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The View from Westminster



Key goals in energy policy:

- ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy
- cutting CO₂ emissions 80% by 2050
- maintaining the reliability of energy supplies
- promoting competitive markets in the UK and beyond
- ensuring that every home is adequately and affordably heated



The need for new generation:

- nuclear power stations reaching the end of their lifespan
- coal power stations due to close by end 2015
- increasing dependence on imported fossil fuels



2003 White Paper and progress on renewable energy:

- renewables obligation
- 30-40% electricity required from renewables: currently less than 5%

2007 figures:

- onshore wind energy 1.14%
- offshore wind 0.2%.
- hydroelectric schemes 1.3%

The imperative of climate change

- the International Panel on Climate Change rates nuclear emissions levels as equivalent to renewables.
- Climate Change Bill, legally binding targets

Security of supply:

- decline in North Sea reserves
- the UK is a net importer of gas and oil





Planning Bill

- established the Infrastructure Planning Commission
- a single consent regime for national significant infrastructure and a streamlined application process
- statutory requirements on content and consultation on national infrastructure policy statements
- statutory requirements for developers of infrastructure to consult affected people and communities

Energy Bill

- created a regulatory framework to enable private sector investment in CCS projects
- strengthened the Renewables Obligation



New nuclear build:

- estimated 9,000 construction jobs, 1,000 skilled workers to operate and £2bn boost to an area

Skills hurdle:

- increasing international demand from USA, France, Japan, Russia, China and others.
- an aging nuclear workforce in the UK with valuable skills

Public confidence and waste:

- the issue of waste is central to public confidence and this must be resolved
- deep geological disposal recommended by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
- research at Oskarshamn and the hard rock repository lead to reversal of Sweden's moratorium on nuclear power

