



## APPG on Small Modular Reactors

# GB Nuclear with Gwen Parry-Jones OBE

### Minute

Room W3, Westminster Hall 13:00 – 14:00 Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

#### Attendees:

- Virginia Crosbie MP;
- Lord Whitty;
- Lord Howell of Guildford;
- Viscount Hanworth;
- Damien Collins MP;
- Lord Wigley;
- Liz Saville Roberts MP;
- Lord Colin Moynihan;
- Charlotte Nicholas MP;
- Rt. Hon. Alun Cairns MP;
- Trudy Harrison MP; and,
- Mark Menzies MP.

#### Other attendees included:

- John Woodburn, NIA;
- John McNamara, GB Nuclear;
- Gavin Dobbing, Assystem;
- Tom Murphy, GE Hitachi; and,
- David Spencer, Barndoor Strategy (Secretariat).

The session focussed on the role of GB Nuclear and the nuclear competition with Gwen Parry-Jones OBE setting out her role and the scope of GB Nuclear's work and its competition.

#### Key discussion points raised included:

##### Sites

There were six key sites that GB nuclear was working on in the first phase of its work which included: Moorside, Heysham, Wylfa, Oldbury, Bradwell and Hartlepool

Other sites might follow in later phases. Nothing had been ruled out. However, sites such as Trawsfynydd were not in the immediate scope of GB Nuclear's work.

##### Work streams and timelines

There were three streams to GB Nuclear's work:

- SMR vendors in down selection
- AMRs
- Micro reactors, heat and hydrogen



GB Nuclear was aiming for a preferred bidder by autumn of 2024. There were six vendors in the competition which included:

- EDF;
- GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy International LLC;
- Holtec Britain Limited;
- NuScale Power;
- Rolls-Royce SMR; and,
- Westinghouse Electric Company UK Limited.

GB Nuclear's aim was to have 2 projects approved by 2029 with the build-out taking place in the 2030s ahead of the 24Gw 2050 goal.

Concerns were raised by members over the rate of progress on the competition, the danger that the competition became a bottleneck for the vendors engaged in it and the timings around a likely General Election pushing the programme back still further into 2025.

### **AMRs**

There was a discussion around AMRs and alternative nuclear fuels with the UK was not currently planning to use any of the 141 tonnes of plutonium for fuel. It was noted that Newcleo's AMR project was now seeking access to nuclear waste in France instead where it planned to open its facilities with the support of the French Government.

### **Cwmni Eginio**

GB Nuclear's Work in Wales with Cwmni Eginio was ongoing and there had been meetings with Welsh Government Ministers including Vaughan Gething.

### **Reciprocal Regulation**

There was a discussion relating to the ONR's work on reciprocal regulation with Canada and the IAEA working group.

**Meeting closed at 14:00**