nationalgridESO

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

As part of a series of additional tools developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, National Grid ESO agreed a one off, fixed term contract with EDF to reduce output from Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk.

As stated in previous updates, this 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 to exercise our final extension option for the contract, as we feel that continuing with the contract to its close on 24th September 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 cost in the range of $\pounds 17 - \pounds 23m$. For the period from June 19th – August 10th, the contract cost in the range $\pounds 17 - \pounds 23m$. For the period August 10th - September 24th we forecast that the contract will cost in the range $\pounds 21m - \pounds 27m$ depending on outturn market prices.

The cost of the contract and other balancing services is set out in our BSUoS forecasts on our website, the latest forecast covers the period out to 24th September. As part of ongoing commitment to providing up to date information to the market, we will be providing our next revision of these forecasts on August 13th.