of nuclear energy generation projects.”

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 9
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 6, page 5, line 13, at end insert—

“(ba) the interests of existing and future consumers of electricity in relation to their prospects of recouping their contribution at the conclusion of the construction phase of the project;”

Clause agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Negated on division** 11
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 7, page 7, line 8, at end insert—

“(3A) When exercising the power in subsection (1), the Secretary of State must not cause the excess of expenditure being incurred over the allowable revenue cap to lead to further charges upon revenue collection contracts.”

Dr Alan Whitehead **Negated** 12
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 7, page 7, line 8, at end insert—

“(3A) When exercising the power in subsection (1), the Secretary of State must publish a statement setting out how an adjustment in the company’s allowed revenue is to be made without relying on revenue collection contracts.”

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 10
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 7, page 7, line 17, after "operations" insert "and have generated power for placement onto the National Grid"

Clause agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 13
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 8, page 8, line 11, leave out from "power" to end of line

Clause agreed to.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Not selected** 19
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 10, page 9, line 7, after "enabling" insert "the"

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 14 agreed to.

FIFTH SITTING

Clauses 15 and 16 agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 14
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 17, page 14, line 31, leave out "may" and insert "must"

Clause agreed to.

Clause 18 agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Negatived on division** 15
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 19, page 16, line 11, at end insert—

“(4A) Revenue regulations may make provision to prevent electricity suppliers from recovering the costs of paying a revenue collection counterparty from customers who qualify for the Warm Home Discount Scheme.”

Alan Brown **Negatived on division** 20

Clause 19, page 16, line 25, at end insert—

“(6B) Prior to making provisions by virtual of subsection (4), the Secretary of State must consider—

- (a) the number of customers the supplier has;
- (b) the level of bad debt from customers;
- (c) the liabilities of the electricity supplier including any renewables obligations due and what levels of collateral will risk the supplier’s operations as a going concern;
- (d) the impact on consumer bills of upfront payments to the revenue collection company; and
- (e) the value and extent of forward hedging the supplier has in the market.”

Dr Alan Whitehead **Withdrawn after debate** 16
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 19, page 17, line 2, at end insert—

“(10) Persistent non-payment of sums owed to the counterparty by an electricity supplier may be referred to OFGEM, which may in such circumstances place the electricity supplier’s licence under review.”

Clause agreed to.

Clause 20 agreed to.

Dr Alan Whitehead **Negatived on division** 17
Matthew Pennycook

Clause 21, page 17, line 34, leave out from “are” to end of line and insert “not to be paid into the Consolidated Fund unless there is no other alternative.”

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 22 to 30 agreed to.

*SIXTH SITTING**Clause 31 agreed to.*

Dr Alan Whitehead
Matthew Pennycook

Withdrawn after debate 18

Clause 32, page 24, line 24, at end insert—

“(5A) In the event that a relevant licensee nuclear company cannot be rescued as a going concern, or if a transfer of the undertaking to a wholly owned subsidiary does not result in the establishment of a going concern, the Secretary of State must establish a Government-owned company into which the assets, liabilities and undertakings of the relevant licensee nuclear company may be transferred in order to allow electricity supply to be commenced or continued at the nuclear installation in respect of which the relevant nuclear licensee holds a nuclear licence.”

*Clause agreed to.**Clauses 33 to 42 agreed to.**Schedule agreed to.**Clauses 43 to 45 agreed to.*

Alan Brown
Kirsty Blackman

Withdrawn after debate NC1

To move the following Clause—

“Report on expected costs

- (1) Prior to exercising the power under section 6 (1), the Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament.
- (2) The report must set out—
 - (a) the expected overall capital cost of the prospective projects;
 - (b) the expected up-front cost of the prospective projects.”

Alan Brown
Kirsty Blackman

Withdrawn after debate NC2

To move the following Clause—

“Report on agreed strike rate

- (1) When granting an electricity generation licence to a nuclear company in relation to a nuclear energy generation project, the Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament.

- (2) The report under subsection (1) must set out—
 - (a) whether the Government has offered the nuclear company a guaranteed strike price for the sale of electricity onto the National Grid;
 - (b) the strike price included in any such arrangement;
 - (c) the duration in years of any such arrangement.”

Alan Brown
Kirsty Blackman

Withdrawn after debate NC3

To move the following Clause—

“Report on decommissioning costs

- (1) When granting an electricity generation licence to a nuclear company in relation to a nuclear generation project, the Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament.
- (2) The report under subsection (1) must set out—
 - (a) how decommissioning costs will be met, including any role played by—
 - (i) revenue collection contracts;
 - (ii) strike rates; and
 - (iii) consumer risk.
 - (b) how this would change if the nuclear company were to become insolvent.”

Alan Brown

Withdrawn after debate NC4

To move the following Clause—

“Report on proposed payments to a nuclear administrator or relevant licensee nuclear company

- (1) Prior to making payments for the purpose described in section 41(2)(c), the Secretary of State must prepare and publish a report on the proposed payment and must lay a copy of the report before Parliament.
- (2) Before the payment is made, the report under subsection (1) must be approved by the House of Commons.”

Alan Brown

Withdrawn after debate NC5

To move the following Clause—

“Report on transfers falling within section 32(3)

- (1) Prior to a transfer falling within section 32(3), the Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament.
- (2) The report under subsection (1) must set out—
 - (a) the liabilities associated with the nuclear company;

- (b) any estimated costs of getting the plant operational again if it has been temporarily shut down;
- (c) the estimated lifespan of the nuclear power station; and
- (d) decommissioning costs and confirmation of any funding provided by the nuclear company for this purpose.”

Bill to be reported.

Glossary

Added: New Clause agreed without a vote and added to the Bill.

Agreed to: agreed without a vote.

Agreed to on division: agreed following a vote.

Negated: rejected without a vote.

Negated on division: rejected following a vote.

Not called: debated in a group of amendments, but not put to a decision.

Not moved: not debated or put to a decision.

Question proposed: debate underway but not concluded.

Withdrawn after debate: moved and debated but then withdrawn, so not put to a decision.

Not selected: not chosen for debate by the Chair.
