

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

1 February 2026

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Coal plant owners say DOE ‘emergency’ order to run it violates Constitution

The owners of a Colorado power unit say the Department of Energy violated their Constitutional rights when it ordered them to continue running a coal-fired generator they had been planning for years to retire at the end of 2025.

By mandating the generator’s availability to operate, the order “constitutes both a physical taking and a regulatory taking” of property by the government without just compensation or due process, in violation of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and federal law, the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and the Platte River Power Authority said in a Jan. 29 request for clarification and rehearing.

Moreover, they said, keeping the unit available to operate “will not best meet DOE’s goal of securing dispatchable electricity resources in the northwestern United States.” Energy Secretary Chris Wright invoked his emergency powers under the Federal Power Act’s section 202(c) when he issued the order on Dec. 30, the day before the 427-MW coal-fired Unit 1 of the Craig Generating Station was slated for retirement. He justified the action based on an alleged power supply shortfall in a region covering Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

The generating unit is owned by Tri-State, a nonprofit wholesale supplier, and Platte River, a public power entity. Over the past year, the Trump administration has made no secret of its view that coal and gas-fired generators are more reliable than renewables, and has sought to keep fossil fuel resources from retiring.

DOE last year prevented six power plants totaling about 4,300 MW from retiring. Five of the power plants burn coal. They are in Colorado, Indiana, Michigan and Washington. DOE also ordered Constellation Energy to continue running two oil- and gas-fired units totaling 760 MW at its Eddystone plant in Pennsylvania. So far, DOE hasn’t let any of its 90-day orders for those power plants lapse. Tri-State and Platte River contend that DOE failed to show there was a pressing emergency that requires the Craig unit to continue operating, noting the lengthy resource planning process that was circumvented by the emergency order.

“The government must do more than reference the word ‘emergency’ — rather, it must show that the kind of emergency that requires such fast-moving action has occurred,” the utilities said. “The Order’s asserted emergency is no such emergency. And the Order disrupts a considered resource planning effort.” Tri-State and Platte River said the unit had become uneconomical to run, requiring frequent repairs. In fact, they said they had to undertake repairs just to make the unit operable in order to comply with the order.

“The costs of compliance fall directly on their members and customers, who must now pay to respond to the DOE’s finding that utilities in the northwestern United States have ‘a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes,’” they said. “The members and customers must pay those costs even though neither Tri-State nor Platte River are experiencing these shortages and not all the members and customers served by Tri-State and Platte River are located in the region identified by the Order.”

The petitioners also noted that their customers have already paid to replace the unit. Also, some of their members — such as Tri-State’s members in New Mexico and Nebraska — will have to pay their share of those expenses but won’t benefit from keeping the unit online. As part of Tri-State’s plan to replace the unit, it bought the 145-MW Axial Basin solar facility that will use transmission capacity dedicated to the Craig Unit 1. Tri-State may have to curtail the solar plant if there is inadequate transmission capacity when the coal-fired unit is running.

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Further, Tri-State and Platte River said they won't be compensated for their expenses by the government. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "cost recovery shifts costs onto ratepayers; it does not assure compensation from the government," the utilities said, noting that the Bonneville Power Administration and the Western Area Power Authority — massive federal entities in the region — fall outside of FERC jurisdiction.

"It is not immediately clear how the FERC rate-making process could be used to secure cost recovery from utilities serving areas located within the scope of the emergency but over which FERC lacks jurisdiction," Tri-State and Platte River said. DOE's emergency order runs counter to the Federal Power Act because it "requires the operation of an uneconomic resource and disrupts ordinary and orderly planning, development, and investment in generation resources," Tri-State and Platte River said. "It is, therefore, arbitrary and capricious.

Separately, the Sierra Club and Environmental Defense Fund, and Earthjustice, on behalf of GreenLatinos, Vote Solar and Public Citizen, have asked DOE to reconsider its emergency order for the Craig unit. The rehearing requests are a required step before the advocacy groups and utilities can ask a court to overturn the DOE order. Lawsuits are pending in federal court to overturn some of those orders. In part, the suits say DOE failed to show there are emergencies affecting the power systems in the Upper Midwest or the Mid-Atlantic region.

Utility Dive

<http://www.utilitydive.com/>

2 February 2026

Indian government releases draft energy policy

India's Ministry of Power has initiated a public consultation on a new Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026, which aims to meet the goals of the Viksit Bharat development strategy, and aligns with nuclear energy goals set out in the 2025–26 Budget and the recently enacted SHANTI bill. It will replace India's first NEP, which dates back to 2005.

The 40-page draft NEP targets per capita electricity consumption of 2,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) by 2030 and more than 4,000kWh by 2047, up from less than 1,500kWh in 2024–25. It aligns with India's climate pledges, including reduction of emissions intensity by 45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achievement of net-zero emissions by 2070. Concerning renewable energy generation and storage, it aims for capacity addition through market-based mechanisms and captive power plants, as well as parity between renewables and conventional sources in scheduling and deviation by 2030.

India should also adopt advanced nuclear technologies, develop modular reactors, deploy small modular reactors, and enable commercial/industrial users to consume nuclear power to reach 100GW-electrical of nuclear capacity by 2047. Thermal generation is expected to be paired with storage, while older units are to be repurposed to help the system absorb a larger share of renewables.

NEP 2026 lays out strategies for achieving "reliable 24 x7 quality power through a financially viable and environmentally sustainable power sector furthering energy security at an affordable price".

It aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Financial turn around and commercial viability of electricity sector.
- Ensuring adequate availability of power with reliable and quality supply, while meeting peak demand and energy requirements.
- A supply of electricity at competitive prices to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- Increasing the share of non-fossil capacity to achieve the Nationally Determined Contribution targets.

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- Promoting competition in supply of electricity.
- Increasing per capita electricity consumption to 2,000kWh by 2030 and more than 4,000kWh by 2047, ensuring energy efficiency and responsible usage.

Strengthening grid resilience to enable large-scale renewable energy generation and utilisation, flexible operation, and to meet climate adaptation and cybersecurity needs.

Enhancing consumer centric service and implement demand side interventions.

Strengthening the dispute resolution mechanism in the sector to enable faster resolution and reduce financial burden on consumers. The draft NEP says nuclear power is “a clean, reliable, and sustainable energy source with significant potential for India’s long-term energy security”. To expand the nuclear capacity to 100GW by 2047, the central government “will collaborate with the private sector for setting up modular reactors and developing Bharat Small Reactors, and advanced nuclear technologies”. Nuclear projects should be eligible for Green Bond funding.

Measures such as brownfield expansion, replacing coal-based captive plants with nuclear, where feasible, and fleet-mode implementation establishing local supply chains for cost optimisation with standardising reactor sizes will be considered. Retired thermal plant sites may also be repurposed for nuclear power wherever feasible. Large commercial and industrial consumers should be encouraged to use nuclear-sourced power. Designing for flexible operation and a two-part tariff of future nuclear plants may be explored. “These initiatives will be undertaken within the broader resource adequacy framework, while ensuring the nation’s energy security.”

The draft policy notes that India’s power sector will need Rs50tn (\$546bn) by 2032 and Rs200,000bn by 2047 for generation capacity expansion, transmission and distribution. It states: “Energy security and transition hinges on access to affordable capital and blended financing, as renewable and nuclear projects involve high upfront investments but low operational costs.”

Power Technology

<http://www.power-technology.com/>

2 February 2026

US court blocks Trump halt on last of five suspended offshore wind projects

All five offshore wind projects halted by the Trump administration in December can resume construction following a federal judge's ruling on Monday that cleared Denmark's Orsted, opens new tab to proceed with its Sunrise Wind project off the coast of New York.

Orsted's request for an injunction blocking the Interior Department order was the fifth brought by an offshore wind developer since the December 22 pause on five leases. The agency stopped work on the multi-billion-dollar facilities due to national security concerns around radar interference. An Interior Department spokesperson said the agency would not comment on pending litigation. Orsted said in a statement it would resume work immediately but continue with the underlying lawsuit challenging Interior's stop work order. It added it was trying to find a solution to the matter by cooperating with the U.S. administration.

Orsted has spent or committed more than \$7 billion to date to build Sunrise Wind, the company said. If the stop-work order is not lifted by February 6, the project risks losing access to a specialized vessel needed to complete installation of an offshore cable, Orsted attorneys argued at the hearing. The argument was similar to those made at four other hearings in recent weeks.

"Every court to review this question has now found that the loss of specialized vessels and resulting delays amounts to irreparable harm. I agree," U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth said before granting Orsted's request. Lamberth also granted the injunction for Orsted's Revolution Wind, off the coast of Rhode Island, in January. An attorney for the

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Justice Department argued that the suspension was justified by new, classified information about risks to national security from the operation of offshore wind farms.

Offshore wind developers have faced repeated disruptions under U.S. President Donald Trump, who has said he finds wind turbines ugly, expensive and inefficient.

Analyst Jacob Pedersen from Denmark's Sydbank said political risks remained high. Sunrise Wind is located 30 miles east of Long Island, New York and is about 45% complete, according to Orsted. Once built, the project will produce enough power for nearly 600,000 homes. It is expected to start operating as soon as October.

Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/>

3 February 2026

Location of second Kazakh nuclear power plant announced

According to a resolution published on the Minister of Justice's website, a government decision was made on 26 January on the construction area, with the resolution entering into force on the day of its signing.

The village of Ulken, also in Zhambyl district, on the shore of Lake Balkhash, was earlier selected as the location for Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant. In June last year, Russia's Rosatom was selected as the leader of an international consortium to build Kazakhstan's first planned nuclear power plant, with China being lined up to build a second one. The Atomic Energy Agency of Kazakhstan had earlier held negotiations with leading global manufacturers and had drawn up a shortlist of potential suppliers: Rosatom with its VVER-1200 reactors, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) with its HPR-1000, France's EDF with its EPR1200 and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power with its APR-1000/APR-1400.

On 31 July, First Deputy Prime Minister Roman Sklyar announced that CNNC would build Kazakhstan's second and third nuclear power plants, Kazinform News Agency reported. Kazakhstan is the world's leading producer of uranium. Although it does not currently use nuclear energy, it is not without nuclear experience: it has three operating research reactors, and a Russian-designed BN-350 sodium-cooled fast reactor operated near Aktau for 26 years, until 1999.

Kazakhstan has been preparing for a nuclear power programme to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, diversify its energy mix and reduce CO2 emissions for some time. Kazakhstan Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP), a subsidiary of Kazakhstan's Samruk-Kazyna National Welfare Fund JSC, was set up in 2014. As well as being designated as the owner/operator of a future plant, KNPP was tasked with pre-project work including a feasibility study to justify the need for nuclear power - carried out in 2018 - and locating a site. As well as the proposed first nuclear power plant, there are also options for using small modular reactors to replace retiring coal plants in the years to come, with the government's target being for nuclear to produce a 5% share of the national generation mix by 2035.

World Energy News

<http://www.world-energy.org/>

3 February 2026

EU electric vehicle sales surpass petrol cars for the first time, marking a market turning point

According to the latest data released by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), new registrations of battery-electric vehicles in the EU reached 217,898 in 2025, a significant increase of 51% compared to the same period in 2024. This marks the first time that electric vehicle sales in the EU have exceeded those of standard petrol cars,

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representing a major milestone in the automotive market's shift towards electrification. Throughout 2025, the market share of electric vehicles in the EU rose to 17.4%, showing clear growth from 13.6% in 2023. Meanwhile, petrol car registrations fell by 18.7%, with their market share shrinking from 33.3% to 26.6%. This change reflects an accelerated shift towards electrification in the EU automotive market.

In terms of regional distribution, four major markets—Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France—accounted for 62% of total battery-electric vehicle registrations. Germany saw the most significant growth, with a year-on-year increase of 43.2%. France experienced the largest decline in petrol car registrations, down 32% year-on-year, while Germany, Italy, and Spain also saw varying degrees of decline.

Hybrid vehicles remain the largest market segment in the EU, with sales reaching 324,799 in December 2025, up 5.8% year-on-year. However, battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles are growing faster, with increases of 51% and 36.7% respectively during the same period, demonstrating stronger growth potential.

This data comes as the EU is advancing its "Fit for 55" package of proposals, aimed at supporting the automotive industry's transition to clean mobility. According to the relevant proposals, the EU plans to reduce CO2 emissions from new cars by 90% from 2021 levels by 2035. If adopted, the proposal would allow vehicles like plug-in hybrids to continue playing a role in the market.

In a press release, ACEA stated that the current level of electric vehicle sales "still leaves room for growth to stay on the transformation track." Opinions within the European automotive industry differ regarding the implementation of clean car rules, with some manufacturers believing that the targets should be adjusted appropriately in the face of international competition.

In terms of brand performance, Volkswagen maintained its position as the largest market share holder in the EU, accounting for 26.7% in December 2025. Tesla's market share dropped from 3.5% to 2.2%, with a full-year decline of 37.9%. The Chinese EV brand BYD saw its market share increase from 0.7% to 1.9%, achieving significant growth.

The historic overtaking of petrol cars by electric vehicle sales in the EU not only reflects a shift in consumer preferences but also highlights the profound impact of policy guidance and technological advancement on the automotive market. As the electrification process accelerates, the structure of the EU automotive industry will continue to evolve.

World Energy News

<http://www.world-energy.org/>

4 February 2026

Prysmian secures \$2.7bn contract for Eastern Green Link 4 project

Prysmian has secured a £2bn (\$2.7bn) contract to provide cable for the Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) project, a subsea electricity connection being jointly developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission and SP Energy Networks.

The agreement covers more than 640km of high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable, including 530km to be laid under the sea and more than 116km underground. The link will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England and is designed to transmit up to 2GW of electricity. This project is scheduled for completion in 2033, at which point it will be able to transmit clean, renewable energy, enough to supply more than 1.5 million homes.

EGL4 is part of a broader initiative to expand Britain's electricity transmission capacity, playing a crucial role in addressing climate change. By using HVDC technology, the project seeks to improve efficiency over long-distance transmission and support integration of additional power sources into the grid.

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National Grid project director James Goode said: “Eastern Green Link 4 is a critical part of the significant reinforcement needed along the east coast to support Britain’s future energy system. By investing in high-capacity HVDC infrastructure, we can move large volumes of clean electricity efficiently and at scale.

“Appointing Prysmian as cable supplier builds on their established experience with National Grid working on major transmission projects. It supports our focus on delivering this important connection to support home-grown, cleaner, secure energy from more affordable sources to consumers for decades to come.” EGL4 forms one part of a joint venture comprising National Grid Electricity Transmission and SP Energy Networks, which also includes another major east coast cable link.

EGL4 deputy project director Iain Adams said: “The project will help unlock capacity across the UK’s electricity grid, opening up space for more renewable energy to connect in and helping to reduce constraint costs for consumers.” Prysmian is also contracted to deliver cabling for Eastern Green Link 1, a similar 2GW project connecting Torness in Scotland and Hawthorn Pit in England, where construction began last year.

Developers expect to submit planning applications for EGL4 in both Scotland and England during 2026. Construction is set to commence in 2029, pending approval by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Power Technology

<http://www.power-technology.com/>

4 February 2026

Saudi Arabia to build 2 GW of solar power in Turkey within 5 GW deal

Following prolonged talks, Saudi Arabia signed an agreement for its companies to build solar power plants totaling 2 GW in two provinces in Turkey. It is part of a bilateral deal for 5 GW of photovoltaics and wind power.

Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey Alparslan Bayraktar and Saudi Minister of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud signed an intergovernmental agreement for renewable electricity plants. The aim is to build solar and wind power plants of 5 GW overall in Turkey with Saudi Arabian companies, Bayraktar pointed out. In the first stage, two solar power plants of 1 GW each would be installed in Taşeli in Karaman province, and in Sivas provinces, he revealed.

The tenders under state support mechanism Renewable Energy Zones (REZ or YEKA) are continuing, together with investments in power plants for self-consumption and energy storage projects, Bayraktar underscored. The new model for large-scale projects are intergovernmental agreements and bilateral agreements, he explained. Through them, Turkey can obtain electricity at much lower prices for a long time, the minister said in Riyadh, where the marathon negotiations were completed.

He recalled that his country aims to triple the combined wind and PV capacity by 2035, to 120 GW. “All of these investments, which we see as one of the most important examples of foreign direct investments for our energy sector, will be made through external financing. Loans will also be provided by international financial institutions,” Bayraktar stated.

Electricity will be purchased for 25 years, from the power plant in Karaman, at 1,995 euro cents per kilowatt-hour (EUR 19.95 per MWh), the minister asserted. Electricity from the other PV behemoth would be 2,3415-euro cents per kilowatt-hour. Both are the lowest among all renewable electricity plants in Turkey, Bayraktar stressed.

“In addition, the power plants will make a significant contribution to the electrical equipment and service sectors of our country with their 50% locality rate,” he added. The

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first two solar power plants, in an investment of approximately USD 2 billion, will meet the electricity needs of 2.1 million households, the minister said.

According to Bayraktar, foundations will be laid in 2027, and the entire project will be completed in 2028 and 2029. He earlier said that Turkey was negotiating with the Saudi partly state-owned utility ACWA. The country hosted 25.1 GW of solar power at the end of last year, and 14.8 GW in wind power plants, out of 122.5 GW in total. Bayraktar said last week that 3.5 GW of capacity for self-consumption would be allocated this year. Local authorities, public institutions and strategic and export-oriented sectors would be prioritized.

Balkan Energy News

<http://balkangreenenergynews.com/>

5 February 2026

Asia drives record 150 GW new wind capacity in 2025

India led the surge with a national record of 6.3 GW installed, whilst Europe added 16.5 GW of new capacity—5 GW more than in 2024.

In the United States, over 7 GW of new capacity is expected, and China is on track to surpass 100 GW, having installed 89 GW by the end of November. Overall, global wind installations are projected to exceed 150 GW in 2025.

By 2030, emerging markets like Vietnam, Australia, and the Philippines are projected to catch up with Europe's mature wind markets. These countries are increasingly viewing renewable energy as central to achieving GDP growth targets, with wind power positioned as a cornerstone of future economic development.

Global wind capacity is also expected to exceed 2 TW by 2030, with Asia-Pacific (excluding China) contributing 12% of new installations. Rising energy demand in emerging economies, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, positions wind power as a key driver of economic development whilst keeping emissions in check. Countries failing to embrace wind energy risk being left behind in the next era of industrial and economic growth, the report noted.

World Energy News

<http://www.world-energy.org/>

9 February 2026

UK invests in NHS, air force and a prison to bolster its energy security

The UK is investing £74 million (\$100.8 million) across 82 National Health Service (NHS) Trusts, eight military sites and one prison to adopt clean energy technologies and improve their energy efficiency.

According to a government-issued release, the measures will save over 190 NHS sites almost £30 million (\$40.9 million) a year on their energy bills, while military sites across England and Scotland are expected to make annual energy savings worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. The Trusts, organisational units within the NHS responsible for managing hospitals, community health services and ambulance services, will receive the funding to support them with different aspects of their decarbonisation efforts.

For example, Lincoln County Hospital will receive over £1.2 million (\$1.6 million) to instal solar panels, while the Harbour, a mental health hospital in Blackpool, will benefit from £590,000 (\$804,000) to instal new battery technology. Meanwhile, a number of Royal Air Force (RAF) stations, including RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Waddington and RAF Marham will benefit from upgrades to manage energy usage, making them cheaper to run. HMP Channings Wood, a men's prison in Devon, will also receive £495,000 (approximately \$674,586) for solar panels and almost £250,000 (\$347,000) for electrical and plumbing works to help reduce heat loss.

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Additionally, £9 million (\$12.3 million) will be delivered in partnership with Great British Energy (GBE) for batteries and solar panels. Commenting in a release was UK Minister for Energy Consumers, Martin McCluskey: "More money will go straight to frontline services as hospitals, prisons and military sites benefit from cheaper bills and cutting-edge green technology.

The funding is the latest from the UK, which has been treating public sector estates as part of a wider energy security strategy, turning hospitals, military sites and prisons into focal points for clean energy investment. The £9 million delivered alongside GBE, for example, build on the publicly owned energy company's £255 million (\$347.5 million) investment in solar power for hospitals, schools and military sites last year.

This included a new partnership between GBE and the UK's Ministry of Defence, which will see technologies such as solar panels and micro-wind turbines deployed across a range of military sites, including remote training ground and equipment stations, allowing energy bill savings to be redirected towards vital defence spending. According to the tech company, whose research is built on Freedom of Information (FOI) data, there are marked improvements in technology adoption, digitalisation, renewable technologies, and energy efficiency drives. However, there are ongoing challenges developing robust sustainability strategies in the NHS and a continued heavy reliance on fossil fuels.

Specifically, finds the research, one in five Trusts (21%) don't have a clear roadmap to meet the NHS net-zero targets although this is an improvement from 31% in 2024. The same percentage of trusts are not measuring their carbon footprint, also an improvement from 29% in 2024. Additionally, one in four (26%) remain heavily dependent on fossil fuels, with 90% of their energy coming from these sources.

According to Schneider Electric's research, technology and digitalisation are at the core of NHS sustainability initiatives, with 64% having adopted technology to monitor and optimise energy use, up from 48% in 2024. The same percentage of Trusts have upgraded building systems and 33% have digitised electrical infrastructure and energy sources to drive efficiencies. The research also found a significant boost in funds with nine in ten (89%) Trusts receiving funding for decarbonisation projects, compared to 67% in 2024.

In terms of priorities, renewables and energy efficiency initiatives take the lead, with 64% investing in solar panels and other renewable sources, compared to 16% last year. Additionally, 53% upgraded HVAC systems and 68% used funding to instal energy efficient technologies and equipment such as LED lighting, an increase of 28% from 2024. Said Alice Williams, Schneider Electric's VP Digital Energy, UK&I: "We've just passed the five-year mark since the NHS committed to reaching net-zero for direct emissions by 2040, the world's first healthcare system to do so. We should be proud of this and the way in which Trusts are embracing sustainability and making progress towards these targets.

"But, with energy usage and rising costs major challenges for the NHS, there is still much work to be done. Renewable sources, modern technology, and digital solutions offer a real opportunity to upgrade existing options, paving the way for a more sustainable and robust NHS for the future."

Enlit

<http://www.enlit.world/>

10 February 2026

US, Armenia sign agreement on nuclear energy

Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and US Vice President JD Vance signed a joint statement on the completion of negotiations on the Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the United States of America in the Field of Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy during Vance's

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visit to Armenia. Once the agreement is set up it will enable US and Armenian companies to "strike deals" on civil nuclear projects, Vance said: "That means up to USD5 billion in initial US exports plus an additional USD4 billion in long-term support through fuel and maintenance contracts."

Formal cooperation agreements are required between countries that want to trade nuclear power goods and services, and those involving the USA are called 123 Agreements after the paragraph of the country's 1954 Atomic Energy Act which requires them. "This is a classic win-win for both Armenia and the United States of America," Vance said.

"This means stronger energy security for my own country and I also think it means stronger energy security for Armenia, and it also will create a lot of new jobs back home in the United States. It means small modular reactors; American technologies will be coming to this country."

The announcement came days after Alexey Likhachev, CEO of Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom, met with Alen Simoyan, speaker of Armenia's National Assembly, to discuss progress with the project to extend the operating life of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant. According to Rosatom, those discussions also included the construction of new nuclear power units in Armenia, with Rosatom offering "comprehensive cooperation, including the construction of large, medium, and small-capacity nuclear power plants and the implementation of related projects, including non-nuclear ones".

Armenia currently operates one nuclear reactor - a 376 MWe VVER reactor at the Armenia Nuclear Power plant, which started operating in 1980. The plant was home to two units, which were taken offline in 1988 due to safety concerns regarding seismic vulnerability. Unit 2 was restarted in 1995, and Rosatom is currently collaborating in a project to extend the unit's life to 2036. Unit 1 is now being decommissioned. Armenia has been considering the potential construction of new nuclear capacity for some time.

In January 2022, Rosatom and the management of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant signed an agreement to look into the possible building of new Russian-designed nuclear power units on the site of the current plant at Metsamor, and in January 2024, officials stated that Armenia planned to build a new nuclear plant within 8-10 years, with technology options from Russia, the USA and South Korea under evaluation.

Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure David Khudatyan, speaking at a press conference on 6 February, said Armenia is currently reviewing proposed "modular nuclear reactor" models from Russia, the USA, France, China, and South Korea. "I believe the selection of the model will be made in 2026 or 2027," he said, according to the Armenpress news agency.

World Nuclear news
<http://world-nuclear-news.org/>

10 February 2026

UK secures 4.9 GW of solar capacity in CfD auction

The UK government has secured a record 4.9 GW of solar capacity in its latest contracts for difference CfD) auction round, at a clearing price of GBP 65 (\$88) per MWh.

AR7 awarded contracts to 1.87 GW of capacity across 72 projects due to come online by 2028, and 3 GW of capacity to 85 projects due by 2029. Successful developers will now be awarded a 20-year flat rate contract with the state-owned Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC). CfDs have been a key part of the UK government's renewables strategy since the first auction opened in October 2014. There was a step change in solar capacity succeeding at auction in the sixth allocation round, when nearly 3.3 GW was allocated across 90 projects – a record at the time.

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The increase in solar capacity assigned through UK CfDs comes as the government pursues ambitious deployment targets, aiming to more than double PV capacity from 21.5 GW recorded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) in December 2025 to at least 45 GW by 2030.

Ramping up solar capacity is expected to come from a significant increase in deployed utility-scale plants as well as a planned rapid rollout of new rooftop installations. West Burton Solar secured the most capacity for a solar project in AR7 with contracts for a combined 479 MW across West Burton Site 1 (90 MW), Site 2 (182 MW) and Site 2 (207 MW). The 373 MW Cleve Hill Solar Park commissioned in 2025 is the largest solar plant with a CfD currently operating in the United Kingdom.

The strike price secured in AR7 is roughly in line with industry expectations, with capacity exceeding the forecast made by Solar Energy UK. Briefing ahead of the auction results, the industry association said 3.5 GW to 4.5 GW under CfD would be “broadly in line” with what is needed to achieve 2030 solar deployment targets.

Chris Hewett, chief executive of Solar Energy UK, described the auction result as a “milestone” for the solar sector. Solar Energy UK also argued the lower strike price in AR7, down from the GBP 72/MWh in AR6, was a result of recent changes to the length of CfD contract. This has lowered the cost of capital for developers, according to the association.

The UK government announced in summer 2025 it would extend the CfD contract terms for AR7 from 15- to 20-years. Payments will be tied to inflation and the auction clearing price per MWh is set out in 2024 real terms.

[pv-magazine](http://www.pv-magazine.com/)

<http://www.pv-magazine.com/>

11 February 2026

Local regulators deny rezoning request for Pennsylvania data center development

A county commission in Pennsylvania on Tuesday denied a request by Talen Energy, opens new tab to rezone hundreds of acres of land for the development of data centers, marking the latest example of local pushback hampering the U.S. expansion of server warehouses. The rejection by Montour County commissioners follows months of opposition by residents in surrounding communities, who voiced concerns that the project would increase power bills and damage the environment. Talen, in a statement, said it would continue to pursue the development.

Local fights like the one around Montour are increasingly problematic for plans by the country's power industry and Big Tech, which is pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into building and powering data centers that will be used to train and roll out artificial intelligence technologies. Over the last year, companies including Microsoft and Meta have retreated from projects following community-level opposition.

The Pennsylvania rezoning was expected to serve Amazon, opens new tab data centers near Talen's natural gas-fired power plant through an arrangement known as co-location, where data centers are located close to the power source. Talen, which operates nuclear and gas-fired power, currently provides electricity to an Amazon data center co-located near Talen's Susquehanna nuclear power plant elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

"As is often the case after a rezoning request is rejected, we expect Talen and Amazon to either redouble their efforts in Montour County or pursue an alternative brownfield site elsewhere in Pennsylvania," analysts at consultancy Capstone said.

[Reuters](http://www.reuters.com/)

<http://www.reuters.com/>

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Phase A of Nordseecluster offshore wind project reaches major milestone

A ceremony held on 10 February at the Chantier de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France, marked the successful completion of the design, construction and integration phases of two offshore electrical substations that will become the operational heart of the 660MW Phase A of the Nordseecluster offshore wind project,

The project is a collaboration between RWE (51%) and Norges Bank Investment Management (49%), and is currently under construction off the German coast. Each topside is approximately 40m long and 22m high. The first weighs around 1,800t and the second approximately 2,500t. Both large-scale structures will depart from Saint-Nazaire by the end of the month. The units will be transported by barge to their installation site in the North Sea, around 50km north of the German island of Juist, on a voyage lasting around eight days. The foundations for the two substations have already been installed. In addition to their usual functions the two substations are also equipped to gather operational data from the wind farms and enable remote monitoring and control from land. Nordseecluster A is set to be commissioned in 2027, with the 900MW Nordseecluster B scheduled to follow from 2029.

The offshore works on Nordseecluster A are said to be proceeding well with foundation installation completed at the end of last year, cable-laying currently under way and installation of the 44 wind turbines to begin in summer 2026.

The second expansion stage, Nordseecluster B, for which fabrication of foundations has already begun, will consist of 60 wind turbine generators, which will commence commercial operation in 2029. RWE will be responsible for the construction and operation of the Nordseecluster offshore wind farms throughout their entire life cycle.

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Geothermal energy development potential affirmed, could replace 40% of EU's fossil fuel power

The Earth's interior harbors immense thermal energy, which manifests through surface phenomena such as hot springs, geysers, or volcanoes, providing a continuous power source for the energy transition. Unlike solar and wind energy, which depend on weather conditions, geothermal energy offers the advantage of stable supply, helping to enhance grid reliability.

According to a recent report from the energy think tank Ember, geothermal energy could theoretically replace 42% of the EU's coal and natural gas power generation at comparable costs. The report notes that new technologies are expanding the scope of geothermal development, moving it beyond traditional geologically active areas. Ember policy advisor Tatiana Mindeková stated, "We cannot say all of this will be utilized, but the volume is significant enough to make policymakers and investors more interested, even in Europe and beyond traditional hotspots."

Historically, geothermal development has been constrained by geological conditions, requiring sufficient heat near the surface or drilling to greater depths, which increased costs and complexity. However, enhanced or advanced geothermal technologies, through deep drilling and rock fracturing, create new permeability, expanding economically viable development areas. Mindeková added, "With these new technologies, we can actually broaden the economically feasible scope of geothermal energy."

Although these technologies face challenges, such as higher costs and operational difficulties due to increased drilling depths, tools and techniques from the oil and gas industry are supporting geothermal systems. Wayne Bezner Kerr, head of the Earth Source Heat project at Cornell University, pointed out, "Any time you drill deeper, the difficulty increases.

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Costs are higher, challenges are greater." Geothermal development must also consider factors like geothermal gradients, geological conditions, and water resources, all of which impact project feasibility and efficiency.

As geothermal energy sees wider application, efficiency is expected to improve, and costs may decrease. David Victor, co-director of the Deep Decarbonization Initiative at UC San Diego, said, "As we see more geothermal deployment in Europe, we will see this lowering the cost of innovation for many other applications worldwide." In the EU, geothermal energy can not only be used for power generation but also, through shallow projects like networked geothermal systems, provide heating and cooling for households, meeting over three-quarters of energy needs.

Networked geothermal systems utilize the constant temperature underground, achieving efficient energy cycles through heat pumps. Furthermore, geothermal energy can serve as an energy storage method, complementing the intermittency of wind and solar power by storing heat underground to enhance grid stability. Mindeková concluded, "We are trying to emphasize that this is also an opportunity for people working in these industries to transfer knowledge, skills, and find future employment opportunities in this new sector." The future development of geothermal energy, both in the EU and beyond, is showing broad prospects with the aid of technological advancements.

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