

Decision to extend contract with EDF to turn down output from Sizewell nuclear power station

As part of a series of additional tools to address reduced demand, National Grid ESO agreed a one off, fixed term contract with EDF to reduce output from Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk. The contract applies to the volume of the shut-down turbine only and runs in parallel to the ESO's existing balancing of all forms of electricity generation through tools such as the Balancing Mechanism and Optional Downward Flexibility Management (ODFM). These various additional tools and actions related to COVID 19 will impact BSUoS costs and this is set out in our [latest BSUoS forecast](#).

The one-off contract supports a cost efficient and secure outcome for consumers as we take a range of actions to operate the system at very low demands. To further protect consumers the contract is time limited and has built-in review points to ensure we continue to assess the cost/benefit of the contract. Today, we have decided that continuing with the contract until at least 10th August is in the best interests of consumers. Reduced output from Sizewell B will continue to give vital additional options to our control room engineers as they manage the stability of the electricity system.

While the contract is commercially sensitive, it is appropriate that we provide some reassurance on costs. For the period 7th May – 19th June the contract has cost in the range of £17 - £23m. For the period from June 19th – August 10th, we forecast it will cost in the range £17 - £23m dependent on outturn market prices.

During the period to August 10th we may bring the station back on line for a short period of time to meet maintenance requirements. We will provide a further update if we do decide to take this course of action.