

Extending life of nuclear reactors 'least worst option'



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GMB, the union for nuclear workers, has welcomed EDF's pledge to look into **extending the life spans of the Hartlepool and Heysham nuclear power plants** as the least worst option.

The two power stations, which provide around 5 per cent of Britain's energy, were due to go off line in 2024.

However, as there has been a long term Governmental failure to replace these plants, keeping them open is seen by the union as necessary to ensure the nation has sufficient energy to cope with the



current crisis whilst preserving jobs.

Andy Prendergast, GMB National Secretary, said:

"The decision to extend the life of Hartlepool and Heysham 1 nuclear power plants is very much the least worst option.

"After years of dithering by the Government, sadly there are few alternatives to keep the lights on.

"These plants provide up to 5 per cent of our energy needs.

"It's frankly negligent we have been left in a position where these steps have to be considered.

"In light of problems in supply, the fact this would safeguard good unionised jobs in parts of the country where they are badly needed means it would be good news.

"But unless it spurs Ministers on to quickly build new nuclear sites, it will be yet another example of kicking the can down the road."

Press office

079859 1525698

press.office@gmb.org.uk

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info@gmb.org.uk

