

# A National Policy Statement for Nuclear Energy Generation, EN-7: Response and new Consultation

Energy UK is the trade association for the energy industry with over 100 members - from established FTSE 100 companies through to new, growing suppliers, generators and service providers across energy, transport, heat and technology. Our members deliver nearly 80% of the UK's power generation and over 95% of the energy supply for 28 million UK homes as well as businesses.

The sector invests £13bn annually and delivers nearly £30bn in gross value - on top of the nearly £100bn in economic activity through its supply chain and interaction with other sectors. The energy industry is key to delivering growth and plans to invest £100bn over the course of this decade in new energy sources. The energy sector supports 700,000 jobs in every corner of the country.

Energy UK plays a key role in ensuring we attract and retain a diverse workforce. In addition to our Young Energy Professionals Forum, which has over 2,000 members representing over 350 organisations, we are a founding member of TIDE, an industry-wide taskforce to tackle Inclusion and Diversity across energy.

## Executive Summary

The inclusion of SMRs and AMRs into National Policy Statements is a welcome step. The proposals are generally sound in this draft NPS, although there are some wider policies that are likely to have an impact on the deployment of these that may require additional consideration.

If you would like to discuss this response in further detail with Energy UK and its members, we would welcome further engagement.

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**Question 1: To what extent do you agree with the modification of this approach in light of the consultation feedback:**

**To retain the < 50 MW (electric) threshold in the existing planning framework and to review our position in the future?**

**Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the question**

Energy UK is supportive of retaining the 50MW threshold for nuclear. This still compares favourably to other generation technologies. The number of SMRs below 50MW is likely to be low, with most existing models targeting the range of 20MW to 300MW.<sup>1</sup> Lowering the threshold to 20MW would start to put nuclear out of step with other generation technologies such as wind (100MW) and solar (100MW). It is also difficult to make the case that 20MW is a nationally significant scale of generation. Equally, higher than 50MW may start to restrict some potential SMR applicants unduly.

**Question 2: To what extent do you believe the draft National Policy Statement is adequately future proofed to accommodate advancements in nuclear technologies?**

**Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the question**

Energy UK has little to add here – our general position is that the consultation does future proof technologies well.

**Question 3: Are there specific planning or siting considerations that should be addressed to ensure the National Policy Statement remains flexible to deployment of nuclear in diverse locations?**

Energy UK is supportive of a criteria-based approach, especially in light of this being the nuclear industry's preferred position.

**Question 4: To what extent do you agree with the proposal to remove the distinction between previously exclusionary and discretionary criteria (see paragraph 1.1.7 (v) for more information)?**

**Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the proposal**

The proposals are sound. References and understanding of the cross cutting nature of spatial planning in the consultation document is welcome.

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<sup>1</sup> [Small Modular Reactors explained \(European Commission, 2025\)](#)

**Question 5: The government currently plans to retain the Semi-Urban Population Density Criterion in EN-7. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the inclusion:**

Energy UK is minded to agree, with no immediate concerns with the proposals.

**Question 6: We are open to revising the Semi-Urban Population Density Criterion in the future. How should this criterion change in the future to better support the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies, and what evidence supports your suggestion? Please reference your sources.**

Energy UK is minded to support the guidance on hazard sites. Additional points may be required in future on access to distribution infrastructure and private wire as well as transmission, in light of the increasingly small size of the reactors proposed in the consultation.

The above will also have to interact with a still very competitive connections queue, in addition to being mindful of policy changes to manage the existing backlog of connections requests.

**Question 7: If it's not already addressed elsewhere (for example in EN-1 and the Planning Inspectorate Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Guidance), are there any specific areas of the draft EN-7 where further clarity or guidance is needed to help ensure successful implementation by developers, planners, and regulators?**

The Energy UK view is that most of the risks have been covered. Further questions to address on how the above will be implemented around other government policies, such as;

- Spatial planning (such as the SSEP, RESP, and other policies).
- Whether the drive for Clean Power 2030 diverts resources away from nuclear projects in the short term, including for consenting priorities.
- Wider planning reforms (including the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, and Planning Act 2008 reforms).

**Question 8: Would additional support or information from the government be beneficial and assist developers intending to apply for Development Consent in implementing EN-7 and proceeding through the Development Consent Order pre-application process?**

One potential option to highlight here is more transparent contact routes throughout the Civil Service. Outside of policy and public affairs teams, it is often not obvious

who the correct person to contact is within either HCLG or DESNZ for private companies, especially to raise more urgent inquiries. Additionally, having a more transparent overview of departments and their responsibilities, such as a clear organogram of structure of such teams in this area, is likely to create transparency for outside companies.

**Question 9: If you wish to be kept informed of the development of the supplementary information to the National Policy Statement, please share your contact details (email address preferable) in the text box provided (max 150 words) so that we can seek your views.**

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**Question 10: Please identify the single main sector or interest you represent in relation to the siting of new nuclear power stations**

- Trade association
- Energy infrastructure
- Electricity generation
- Low carbon technologies