

**LATEST****Hinkley Point C at risk of delay as cost soars by £2.9bn****25 SEP, 2019 | BY ROB HORGAN**

The cost of building the Hinkley Point C nuclear plant has risen by £2.9bn, and French power company EDF has admitted that the project could be delayed.

EDF said it has raised the estimate for the project cost to between £21.5bn and £22.5bn, blaming "challenging ground conditions".

The power company also said the plant in Somerset could open 15 months later than originally planned because of the problems.

EDF and construction partner China General Nuclear Power Corp (CGN) said that they are still aiming to finish the work in 2025 but admitted that the chance of that work slipping into 2026 has “risen”.

Because of the way that the project is being funded, EDF and CGN will pay the extra cost.

"Cost increases reflect challenging ground conditions which made earthworks more expensive than anticipated, revised action plan targets and extra costs needed to implement the completed functional design, which has been adapted for a first-of-a-kind application in the UK context," an EDF spokesperson said in a statement.

“The management of the project remains mobilised to begin generating power from Unit 1 at the end of 2025. To achieve this, operational action plans overseen by the project management are being put in place. These involve the EDF Group's engineering teams in Great Britain and France, buildings and ancillary works contractors, and suppliers of equipment and systems throughout the supply chain.”

Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) head of analysis Johnathan Marshall, said: “New delays and cost overruns highlight why there are concerns around transferring more construction risk of new nuclear power stations onto British bill payers.

“Under the proposed regulated asset base scheme, energy bills will increase to pay for nuclear power stations before they start generating. Considering the apparent inability of the nuclear industry to deliver projects on time and on budget, this is a cause for concern.

“As the urgency to build new low carbon energy sources increases, it is vital that policy makers ensure that projects are deliverable. Transforming the UK into a net zero carbon nation will be more difficult without the ability to count on planned projects to

deliver clean energy in the next decade and beyond."

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