

'David Howell comment on seven new nuclear plants story.'

This was the conclusion I reached as Energy Secretary in 1979, thinking thirty or forty years ahead, when I consulted closely with France and Andre Giraud, an architect of brilliant French construction of 58 new nuclear stations, and then announced a programme of nine new UK stations of same design.

Only one got built, Sizewell B. Short termism and political weakness killed the rest.

Rediscovering it all now is just great - for 20-30 years ahead . But useless for present crisis and useless for national energy security - which is a delusion anyway. Even if, and when, we eventually run oil and gas down ,and expand low carbon nuclear and wind, we will still be an inextricable part of global markets and global technology Networks. This applies as much to nuclear in the future as to oil and gas now. One nuclear incident anywhere in the world can close down nuclear everywhere!