

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

Form 6-K

November 30, 2004

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

November 30, 2004

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

(Registrant's name)

3 REDWOOD CRESCENT, PEEL PARK, EAST KILBRIDE G74 5PR

SCOTLAND

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

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Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following documents (bearing the exhibit numbers listed below) have been posted to shareholders of British Energy plc in connection with its proposed Restructuring and are furnished herewith pursuant to the General Instructions for Form 6-K:

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>
No. 20.1	Members Scheme Circular of British Energy plc dated November 29, 2004
No. 20.2	Prospectus of British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc dated November 29, 2004

Contact:

Andrew Dowler	020 7831 3113	(Media Enquiries)
John Searles	01355 26 2202	(Investor Relations)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

Date: November 30, 2004

By: /s/ Robert Armour

Name: Robert Armour
Title: General Counsel and Company Secretary

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EXHIBIT 20.1

THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. If you are in any doubt as to the action you should take, you should immediately consult your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other independent financial adviser authorised pursuant to the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 if you are in the United Kingdom or, if not, seek advice from another appropriately authorised independent financial adviser.

If you have sold or otherwise transferred all of your existing British Energy Shares, please forward this document, together with the accompanying Prospectus, Form(s) of Proxy, Form(s) of Election and reply paid envelope, as soon as possible to the purchaser or transferee, or to the stockbroker, bank or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected, for onward transmission to the purchaser or transferee. However, such documents should not be forwarded to or transmitted in or into any jurisdiction in which such an act would constitute a violation of the relevant laws in such jurisdiction.

A document comprising: (i) listing particulars in relation to the issue of the New Shares and Warrants pursuant to the Schemes and other arrangements with certain of the Creditors; (ii) a prospectus in relation to the issue of Warrants pursuant to the Disposal; and (iii) listing particulars in relation to the issue of New Bonds (together, the Prospectus) prepared in accordance with the Listing Rules made under section 74 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, has been delivered for registration to the Registrar of Companies in Scotland for registration pursuant to section 83 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus. All information contained in the Explanatory Statement of this document should be read in conjunction with the risk factors outlined in Part III of this document and Part II of the Prospectus: Risk factors .

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

(Registered in Scotland with number 162273)

Restructuring proposals

involving a members scheme of arrangement

(pursuant to section 425 of the Companies Act 1985)

or

the disposal of the business and assets of British Energy plc

Citigroup Global Markets Limited is advising British Energy plc, British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc and no one else in connection with Admission and the Restructuring described in this document and will not be responsible to anyone other than British Energy plc,

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British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc for providing protections afforded to their clients nor for providing any advice in relation to Admission or the Restructuring.

HSBC Bank plc is advising British Energy plc, British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc and no one else in connection with Admission and the Restructuring described in this document and will not be responsible to anyone other than British Energy plc, British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc for providing protections afforded to their clients nor for providing any advice in relation to Admission or the Restructuring.

A letter from the chairman of the Company recommending that you vote in favour of the proposals appears on pages 19 to 34 of this document. The action you are recommended to take is set out on pages 32 and 33.

Application has been made to: (i) the UK Listing Authority (the UKLA) for the New Shares, the New Bonds and the Warrants to be admitted to the Official List; and (ii) to the London Stock Exchange for the New Shares, the New Bonds and the Warrants to be admitted to trading on the London Stock Exchange's market for listed securities. It is expected that admission of the New Shares, the New Bonds and the Warrants to the Official List will become effective and dealings for normal settlement will commence on the London Stock Exchange at 8.00 a.m. on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date.

Following an application by the Company for the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares from the Official List, the UKLA cancelled the British Energy Share listings with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and the last day of dealings in British Energy Shares on the London Stock Exchange was 20 October 2004.

Notices of meetings of Ordinary Shareholders and A Shareholders of the Company convened by order of the Court and of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company to be held at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ on 22 December 2004 commencing respectively at 10.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 12 noon (or, in the case of the A Share Court Meeting, as soon as the Ordinary Share Court Meeting concludes or is adjourned and in the case of the Extraordinary General Meeting as soon as the A Share Court Meeting concludes or is adjourned) are set out on pages 92 to 96 of this document. **Whether or not you intend to be present at the meetings, please complete and sign (all) the Form(s) of Proxy accompanying this document (green for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting, blue for the A Share Court Meeting and white for the Extraordinary General Meeting) and return it/them to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars, SEA 9441, The Causeway, Worthing BN99 6ED as soon as possible, and in any event by 20 December 2004 and not later than 48 hours before the relevant meeting. Forms of Proxy for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the A Share Court Meeting may, alternatively, be delivered in person to the chairman of the relevant meeting. The return of a completed Form of Proxy will not prevent you from attending the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and/or the A Share Court Meeting and/or the Extraordinary General Meeting and voting in person if you wish.**

If you have any questions relating to the proposals described in this document or the completion and return of the Form(s) of Proxy or Form(s) of Election, please contact our helpline on freephone 0800-035-0844 (or if calling from outside the UK +44 (0) 1295-225-285 (calls charged at applicable rates)), Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (UK time). The helpline cannot provide advice on the merits or otherwise of the matters described in this document, nor give any financial advice.

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A circular in relation to the Creditors Scheme has been issued to relevant Creditors in connection with the Restructuring.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OVERSEAS SHAREHOLDERS

The attention of overseas shareholders is drawn to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document. This document does not constitute an offer to sell or issue, or the solicitation of an offer to buy or subscribe for, securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful.

Shareholders in the US

The New Shares and Warrants to be issued to Shareholders under the Members Scheme have not been and will not be registered under the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the **Securities Act**) or any state securities laws and will be distributed pursuant to exemptions from, or in transactions not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act, including the exemption provided by Section 3(a)(10) thereof. The Warrants to be issued to Shareholders if the Members Scheme does not become Effective and the Disposal Resolution is passed have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act and will only be issued pursuant to exemptions from, or in transactions not subject to the registration requirements under the Securities Act, including pursuant to the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act, and outside the US in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act. Further information relating to US securities regulations may be found in paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Statement.

Neither the US Securities and Exchange Commission (the **SEC**) nor any state securities commission in the US or any other US regulatory authority has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this document is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offence.

Shareholders in Australia, Canada or Germany

No steps have been taken, nor will any be taken, to enable the New Shares or Warrants to be offered in compliance with the applicable securities laws of Australia, Canada or Germany and any offer or invitation in relation to the New Shares and Warrants is not available, directly or indirectly, to persons in, or with registered addresses in, Australia, Canada or Germany. This document is being sent to Shareholders with registered addresses in Australia, Canada or Germany solely in connection with the Court Meetings and the Extraordinary General Meeting. Shareholders in, or with registered addresses in, Australia, Canada or Germany will not receive any New Shares and/or Warrants under or in connection with the Restructuring and instead may only receive cash if the Members Scheme or the Disposal is approved by Ordinary Shareholders (as outlined in paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Statement).

Shareholders in Ireland

This document shall be first published or issued in the UK. Neither this document nor the information contained herein constitutes an offer to the public of the New Shares or Warrants and accordingly, this document is not a prospectus within the meaning of the Irish Companies Act, 1963 (as amended) or the Irish European Communities (Transferable Securities and Stock Exchange) Regulations, 1992.

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Latest time and date for receipt of green Form of Proxy for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting ²	10.30 a.m. on 20 December 2004
Latest time and date for receipt of blue Form of Proxy for the A Share Court Meeting ³	11.30 a.m. on 20 December 2004
Latest time and date for receipt of white Form of Proxy for the Extraordinary General Meeting	12 noon on 20 December 2004
Voting Record Time ^{4,5,6}	6.00 p.m. on 20 December 2004
Ordinary Share Court Meeting	10.30 a.m. on 22 December 2004
A Share Court Meeting ⁷	11.30 a.m. on 22 December 2004
Extraordinary General Meeting ⁷	12 noon on 22 December 2004
Creditors Scheme Meeting	12.30 p.m. on 22 December 2004
Election Return Time ⁸	6.00 p.m. on 13 January 2005
Scheme Record Time ⁹	6.00 p.m. on 13 January 2005
Disposal Record Time ¹⁰	6.00 p.m. on 13 January 2005
Date of Court hearing of Petition to sanction the Members Scheme Restructuring Effective Date ¹¹	14 January 2005
New Shares and Warrants admitted to the Official List and dealings commence	8.00 a.m. on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date
Listing of New ADRs on the New York Stock Exchange, if possible ¹²	9.30 a.m. (New York time) on the trading day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date
Crediting of New Shares and/or Warrants to CREST accounts where a valid Form of Election has been received ¹³	the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date
Date of Court hearing to sanction the New British Energy Reduction ¹⁴	18 January 2005
Date on which the New British Energy Reduction becomes Effective ¹⁴	18 January 2005
Despatch of New Share certificates and/or Warrant certificates where a valid Form of Election has been received	within 14 days of the Restructuring Effective Date
Despatch of cheques and crediting of CREST accounts in respect of proceeds of sale of New Shares and/or Warrants where no valid Form of Election has been received	within 14 days of the sale of the New Shares and/or Warrants

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- 1 These times and dates (including the Restructuring Effective Date and the date of Admission) are indicative only, are based on the Company's current best case expectation and will depend, amongst other things, on the timetable fixed by the Court, whether either of the Court Meetings or the Extraordinary General Meeting are adjourned, the date upon which the Court allocates a hearing for the sanction of the Members' Scheme, whether objections are lodged in respect of the Members' Scheme or Creditors' Scheme, and the date on which steps are taken to make the Members' Scheme Effective. If any of these times and/or dates change, the revised times and/or dates will be notified to Shareholders by announcement on a Regulatory Information Service and on the Company's website at www.british-energy.com. All times stated in this document are London times.
- 2 Forms of Proxy for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting not returned by this time may be handed to the chairman at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting.
- 3 Forms of Proxy for the A Share Court Meeting not returned by this time may be handed to the chairman at the A Share Court Meeting.
- 4 Only those Ordinary Shareholders who are entered on the relevant register of members of the Company as holders of Ordinary Shares at the Voting Record Time will be entitled to vote at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting.
- 5 Only those A Shareholders who are entered on the relevant register of members of the Company as holders of A Shares at the Voting Record Time will be entitled to vote at the A Share Court Meeting.
- 6 In accordance with Regulation 41 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 and the articles of association of the Company, only those Ordinary Shareholders entered on the relevant register of members of the Company as at the Voting Record Time shall be entitled to attend or vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting in respect of the number of shares registered in their name at that time. Changes to entries on the relevant register of members after the Voting Record Time shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 7 To commence at the time fixed or, if later, immediately following the conclusion or adjournment of the preceding Court Meeting.
- 8 New Shares and/or Warrants will only be issued to Shareholders who return valid Forms of Election before this time.
- 9 Only Scheme Shareholders entered on the relevant register of members of the Company at the Scheme Record Time as holders of Ordinary Shares or A Shares will be entitled to New Shares and Warrants if the Members' Scheme becomes Effective.
- 10 Only Shareholders entered on the relevant register of members of the Company at the Disposal Record Time as holders of Ordinary Shares or A Shares will be entitled to Warrants if the Members' Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal Resolution is passed.
- 11 This date is indicative only and is based upon the Company's current best case expectation and may change as a result of, amongst other things, any of the factors outlined in note 1 above.
- 12 On 28 September 2004, the NYSE suspended trading in British Energy ADRs and commenced proceedings to permanently delist British Energy ADRs from the NYSE. British Energy has appealed the NYSE's decision. If the Members' Scheme does not become Effective or if neither British Energy nor New British Energy are able to meet the NYSE's relevant listing criteria on or prior to Admission, New ADRs will not be issued or listed on the NYSE on Admission of the New Shares. In that event, New British Energy has agreed to take all reasonable steps to apply for a listing of New ADRs on the NYSE at such time following Admission as New British Energy satisfies the NYSE listing criteria. In such circumstances, however, New British Energy will be required to satisfy the NYSE's listing criteria for new securities, including minimum public float and minimum shareholder eligibility requirements that New British Energy may not be able to satisfy immediately after Admission.
- 13 New Shares and/or Warrants will only be credited to CREST accounts on this date if the relevant Shareholder has made a valid Shareholder Election. Warrants in respect of Shareholders who have made a Deemed Election will be credited to CREST accounts within 14 days of the

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Restructuring Effective Date.

- ¹⁴ The New British Energy Reduction, which is more fully described in paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document, requires the sanction of the Court and the Court order confirming the New British Energy Reduction to be filed with the Companies Registrar and registered by him. It is anticipated that these steps will take place on the dates indicated although the dates may change depending on, amongst other things, the timetable fixed by the Court.

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DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply throughout this document, unless the context otherwise requires:

A Share Court Meeting	the meeting of holders of A Shares convened by order of the Court pursuant to section 425 of the Act to consider and, if thought fit, approve the Members Scheme, and any adjournment thereof
A Shareholders	the holders of A Shares
A Shares	the A Shares of 60p each in the capital of the Company
Act	the Companies Act 1985 (as amended)
Admission	admission of the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds to the Official List of the UKLA and their admission to trading on the London Stock Exchange plc's market for listed securities
ADR Depository	JPMorgan Chase Bank
AGR	advanced gas-cooled reactor
Amended Credit Agreement	the credit agreement originally dated 13 July 2000 as amended and/or restated on 8 September 2000, 24 October 2000, 12 December 2000, 5 February 2001 and on or about the Restructuring Effective Date between, amongst others, EPL, Barclays Bank PLC as agent and security trustee and certain financial institutions
AmerGen	AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
Barclays	Barclays Bank plc
BEG	British Energy Generation Limited
BEG UK	British Energy Generation (UK) Limited
BEPET	British Energy Power and Energy Trading Limited
BNFL	British Nuclear Fuels plc
Board	the board of directors of the Company or a duly appointed committee thereof
Bondholder	the holder of the ultimate beneficial interest in a Bond
Bondholder Meetings	the separate meetings of the holders of each series of Bonds at which the Bondholder Resolutions will be proposed
Bondholder Resolutions	the resolutions which will be proposed to Bondholders to, amongst other things, authorise the Bond Trustees to vote in respect of the Creditors Scheme
Bondholder Restructuring Agreement	the agreement entered into on 14 February 2003 between the Company, BEG and BEG UK and certain Bondholders as amended and/or extended from time to time

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Bonds	all or any of the outstanding £109,861,000 5.949 per cent. guaranteed bonds of the Company due 2003 (the 2003 Bonds); the £163,444,000 6.077 per cent. guaranteed bonds of the Company due 2006 (the 2006 Bonds); and the £134,586,000 6.202 per cent. guaranteed bonds of the Company due 2016 (the 2016 Bonds)
Bond Trustees	in relation to the 2003 Bonds, the Law Debenture Trust Corporation p.l.c., in relation to the 2006 Bonds, the Law Debenture Intermediary Corporation plc and in relation to the 2016 Bonds, Law Debenture Trustees Limited
Brandes	Brandes Investment Partners, LLC
British Energy ADRs	American depositary receipts evidencing American depositary shares issued by the ADR Depositary pursuant to the terms of the British Energy ADR Deposit Agreement. Each such American depositary share represents a beneficial interest in 75 British Energy Shares
British Energy ADR Deposit Agreement	the agreement by and among British Energy, the ADR Depositary and the holders from time to time of British Energy ADRs issued thereunder dated as of 18 March 2003
British Energy Group	prior to the Restructuring Effective Date, British Energy and its subsidiaries from time to time
British Energy Group plc Share Plans	the British Energy Group plc Executive Plan, the British Energy Group plc Employee Plan, the British Energy Group plc Share Incentive Plan and an associated trust, the British Energy Group plc Sharesave Scheme, the LT Plan and the Interim Bonus Plan
British Energy Option Schemes	the British Energy No. 1 Share Option Scheme (an Inland Revenue approved discretionary executive share option scheme), the British Energy No. 2 Share Option Scheme (an unapproved discretionary executive share option scheme), the British Energy No. 3 Share Option Scheme (an Inland Revenue approved discretionary executive share option scheme) and the British Energy Sharesave Scheme (an all employee savings-related option scheme for British Energy employees)
British Energy or Company	British Energy plc incorporated in Scotland with registered number 162273
British Energy Shares	the Ordinary Shares and the A Shares
Bruce Power	Bruce Power Limited Partnership
Business	the entire business of the Company, including all of its assets (except for the non-voting shares held by it in each of New British Energy and Holdings plc) and shares in its subsidiaries
Business Day	a day on which banks are open for general business (other than a Saturday or Sunday) in London and Edinburgh
Business Transfer Agreement	the agreement dated 8 October 2004 between the Company and Holdings plc to effect the Disposal

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Commission	the European Commission
common market	the common market established through the Economic Community Treaty which came into force in 1958, as amended from time to time
Companies Registrar	the registrar or other officer performing under the Act the duty of registration of companies in Scotland and including a deputy registrar
Consenting Bondholder	each Bondholder who is either a party to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or agrees to be bound by the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement as if he were a party thereto and Consenting Bondholders means all of them
Continuing Group	following completion of the Disposal, British Energy
Convertible Shares	the convertible ordinary shares of 10p each in the capital of New British Energy which will be issued to the NLF pursuant to the exercise of the NLF Conversion Right
Court	the Court of Session, Parliament House, Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RF
Court Meetings	the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the A Share Court Meeting
Creditor Restructuring Agreement	the agreement dated as of 30 September 2003 entered into by, amongst others, the Company, BEG, BEG UK and the Creditors (as amended or extended from time to time)
Creditors	the Significant Creditors, RBS, Bondholders, the Eggborough Banks and BNFL
Creditors Order	the order of the Court sanctioning the Creditors Scheme
Creditors Scheme	the scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Act pursuant to which the Scheme Creditors will compromise their claims (including the claims of Bondholders) against the Company in return for, amongst other things, the issue of New Shares and New Bonds
Creditors Scheme Circular	the circular to Scheme Creditors containing an explanatory statement in relation to the Creditors Scheme in compliance with section 426 of the Act
Creditors Scheme Meeting	the meeting of Scheme Creditors convened by order of the Court pursuant to section 425 of the Act to consider and, if thought fit, approve the Creditors Scheme, and any meeting reconvened following an adjournment thereof
CREST	the relevant system (as defined in the CREST Regulations) in respect of which CRESTCo is the operator (as defined in the CREST Regulations)
CRESTCo	CRESTCo Limited
CREST Regulations	the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/3755) including any modifications thereof or any regulations in substitution therefor

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CTA Bonds	the £150 million 7 per cent. bond issued by Holdings plc pursuant to the Restructuring and to be held by EPL
Decommissioning Default Payment	the payment which may become immediately due and payable if, in any financial period, BEG, BEG UK, New British Energy, Holdings plc, any of the guarantors under the Guarantee and Indemnity or any of the guarantors of the New Bonds is subject to an event of default under the Contribution Agreement
Deemed Election	(a) if the Members Scheme becomes Effective, the deemed election by a Scheme Shareholder to have the Warrants to which such Scheme Shareholder will be entitled registered in his or her name if the Company or New British Energy is advised that the Share Price is less than the Subscription Price; or (b) if the Members Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal Resolution is passed, the deemed election by a Shareholder to have the Warrants to which such Shareholder will be entitled registered in his or her name if the Company or New British Energy is advised that the average price which could reasonably be expected to be obtained for the sale of the New Shares arising from the exercise of the Warrants to be sold is less than the Subscription Price
Directors	the directors of the Company, whose names appear on page 71 of this document
Disposal	the sale by British Energy of its Business to Holdings plc
Disposal Record Time	6.00 p.m. on the Business Day immediately prior to the Restructuring Effective Date
Disposal Resolution	the ordinary resolution to approve the Disposal which holders of Ordinary Shares are being invited to pass at the Extraordinary General Meeting
Disposed Group	the subsidiaries of the Company to be sold to Holdings plc pursuant to the Disposal
ECTEF	Enron Capital & Trade Europe Finance LLC
Effective	the making of the Creditors Scheme or the Members Scheme (as the case may be) effective by delivering the Creditors Order to the Companies Registrar or by the delivery to, and the registration by, the Companies Registrar of the Members Order
Eggborough Banks	the lenders and swap providers in the syndicate of banks under the Amended Credit Agreement
Eggborough Station	the coal-fired power station in North Yorkshire, England owned by EPL

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Election Return Time	the latest time by which (a) Form(s) of Election need(s) to be returned to the Registrars, being 6.00 p.m. on the Business Day immediately prior to the Restructuring Effective Date (or such later date as the Company may agree)
Employee Options	the options or other entitlements to New Shares under the British Energy Group plc Share Plans
EPHL	Eggborough Power (Holdings) Limited
EPL	Eggborough Power Limited
Euratom Treaty	the treaty of 1955 establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, as amended
Exelon	Exelon Generation Company, LLC
Explanatory Statement	the explanatory statement in relation to the Members Scheme in compliance with section 426 of the Act and which can be found in Part II of this document
Extraordinary General Meeting or EGM	the extraordinary general meeting of the Company to be held at 12 noon on 22 December 2004 and any adjournment thereof
Filing Conditions	the conditions which need to be satisfied before the necessary steps may be taken to make the Creditors Scheme Effective and, if the Members Scheme is approved by Shareholders, before the necessary steps may be taken to make the Members Scheme Effective, as set out in Part IV of this document
Form(s) of Proxy	the form(s) of proxy in relation to each of the Court Meetings and the EGM accompanying this document
Form(s) of Election	the form(s) of election in relation to the Shareholder Election accompanying this document
Government	Her Majesty's Government of the UK
Government Facility	the credit facility which was granted to the Group on 9 September 2002 in order to provide working capital and to support trading operations (as amended and restated from time to time)
Government Restructuring Agreement	the agreement entered into between, amongst others, British Energy, the Secretary of State, NDF (to be renamed the NLF) and the trustees of the Nuclear Trust on 1 October 2003, setting out the circumstances in which the Secretary of State will support the Restructuring (as amended or extended from time to time)
Group	as the context requires, prior to the Restructuring Effective Date, the British Energy Group and from the Restructuring Effective Date, the New British Energy Group
Holdings plc	British Energy Holdings plc incorporated in Scotland with registered number 270186
Initial Conditions	the conditions which had to be satisfied before the Schemes could be proposed to Scheme Creditors and Scheme Shareholders respectively

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Initial Shareholder	Robert Armour (Company Secretary of the Company and New British Energy) and his nominee
Interim Bonus Plan	the British Energy Group plc 2005 Interim Deferred Bonus Plan
Lapses or Lapsed	in relation to the Members Scheme the failure to: (a) obtain approval of the requisite majority of Scheme Shareholders; or (b) obtain the sanction of the Court; or (c) make the Members Scheme Effective, in circumstances where the Company, acting reasonably, decides that as a result the Members Scheme is not capable of becoming Effective in accordance with its terms before the Restructuring Long Stop Date
Listing Rules	the rules and regulations made by the UKLA under Part VI of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended from time to time
London Stock Exchange	London Stock Exchange plc, a company registered in England and Wales with registered number 2075721
LT Plan	the British Energy Group plc Long Term Deferred Bonus Plan
Material Adverse Change	(a) a material adverse change in the current or future business or operations, the financial or trading position, profits or prospects of: (i) the Group as a whole; or (ii) EPL; or (b) a change in the current or future business or operations, the financial or trading position, profits or prospects relating to the Group as a whole which is likely to have a material adverse effect on the value of the New Bonds, CTA Bonds, New Shares or the New EPL Arrangements
Material Company	BritishEnergy, BEG, BEG UK, BEPET or EPL
Members Order	the order of the Court sanctioning the Members Scheme

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Members Scheme

the scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Act in the form set out at the end of this document or with or subject to any modification, addition, term or condition approved or imposed by the Court

Members Scheme Resolution

the special resolution approving, amongst other things, the Members Scheme and disapplying shareholders' statutory pre-emption rights under section 89 of the Act for the purposes of giving effect to the Members Scheme, which the Ordinary Shareholders are being asked to pass

NDF

Nuclear Generation Decommissioning Fund Limited incorporated in Scotland with registered number 164685 (to be enlarged and renamed NLF)

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New ADR Deposit Agreement	the agreement by and among New British Energy, the ADR Depository and the holders from time to time of New ADRs issued thereunder
New ADRs	American depository receipts representing a beneficial interest in American depository shares issued by the ADR Depository pursuant to the terms of the New ADR Deposit Agreement, and each American depository share represents a beneficial interest in four New Shares
New Bonds	up to £550 million 7 per cent. guaranteed bonds due 2005 to 2022 issued by Holdings plc
New British Energy	British Energy Group plc incorporated in Scotland with registered number 270184
New British Energy Group	from the Restructuring Effective Date, New British Energy and its subsidiaries from time to time
New British Energy Reduction	the reduction of the share premium account of New British Energy which is to follow the Restructuring Effective Date and is intended to eliminate the deficit (if any) in the distributable reserves of New British Energy which is expected to arise as a result of the Restructuring and to provide some distributable reserves for New British Energy
New EPL Arrangements	the agreements pursuant to which the secured claims of the Eggborough Banks will be compromised, which are summarised in Part VI of the Prospectus: Further information relating to the Restructuring
New Shares	the ordinary shares of 10p each in the capital of New British Energy
New Standstill Agreement	the agreement entered into on 13 February 2004 in place of the previous standstill agreement in which RBS, Barclays Bank PLC, the Eggborough Banks, the Significant Creditors and BNFL agreed, amongst other things, that they would not take any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable by British Energy parties
NLF	Nuclear Liabilities Fund Limited (presently NDF)
NLF Cash Sweep Payment	the annual payment to be made to the NLF pursuant to the Contribution Agreement being, initially, 65 per cent. of the Group's adjusted net cash flow
NLF Conversion Right	the right of the NLF from time to time to convert all or part of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment into Convertible Shares
Non-voting Deferred Shares	the non-voting deferred shares of 60p in the capital of the Company
Notified Filing Date	the day, notified by the Company to the Creditors, on which the Company expects to file a copy of the Creditors' Order with the Companies Registrar

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Nuclear Decommissioning Agreement	the nuclear decommissioning agreement dated 29 March 1996 between Nuclear Electric (now BEG), Scottish Nuclear (now BEG UK) and the NDF
Nuclear Deed of Trust	the deed of trust dated 27 March 1996 between British Energy and the Secretary of State constituting the Nuclear Trust
NII (HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate)	a part of the Nuclear Safety Division Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive, which administers a nuclear site licence
Nuclear Liabilities Agreements	<p>(a) the historic liabilities funding agreement to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between the Secretary of State, BEG, BEG UK, New British Energy and Holdings plc (the HLFA);</p> <p>(b) the nuclear liabilities funding agreement to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between NLF, BEG, BEG UK, the Secretary of State, the Company, New British Energy and Holdings plc (the NLFA);</p> <p>(c) the contribution agreement to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between the Secretary of State, NLF, BEG, BEG UK, New British Energy and Holdings plc (the Contribution Agreement);</p> <p>(d) the option agreement to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between the Secretary of State, BEG, BEG UK, New British Energy and Holdings plc;</p> <p>(e) the Nirex option agreement to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between the Secretary of State, BEG, BEG UK and New British Energy;</p> <p>(f) the guarantee and indemnity to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between the Guarantors (as defined therein), NLF and the Secretary of State (the Guarantee and Indemnity);</p> <p>(g) the standard security over Hunterston B power station to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between BEG UK and the NLF;</p> <p>(h) the standard security over Torness power station to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between BEG UK and the NLF;</p> <p>(i) the debenture in relation to the Decommissioning Default Payment to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between the Secretary of State, the NLF and the Obligor (as defined therein);</p> <p>(j) the deed of amendment to the Nuclear Deed of Trust to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date made between the trustees of the Nuclear Trust, the Secretary of State and the Company;</p>

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	(k) the deed of termination in relation to the Nuclear Decommissioning Agreement to be dated on the Restructuring Effective Date and made between, amongst others, BEG, BEG UK, the Company and the NDF; and
	(l) the amended memorandum and articles of association of NDF to be adopted on the Restructuring Effective Date and the written resolution effecting the relevant changes
NYSE	the New York Stock Exchange
Official List	the Official List of the UKLA
Ordinary Share Court Meeting	the meeting of holders of Ordinary Shares convened by order of the Court pursuant to section 425 of the Act to consider and, if thought fit, approve the Members' Scheme, and any adjournment thereof
Ordinary Shareholders	the holders of Ordinary Shares
Ordinary Shares	the ordinary shares of 44 ²⁸ /43p each in the capital of the Company
Petition	the formal document lodged with the Court to apply for sanction of the Members' Scheme
PFIC	a passive foreign investment company, as determined in accordance with US federal income tax laws
Polygon	Polygon Investment Partners LLP
Polygon and Brandes	Polygon, Brandes and their respective associates
Prospectus	a document comprising: (i) listing particulars in relation to the issue of the New Shares and Warrants pursuant to the Schemes and other arrangements with certain of the Creditors; (ii) a prospectus in relation to the issue of Warrants pursuant to the Disposal; and (iii) listing particulars in relation to the issue of New Bonds
RBS	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
RBS Letter of Credit	the letter of credit issued on 1 December 2000 by RBS in favour of Barclays Bank PLC (as facility agent) relating to the debt service reserve obligations of EPL under the Amended Credit Agreement (as amended or restated from time to time)
Registrars	the registrars of the Company, being Lloyds TSB Registrars
Reporter	a solicitor appointed by the Court to report on the facts and circumstances of the Petition
Requisitioned EGM	the extraordinary general meeting requisitioned by Polygon and Brandes which was held on 22 October 2004

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Restricted Overseas Person

(a) a person (including an individual, partnership, unincorporated syndicate, limited liability company, unincorporated organisation, trust, trustee, executor, administrator or other legal representative) in, or resident in or any person New British Energy reasonably believes to be in, or resident in:

(i) Australia, Canada or Germany; or

(ii) any other jurisdiction (other than the UK and New Zealand) in respect of which New British Energy is advised that the allotment or issue of New Shares and/or Warrants would or might infringe the laws of that jurisdiction or would or might require compliance with any governmental or other consent or any registration, filing or other formality, which the Company or New British Energy is unable to comply with or regards as unduly onerous; or

(b) with respect only to the Warrants to be issued if the Members Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal Resolution is passed, a US person (as defined in Regulation S under the Securities Act), unless an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act, including an exemption pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act, is available

Restructuring

the restructuring of the British Energy Group pursuant to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement

Restructuring Condition

(a) the registration by the Companies Registrar of a copy of the Members Order and the delivery of a copy of the Creditors Order to the Companies Registrar for registration; or

(b) the Members Scheme having Lapsed, the delivery of a copy of the Creditors Order to the Companies Registrar for registration and the passing of the Disposal Resolution or confirmation from the UKLA that no such resolution is required; or

(c) the Members Scheme having Lapsed, the delivery of a copy of the Creditors Order to the Companies Registrar for registration where the foregoing condition has not been satisfied

Restructuring Effective Date

the date on which the Restructuring Condition is satisfied

Restructuring Long Stop Date

12 noon on 31 January 2005 (or such later date and subject to such intermediate milestones as are agreed in writing, in the case of the first such later date, by the Company, BNFL, the requisite majorities of Creditors and the Secretary of State and, in the case of any second or subsequent later date, all the parties to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Secretary of State)

RPI

the Retail Price Index, used to measure the retail price inflation in the UK

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Scheme A Shareholder	each person who appears as a holder of one or more Scheme A Shares in the relevant register of members of the Company at the Scheme Record Time
Scheme A Shares	all of the A Shares: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in issue at the date of the Members Scheme; (b) (if any) issued thereafter and prior to the Voting Record Time; and (c) (if any) issued at or after the Voting Record Time and before the making of the order by the Court for the reduction of capital which forms part of the Members Scheme in respect of which the original or any subsequent holder shall be bound by the Members Scheme or shall have agreed in writing to be bound by the Members Scheme
Scheme Creditors	RBS and each Bond Trustee, or any of them (as the case may be)
Scheme Ordinary Shareholder	each person who appears as a holder of one or more Scheme Ordinary Shares in the relevant register of members of the Company at the Scheme Record Time
Scheme Ordinary Shares	all of the Ordinary Shares: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in issue at the date of the Members Scheme; (b) (if any) issued thereafter and prior to the Voting Record Time; and (c) (if any) issued at or after the Voting Record Time and before the making of the order by the Court for the reduction of capital which forms part of the Members Scheme in respect of which the original or any subsequent holder shall be bound by the Members Scheme or shall have agreed in writing to be bound by the Members Scheme
Scheme Record Time	6.00 p.m. on the Business Day immediately prior to the Restructuring Effective Date
Scheme Shareholder	a Scheme A Shareholder or a Scheme Ordinary Shareholder
Schemes	the Members Scheme and the Creditors Scheme
Scheme Shares	the Scheme A Shares and the Scheme Ordinary Shares
SDRT	stamp duty reserve tax

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Secretary of State

Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Securities Act

the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended

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Shareholder Election	the election which a Shareholder will be required to make by completing a Form of Election in order to have New Shares and/or Warrants (as applicable) issued to him or her or his or her nominee if the Members' Scheme becomes Effective or if the Disposal Resolution is passed
Shareholders	the holders for the time being of British Energy Shares
Share Price	the average price reasonably expected by the person determined by New British Energy pursuant to the Members' Scheme to be obtained for the New Shares to be sold pursuant to the terms of the Members' Scheme
Significant Creditors	ECTEF, TPL and Total, and their respective successors in title
Special Share	as the context requires, the special rights redeemable preference share of £1 held: (a) jointly by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Scotland in each of New British Energy, Holdings plc and British Energy; (b) by the Secretary of State in BEG; or (c) by the Secretary of State for Scotland in BEG UK
State Aid	the classification of assistance granted by the Government pursuant to the Restructuring, whereby the Government undertakes to pay for: (a) certain of British Energy's liabilities under the historic spent fuel contracts with BNFL; and (b) certain decommissioning and uncontracted nuclear liabilities in so far as the NLF is unable to meet these liabilities, as being of a type which requires authorisation from the Commission before it can be granted
State Aid Approval	the decision of the Commission of 22 September 2004 as notified to the Government on 24 September 2004 that in so far as the Restructuring involves the grant of State Aid by the Government to the Group such aid is compatible with the common market and the objectives of the Euratom Treaty subject to certain conditions and compensatory measures which are set out in Part VI of the Prospectus: Further information relating to the Restructuring
Subscription Price	the amount payable in respect of a New Share for which a holder of a Warrant is entitled upon exercise of a Warrant to require subscription, such amount being 98p or such

other amount as may from time to time be applicable in accordance with the conditions of the Warrants set out in Part VIII of the Prospectus: Conditions of the Warrants

Takeover Code

The City Code on Takeovers and Mergers

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Target Amount	the target amount for the cash reserves which is required to be funded out of New British Energy Group's adjusted net cash flow in order to support the Group's collateral and liquidity requirements post-Restructuring. The initial Target Amount for the cash reserves is £490 million plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200 million
Total	TotalFinaElf Gas and Power Limited (now Total Gas & Power Limited)
TPL	Teesside Power Limited
UKLA or UK Listing Authority	the Financial Services Authority acting in its capacity as the competent authority for the purposes of Part VI of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 as amended or any successor act
United Kingdom or UK	the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States or US	the United States of America, its territories and possessions, any State of the United States and the District of Columbia
VAT	value added tax
Voting Record Time	6.00 p.m. on the second day before the date of the Court Meetings or, if either the Ordinary Share Court Meeting or the A Share Court Meeting are adjourned, 48 hours before the time appointed for the relevant adjourned meeting
Warrant Instrument	the instrument by way of deed poll constituting the Warrants
Warrants	the warrants to be issued by New British Energy pursuant to the Restructuring entitling the holder to subscribe for New Shares

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PART I

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF BRITISH ENERGY

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

(Registered in Scotland No. 162273)

Registered Office:

3 Redwood Crescent

Peel Park

East Kilbride

G74 5PR

Directors:

Adrian Montague CBE

Mike Alexander

Roy Anderson

Stephen Billingham

William Coley

Pascal Colombani

John Delucca

Ian Harley

David Pryde

Clare Spottiswoode CBE

Sir Robert Walmsley

29 November 2004

To shareholders of British Energy plc

Dear Shareholder,

Proposed Restructuring of British Energy plc

1. Introduction

On 1 October 2003, we announced that we had entered into two conditional agreements with certain of our key creditors and the Secretary of State setting out the terms of the Restructuring of the British Energy Group. These agreements are the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement.

Pursuant to the Restructuring, certain creditors of the British Energy Group have agreed to extinguish their claims against companies within the British Energy Group in exchange for the issue to them of New Shares and New Bonds. In order to implement the Restructuring, it is proposed that we become a wholly-owned subsidiary of New British Energy by means of the Members Scheme which will require the approval of our Ordinary and A Shareholders, and sanction by the Court. If the Members Scheme is not approved, then we are required to implement the Restructuring by disposing of all of our Business to Holdings plc (a subsidiary of New British Energy) in exchange for Holdings plc agreeing to assume all of our liabilities. In view of its size, the Disposal would, if we were listed at the time of such Disposal, constitute a Class 1 transaction for the purposes of the Listing Rules requiring the approval of our Ordinary Shareholders. Even though we are no longer listed we are seeking this approval at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

On 3 September 2004, two groups of shareholders together holding 10.22 per cent. of our Ordinary Shares, requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting of the Company. The resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes sought to stop us from taking certain actions which may be necessary to implement the Restructuring. In response, certain of

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our Bondholders commenced proceedings in London against Polygon and Brandes for, amongst other things, the tort of procuring or inducing a breach of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or otherwise interfering with its due performance. We too commenced proceedings against Polygon and its associates in New York in relation to an SEC filing required to be made by Polygon in relation to its interests in British Energy.

On 23 September 2004, we sent you a circular notifying you of our intention to apply for the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares and on the following day we sent a further circular to you containing the notice of the Requisitioned EGM. Having considered our recent circulars, on 30 September 2004 Polygon stated that it now believed that there was no commercial logic for it supporting the resolutions to be considered at the Requisitioned EGM and consequently confirmed that it would vote against the resolutions to be put to the Requisitioned EGM and that it would not further oppose the Restructuring. On that day, we announced that we would be withdrawing our action against Polygon in New York and that the Bondholders had agreed terms to stop the proceedings in London insofar as they related to Polygon.

Brandes subsequently announced on 6 October 2004 that it was not going to pursue the matter further for the time being but that it would continue to monitor events so that it may take appropriate steps to promote the legitimate interests of its clients.

Following our application for the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares from the Official List, the UKLA cancelled those listings with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and 20 October 2004 was the last day of dealings in British Energy Shares on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. Although we are, therefore, exempt from the continuing obligation provisions of the Listing Rules which apply to issuers of equity securities, we are intending to comply with these obligations (other than the requirement to seek shareholder approval for significant transactions such as the Disposal) as if the listings had not been cancelled. As the listings of the Bonds have not been cancelled, we do remain subject to the continuing obligation provisions of the Listing Rules which apply to issuers of specialist debt securities.

The Requisitioned EGM was held on 22 October 2004 following which we announced that none of the resolutions that had been proposed at the Requisitioned EGM had been passed.

On 12 October 2004, we announced that the Initial Conditions had been satisfied, including the receipt by the Secretary of State of State Aid Approval. However, even though the Initial Conditions have been satisfied the Restructuring does remain subject to a number of significant uncertainties and the satisfaction of a number of other important conditions which are set out in Part IV of this document.

The purpose of this letter is to explain the reasons for the Restructuring, how it will be implemented, how it will affect you and what action you need to take. This document comprises an Explanatory Statement in relation to the Members' Scheme. It contains details of the Restructuring, the Members' Scheme and the Disposal and together with the Prospectus is designed to provide you with sufficient information to make an informed decision on whether or not to approve the Members' Scheme and the Disposal.

References to we, us, our or the Company in this letter are to British Energy.

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Prospectus which contains information about the New British Energy Group.

2. Background to and reasons for the Restructuring

We are the UK's largest generator of electricity, producing over one fifth of the UK's electricity and employing approximately 5,100 staff in the UK. The Group owns and operates eight nuclear power stations in the UK, with a combined capacity of 9,600 MW,

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and the Eggborough Station, a coal-fired power station in North Yorkshire, England, with a capacity of 1,960 MW. For a more detailed description of our business see Part I of the Prospectus: Description of the New British Energy Group .

On 5 September 2002, we announced that we had initiated discussions with the Government with a view to seeking immediate financial support and to implement a longer-term financial restructuring in the face of:

- the failure of our negotiations with BNFL which had been initiated by us to link prices paid under our fuel contracts with BNFL to wholesale electricity prices, with the aim of reducing the proportion of our costs which were fixed; and
- the Board's review of the longer term prospects of the Group.

The discussions with the Government in September 2002 resulted in the Government providing the British Energy Group with the Government Facility, intended to provide working capital for the British Energy Group's immediate requirements and to allow the British Energy Group to stabilise its trading position. (The Government Facility ceased to be available for drawing by the Group on 22 September 2004 following the issue of State Aid Approval).

On 28 November 2002, we announced that we had agreed certain restructuring principles with the Government, intended to achieve the longer-term financial viability of the Group. At that time we highlighted some of the commercial and structural factors which had caused or compounded our financial difficulties some of which the Restructuring seeks to address. These are set out in detail in paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

The principles agreed in November 2002 formed the basis for the Restructuring and included a timetable agreed by the Board and the Government, requiring us: (i) to reach agreement in principle with Creditors on the restructuring of their claims against the Group by 14 February 2003; and (ii) to enter into a binding agreement in this regard by 30 September 2003. These principles also required us, amongst other things, to dispose of our North American assets namely, Bruce Power and AmerGen.

In accordance with the agreed timetable, on 14 February 2003 we announced that we had entered into standstill agreements and reached agreement in principle with certain Creditors for the compromise and restructuring of their claims. On that date we also announced that we had completed the disposal of our interest in Bruce Power.

Following further discussions, on 1 October 2003 we announced that we had entered into the binding Creditor Restructuring Agreement with the Creditors and the Government Restructuring Agreement with the Secretary of State, setting out the terms of the Restructuring of the British Energy Group and the circumstances in which the Secretary of State would support the Restructuring (in the event the Secretary of State allowed a one day extension to the agreed timetable to allow the agreement reached on 30 September to be documented). By 31 October 2003, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement had been acceded to by all the Eggborough Banks and Bondholders representing in aggregate with RBS 88.8 per cent. of the combined amount owing to the Bondholders and RBS.

On 23 December 2003, we announced that we had completed the disposal of our interest in AmerGen.

The Board believes that, had we not met the Government requirements for the Restructuring in accordance with the agreed timetable, we would have had to commence insolvency proceedings. The Board took the view that, had we commenced insolvency proceedings, it would have been unlikely that Shareholders would have received any return and distributions to unsecured creditors may have represented only a small fraction of their unsecured liabilities.

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The Restructuring remains subject to a number of significant uncertainties and important conditions. In particular, the Restructuring is subject to conditions and termination events, the application or occurrence of which could prevent the implementation of the Restructuring. Admission is also conditional upon the Restructuring being implemented. A summary of the remaining conditions to the implementation of the Restructuring and termination events (including the long stop dates for completion) is set out below in Part IV. We are seeking an extension of the long stop dates for completion of the Restructuring and more information about this is given in paragraph 4 below.

3. Summary of the Restructuring

Creditors

The key features of the Restructuring are as follows:

- Creditors (other than BNFL) have agreed to extinguish their unsecured claims against the Group in exchange for £275 million of New Bonds to be issued by Holdings plc and at least 97.5 per cent. of the New Shares to be issued by New British Energy;
- NLF will fund the New British Energy Group's qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying costs of decommissioning the Group's nuclear power stations. The Secretary of State will fund qualifying decommissioning costs and qualifying uncontracted liabilities to the extent they exceed the assets of the NLF, as well as qualifying contracted liabilities for historic spent fuel;
- in consideration for the assumption of the nuclear liabilities and decommissioning costs referred to above, Holdings plc will issue £275 million of New Bonds to the NLF and will also make further annual periodic payments to the NLF, including the NLF Cash Sweep Payment;
- the Eggborough Banks as lenders and swap providers with security over the Eggborough Station and the shares of EPL, have agreed to replace their existing secured claims with the right to receive payments under the Amended Credit Agreement equivalent to those payable to holders of £150 million of New Bonds (including interest and capital). In addition, they will have an option to acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL on 31 March 2010 or, prior to 31 August 2009, on or after the occurrence of an event of default that is continuing under the Amended Credit Agreement. The Eggborough Banks will also be repaid £37.5 million pursuant to the RBS Letter of Credit; and
- the BNFL contracts for front-end and back-end related fuel services to the Group's AGR stations have been amended, amongst other things, in order to link certain elements of payments under those contracts to wholesale electricity prices.

Shareholder allocation

In addition, if the Restructuring is completed, New British Energy will issue a mix of New Shares and Warrants to Shareholders on the following basis:

- if the Members' Scheme is approved by Shareholders and it becomes Effective, Shareholders will receive New Shares representing 2.5 per cent. of the issued share capital of New British Energy immediately following implementation of the Restructuring and Warrants entitling them to subscribe for New Shares equal to 5 per cent. of New British Energy's thereby diluted share capital immediately following completion of the Restructuring (excluding the impact of the Employee Options and conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment);
- if the Members' Scheme is not approved by Shareholders (or it otherwise Lapses) but Ordinary Shareholders approve the Disposal, then Shareholders will not receive any New Shares but will receive Warrants entitling them to subscribe for New Shares equal to 5 per cent. of New British Energy's thereby diluted share capital immediately following completion of the Restructuring (excluding the impact of the Employee Options and conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment); and

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- if Shareholders do not vote in favour of the Members Scheme (or it otherwise Lapses) and Ordinary Shareholder approval in respect of the Disposal is not obtained, Shareholders will receive no New Shares or Warrants.

A further summary of the Restructuring is contained in paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document and a more detailed description of the Restructuring is contained in Part VI of the Prospectus: Further information relating to the Restructuring .

4. Implementation of the Restructuring

The Restructuring entails, amongst other things, a debt for equity and debt swap involving the creation of two new holding companies, New British Energy and its subsidiary, Holdings plc. British Energy, New British Energy and Holdings plc will have the same directors. New British Energy will issue New Shares and Warrants, and Holdings plc will issue New Bonds as set out in paragraph 3 above.

Members Scheme

In order to implement the Restructuring, it is proposed that we will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of New British Energy by means of the Members Scheme. The Members Scheme requires the approval of the Ordinary Shareholders and A Shareholders and must thereafter be sanctioned by the Court. A summary of the principal terms of the Members Scheme and the requirements for its approval are set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

Disposal

If the Members Scheme is not approved, then we intend to implement the Restructuring by means of the Disposal. The Disposal involves the sale of our Business to Holdings plc in accordance with the terms of the Business Transfer Agreement. In return, Holdings plc will perform all of our obligations and will discharge all of our liabilities. Our balance sheet liabilities, in accordance with our unaudited results for the three months ended 30 June 2004, are set out in paragraph 8 below.

The Disposal would, if the British Energy Shares were listed at the time of the Disposal, constitute a Class 1 transaction for the purposes of the Listing Rules requiring the approval of Ordinary Shareholders. As mentioned above, following our application for the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares from the Official List, the UKLA cancelled these listings with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and, therefore, shareholder approval of the Disposal under the Listing Rules is no longer required. Cancellation of the listings itself, however, does not affect the terms of the Restructuring and we are, nonetheless, seeking approval of the Disposal at the Extraordinary General Meeting. Paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document contains further details relating to the cancellation of our listings. If the Disposal Resolution is passed in circumstances where the Members Scheme does not become Effective, Shareholders will be entitled to receive the Warrants as set out above.

The Restructuring is not conditional on Shareholder approval. Therefore, if the Members Scheme or the Disposal is not approved, we are required, under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, to proceed with the Disposal without the approval of Ordinary Shareholders. In this case, however, Shareholders will not receive any New Shares or Warrants.

A summary of the principal terms of the Disposal is set out in paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

Differences between Members Scheme and Disposal

Implementation of the Restructuring through the Members Scheme may provide certain tax benefits to the Group, avoids the need to transfer our Business to Holdings plc and

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avoids the need to maintain the Company as a shell company after the Disposal and pending dissolution. For this reason, if Shareholders approve the Members' Scheme and it becomes Effective they will receive both New Shares and Warrants as described above. If the Members' Scheme is not approved by Shareholders and we have to implement the Restructuring through the Disposal, the risk of disruption which may result from the need to transfer all of our Business to Holdings plc, the loss of potential tax benefits and the costs involved in administering the Company after the Disposal has been effected make this option less attractive. Accordingly, if Shareholders do not approve the Members' Scheme but pass the Disposal Resolution at the Extraordinary General Meeting and the Restructuring is completed, they will receive only the Warrants as described in paragraph 3 above.

If we proceed with the Disposal, Shareholders will remain holders of British Energy Shares but we will cease to beneficially own any assets (including shares in subsidiary companies) as these will have been transferred to Holdings plc. The British Energy Shares will, therefore, be unlisted shares in an empty shell company with no value. In due course British Energy would be wound up or struck off the register of companies on a solvent basis and there will be no further return to Shareholders.

Conditions and termination

Completion of the Restructuring is subject to a number of important conditions, including the Initial Conditions (which, as mentioned above, have been satisfied), the Filing Conditions and the Restructuring Condition. Admission is also conditional upon the Restructuring being implemented. In addition to these conditions, the Restructuring will not be implemented if either of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or the Government Restructuring Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms. Both the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement will terminate if, amongst other things, British Energy receives a valid notice from the relevant parties terminating the agreement on the basis that there is a continuing Material Adverse Change. In such circumstances the standstill arrangements, which restrict the Creditors from taking any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable to them by any member of the British Energy Group, would also terminate.

Moreover, unless otherwise agreed by the Creditors, the Secretary of State and British Energy, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement will automatically terminate, and consequently the Restructuring will not be implemented if the Creditors' Scheme has not become Effective by 31 January 2005 (or such later date as the requisite parties may agree).

Our indicative timetable for the Restructuring anticipates the Creditors' Scheme becoming Effective and Admission occurring in mid-January. However, the indicative timetable is our best case expectation and subject to change and delay (see note 1 to the Indicative Timetable of Principal Events on page 5 and the risk factors in Part III of this document). We have, therefore, decided that it is prudent to seek an extension to the present long stop dates of 31 January 2005 and have proposed terms for an extension to at least 31 March 2005 to Creditors and the Secretary of State.

The Group owes some £1.5 billion to the Bondholders, the Eggborough Banks, RBS, the Significant Creditors (currently Deutsche Bank AG) and BNFL which is stood still pending implementation of the Restructuring but which would become due and payable if the Restructuring is not completed by the long stop date of (at present) 31 January 2005. An alternative restructuring would require the agreement of these creditors and the Secretary of State and we have no assurance that such agreement would be reached. Furthermore the Board believes that any fundraising for the purpose of achieving an alternative restructuring would carry significant risks. If for any reason the Restructuring cannot be

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completed before the present or any extended long stop date and a replacement standstill cannot be agreed with creditors shortly thereafter, we would be unable to meet our financial obligations as they fall due, in which case we may have to commence insolvency proceedings. In the circumstances, the Board continues to believe that there is no reliable alternative to the Restructuring available to us.

The proposed extension of the Restructuring Long Stop Date under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement requires the agreement of holders of a majority of the claims of Bondholders and RBS, a majority of the Significant Creditors, BNFL and the holders of two-thirds of the Eggborough Banks' debt and swap claims (including Barclays). In addition, the provision of an extended RBS Letter of Credit is a condition of the proposed extension. The extension of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement also requires written resolutions of Bondholders to extend the standstill period under the terms of the Bonds to be signed by a simple majority of the holders of each series of the Bonds.

The Secretary of State is not a party to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement but, for technical reasons, her consent is required to enable that agreement to be extended in the manner contemplated. The Secretary of State's agreement is also required and is being sought to extend the long stop date for completion of the Government Restructuring Agreement.

The proposed extension will (if it becomes effective) also preserve the possibility of extension of the Restructuring Long Stop Date under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement beyond 31 March 2005 and up to 31 October 2005. However, each of those parties and majorities who are required to agree the proposed extension would have absolute discretion as to whether to object to or confirm the continuation of the extension period beyond 31 March 2005 and may require amendments to the standstill and restructuring arrangements in connection with the Restructuring being completed after 31 March 2005. The requisite parties may object to the continuation of the extension or may not give such confirmations or agree the terms (if any) upon which they or others would be willing for the Restructuring to be completed after 31 March 2005. Furthermore the agreement of the Secretary of State would be required to extend the Government Restructuring Agreement. In any event, if it were to become reasonably apparent that the Restructuring would not be completed by 31 March 2005 we are required to renegotiate the payments payable to BNFL with effect from completion of the Restructuring after 31 March 2005 under the BNFL agreements for historic spent fuel services which have been agreed on the assumption that the Restructuring would complete and these payments would commence before 31 March 2005. Subject to certain limitations, these payments are expected to be funded by the Government under the HLFA and consequently any new schedule would require agreement between us, BNFL and the Government. Consequently even if the proposed extension becomes effective there can be no assurance that any extension beyond 31 March 2005 will be available on the present terms of the Restructuring or any other terms.

If such an extension is obtained and/or if it becomes apparent that the Restructuring Effective Date will be delayed beyond 31 January 2005, we will inform Shareholders by making an appropriate announcement to a Regulatory Information Service and the press. For the avoidance of doubt, in such circumstances Admission may not occur prior to 31 January 2005 and will remain conditional on the Restructuring being implemented. However, there is no assurance that the proposed extension of the long stop dates for the Restructuring will be agreed. If for any reason we are unable to implement the Restructuring prior to the present or any extended long stop dates and a replacement standstill cannot be agreed with Creditors shortly thereafter, we would be unable to meet our financial obligations as they fall due, in which case we may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings. If we were to commence insolvency proceedings, distributions, if any, to unsecured creditors may represent only a small fraction of their unsecured liabilities and it is highly unlikely there would be any return to Shareholders.

Admission is conditional upon the Restructuring being implemented. The Filing Conditions, the Restructuring Condition and the termination events are described in more detail in the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document and in Part IV of this document.

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5. What shareholders will receive

Members Scheme

If the Members Scheme is approved by the requisite majorities of Shareholders and becomes Effective, subject to certain restrictions relating to overseas Shareholders and as further described in the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document, Shareholders will be entitled to receive:

for every 50 Ordinary Shares

1.0 New Share and

2.1 Warrants

for every 50 A Shares

1.0 New Share and

2.1 Warrants

in respect of British Energy Shares held at the Scheme Record Time.

A summary of the principal terms of the Members Scheme and the requirements for its approval are set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

Each Shareholder will receive New Shares and Warrants under the Members Scheme only if he or she elects to do so by completing the relevant Form(s) of Election or, in the case of the Warrants only, such Shareholder is deemed to have elected to receive such Warrants. If a Shareholder does not make a valid Shareholder Election or Deemed Election, the relevant New Shares and Warrants will be sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) will be remitted to the relevant Shareholder. In considering whether to make a Shareholder Election, Shareholders should bear in mind the expense involved in transactions in small numbers of securities. It is generally the case that stockbrokers' minimum commissions are around £10 to £25.

The New Shares are ordinary shares in New British Energy having the rights attaching to them which are set out in the summary of the articles of association of New British Energy in Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information . The terms and conditions of the Warrants are set out in Part VIII of the Prospectus: Conditions of the Warrants .

Disposal with Ordinary Shareholder approval

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If the Members' Scheme is not approved by the requisite majorities of Shareholders, is not sanctioned by the Court or otherwise lapses, but the Disposal Resolution is approved at the EGM then following completion of the Restructuring, Shareholders will, subject to certain restrictions relating to overseas Shareholders, be entitled to receive:

for every 50 Ordinary Shares

2.1 Warrants

for every 50 A Shares

2.1 Warrants

in respect of British Energy Shares held at the Disposal Record Time.

Each Shareholder will receive Warrants under the Disposal only if he or she elects to do so by completing the relevant Form(s) of Election or such Shareholder is deemed to have elected to receive such Warrants. In the event that a Shareholder does not make a valid Shareholder Election or Deemed Election, the relevant Warrants will be sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) will be remitted to the relevant Shareholder. In considering whether to make a Shareholder Election, Shareholders should bear in mind the expense involved in transactions in small numbers of securities. It is generally the case that stockbrokers' minimum commissions are around £10 to £25.

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The terms and conditions of the Warrants are set out in Part VIII of the Prospectus: *Conditions of the Warrants* .

Disposal without Ordinary Shareholder approval

If the Members' Scheme is not approved by the requisite majorities of Shareholders, is not sanctioned by the Court or otherwise lapses and the Disposal is not approved at the EGM, then Shareholders will not receive any New Shares or Warrants.

6. Overseas Shareholders

If you are a citizen, resident or national of, or located in, a jurisdiction outside the UK, please see paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

7. Tax

Information concerning the taxation consequences of the Members' Scheme and the Disposal is contained in paragraph 7 of Part V of this document and information concerning the taxation consequences of holding the New Shares and/or the Warrants is set out in paragraph 12 of Part X of the Prospectus: *Additional information* . Shareholders who may be liable to taxation in jurisdictions other than the UK or the US or who are in any doubt as to the taxation consequences of the Members' Scheme or the Disposal should seek advice from their own independent professional advisers.

8. Financial effects of the Disposal

Under the terms of the Disposal, Holdings plc will acquire all of our Business in exchange for agreeing to assume all of our liabilities. As at 30 August 2004, Holdings plc had net assets of £50,000. Holdings plc did not trade prior to that date and therefore has no previous earnings. As at 30 June 2004, we had total assets of £2,559 million and total liabilities of £5,840 million. In the 3 month period ended 30 June 2004, we had a loss after tax and exceptional items of £115 million. Following the Disposal we would have no assets and our liabilities will be covered by the indemnity from Holdings plc described in paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

Shareholders should not rely on this summary information and should read this entire document and the accompanying Prospectus. The net asset information for Holdings plc has been extracted without adjustment from the Accountants' Report set out in Section 4 of Part IV of the Prospectus: *Financial information* , and the figures relating to our total assets, total liabilities, and loss after tax and exceptional items have been extracted without material adjustment from our results for the three months ended 30 June 2004 which are set out in Section 2 of Part IV of the Prospectus: *Financial information* .

9. Current trading and prospects

Trading at the time of the announcement of the Restructuring

At the time of the announcement of the outline terms of our Restructuring on 28 November 2002, the wholesale market price for electricity had been £17.0 per MWh for delivery in 2003/04 whilst average unit operating costs (including those relating to the Eggborough Station) for the six months ending 30 September 2002 were approximately £19.9 per MWh. In short, as a result of our high fixed cost base (particularly the costs associated with our fuel) on a per MWh basis, our costs of producing electricity were exceeding our achieved selling price. We entered into the agreements with Creditors and the Secretary of State in October 2003 in order to avoid administration in circumstances where no other viable option was available to the Group. The agreements provide the best that we could negotiate for Shareholders at the time. We believe the only alternative would have been for us to take appropriate insolvency proceedings under which any distribution to Shareholders would have been highly unlikely.

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At the time of the announcement of the formal terms of the Restructuring on 1 October 2003 we had contracted to sell our electricity for the remainder of that financial year at what we also estimated at that time would be an average price of £17.1 per MWh. At that time, we had entered into fixed price contracts for summer 2004 and winter 2004/2005 in relation to approximately 50 per cent. of our output for 2004/05 at an average price of £18.3 per MWh and altogether had contracts to sell approximately 90 per cent. of our output for that period. Taken together with the partial hedge provided by the new BNFL contracts (assuming the market price could fall below £21.0 per MWh), this meant we would only be 8 per cent. exposed to fluctuations in the wholesale electricity price. The prevailing market price at the time had been £21.6 per MWh for 2004/05.

The wholesale market price for electricity has increased significantly compared to the price at the time that the Restructuring was announced. This increase in the wholesale price for electricity, together with key elements of the Restructuring, details of which are set out in summary in the bullet points on the second half of page 9 and on page 10 of the Prospectus (and which are dealt with more fully in Part VI of the Prospectus: Further information relating to the Restructuring) mean that the outlook for the Group has improved since the announcement made on 28 November 2002, although this has been offset by declines in output.

Current, financial and trading prospects of the Group

Nuclear output was 15 TWh (a 67 per cent. load factor) for the three-month period ended 30 June 2004, 28.7 TWh (a 68 per cent. load factor) for the six-month period ended 30 September 2004 and 33.1 TWh (a 67 per cent. load factor) for the seven-month period ended 31 October 2004. The UK nuclear output for the equivalent periods in 2003 was 17.0 TWh (an 82 per cent. load factor), 33.3 TWh (a 79 per cent. load factor) and 37.9 TWh (a 77 per cent. load factor). The reduction on the previous year, and in the second quarter of this year compared to the first quarter, has been primarily due to unplanned outages.

During the three-month period ended 30 June 2004 and the six-month period ended 30 September 2004, investment expenditure on plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole Group, including incremental costs associated with PIP, totalled £32m and £64m respectively of which we estimate that £17m and £32m respectively may have been capitalised, with the main projects in the period including replacement of cast iron pipework, fuel route improvements and the implementation of the work management programme. As a result of the FRS 11 impairment review in the financial year ended 31 March 2003, all expenditure of a capital nature has been expensed and will continue to be expensed until such time as it is possible to demonstrate that it results in an enhancement to the carrying value of fixed assets.

As indicated above, we had already contracted to sell much of our planned nuclear output for the current year during the previous financial year and have had to buy back power. Therefore we have not seen the full benefit of the recent rises in electricity prices. These factors, as well as increased pension costs and an increased depreciation charge related to the impairment reversal made in March 2004, have had a significant adverse impact on our profitability and cash flow. In view of the recent unplanned outages and the delayed return to service of our Hartlepool and Heysham 1 power stations, the Directors consider that the outlook for the Company's financial and trading prospects for the remainder of the financial year will be challenging.

The principal factors affecting the financial and trading prospects of the Group for the current financial year are: output, nuclear unit cash costs, sales, PIP (see below), and cash and liquidity.

Following the unplanned outage at Heysham 1 in early 2004, as a result of cast iron pipework failure, we reviewed the implications for further cast iron pipework replacement at our other nuclear power stations and, accordingly, on 19 March 2004 we announced

that

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our indicative target for nuclear output for 2004/2005 was reduced from 67 TWh to 64.5 TWh. We have suffered a number of unplanned outages since that date and following the evaluation of structural inspections carried out during a statutory outage at Hartlepool, we decided that further work was required to demonstrate the integrity of certain boilers. On 30 July 2004, we announced that we had revised our target nuclear output for 2004/2005 to around 61.5 TWh. However, following discussions with the NII concerning our programme of works at Hartlepool and Heysham 1, we currently expect that Hartlepool and Heysham 1 will not return to service until later this calendar year and consequently we expect nuclear output of 59.5 TWh in the financial year ending 31 March 2005 (as we announced on 18 November 2004). Based on New British Energy's business plans, we further expect the average annual nuclear output over the next 3 financial years (including this financial year) to be approximately 61.8 TWh.

Subject always to its continuing obligations as a listed company, New British Energy proposes to publish information regarding the Group's output on a quarterly basis at the same time as it publishes the results for that quarter (rather than on a monthly basis) and it does not propose to make further forward-looking statements regarding the Group's proposed annual output during a financial year.

Based on an average annual nuclear output over the next 3 financial years of approximately 61.8 TWh, our average nuclear unit cash costs are projected to be £19.1 per MWh at current price levels. These costs have increased since the October 2003 announcement as a result of the reduction in output, the higher level of projected investment and the costs of PIP referred to below, the increase in electricity prices and inflation. The rise in electricity prices impacts our nuclear unit cash costs because under the new arrangements for back-end fuel services we are now making additional payments to BNFL. This will continue for so long as electricity prices remain above £16.0 per MWh (in 2002/2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI).

As of 22 November 2004 contracts were in place covering virtually all of the planned output for the financial year ending 31 March 2005, of which nearly all are at fixed prices. The average price for these fixed price contracts is £21.0 per MWh. For 2005/2006, contracts are in place for approximately two-thirds of planned generation, with approximately half of these being at fixed prices at an average price of approximately £25 per MWh. The market price for forward baseload contracts has continued to rise and the wholesale price for annual contracts with delivery in 2005/2006 has risen from around £24.5 per MWh at the end of March 2004 to over £30.0 per MWh by 22 November 2004, an increase of some 20 per cent. Whilst there is no guarantee that these prices will continue to prevail they are comfortably above our estimates of average nuclear unit cash costs.

In August 2003 we brought together a team within British Energy and engaged a consortium of experienced external consultants, to design and implement a far-reaching performance improvement programme (PIP). By putting in place and implementing this programme, which in essence involves investing in our people, processes and plant, we are aiming to increase the degree of reliability of our nuclear generating assets. However, because of the programme's wide ranging nature and the time and costs involved in implementing it, we do not expect to see the benefits of the hoped for improvement in operational reliability in the current or next financial year.

However, AGR power stations are unique to the UK and were built in the 1970s and 1980s by different design consortia to different design specifications. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the improvement in reliability achieved in other nuclear power station improvement programmes, upon which PIP is based and which have been undertaken on newer fleets of nuclear power stations based on non-AGR technology, will be capable of being achieved in respect of our AGR power stations.

Based on our current expectations of future electricity prices and output, and therefore our financial resources, we believe that the annual investment in plant projects, major repairs

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and strategic spares across the whole New British Energy Group, which includes incremental annual PIP expenditure of £70m to £120m, will be in the range of £200m to £250m in each of the two years ending 31 March 2006 and 2007. This compares with the range of capital expenditure of £85m to £90m announced in October 2003 which did not include any PIP expenditure, nor the costs of major repairs and strategic spares. This financial year, based on the financial resources we expect to have available to us, this investment will be in the range of £140m to £170m including incremental PIP expenditure of approximately £20m. If our financial resources are otherwise required due to unforeseen outages or changes to electricity prices and collateral requirements, we may be required to adjust our investment plans accordingly.

On 30 June 2004, net debt was £382m with gross debt standing at £883m. We had cash and liquid resources of £501m of which £321m was deposited as collateral in support of our trading activities. At 31 October 2004, the amounts were £450m and £332m respectively. We also entered into a receivables facility agreement on 25 August 2004 to provide additional liquidity and we have agreed to defer amounts due to certain suppliers in order to better match the profile of monthly expenditure with the receipt of income from the sale of electricity.

A more detailed description of the Group's current trading and prospects is set out in Part III of the Prospectus: Operating and financial review and prospects. Financial information relating to the Group and a pro forma net asset statement for the New British Energy Group are set out in Part IV of the Prospectus: Financial information and Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information respectively. Shareholders should not rely on this summary information and should read the entire document and accompanying Prospectus. Our cash and sales figures have been extracted without material adjustment from our underlying accounting and sales records used in the preparation of the financial information in Part IV of the Prospectus: Financial information and the information relating to PIP has been extracted from our own internal records regarding how we allocate our expenditure.

Prospects of the Continuing Group

If we proceed with the Disposal, the Continuing Group will cease to beneficially own any assets (including shares in subsidiary companies) as these will have been transferred to Holdings plc and we will be an empty shell company with no value. Under the terms of the Business Transfer Agreement we are required to make all reasonable efforts to novate all relevant contracts to which the Continuing Group is a party and until such novation can be effected Holdings plc will indemnify the Continuing Group against any liability in connection with the liabilities assumed by Holdings plc or arising from the ownership or operation of the Business. In due course the Continuing Group would be wound up or struck off the register of companies on a solvent basis and there will be no further return to Shareholders.

10. **Dividend policy**

The board of New British Energy intends to distribute to shareholders as much of New British Energy's available cash flow as prudently possible, but not until operational requirements of the business permit. In addition, under the terms of the Restructuring, there are certain restrictions on, or factors affecting, the board's ability to pay dividends including:

- New British Energy is required to fund cash reserves out of its net cash flow in order to support the New British Energy Group's collateral and liquidity requirements post-Restructuring. The initial target amount for the cash reserves is £490 million plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200 million. Prior to paying any dividends, New British Energy's cash needs to equal or exceed the Target Amount and certain other amounts specified in the

Contribution Agreement;

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- the terms of the Contribution Agreement also require that once the cash reserve is funded to the Target Amount, New British Energy must make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment. Initially this is 65 per cent. of the New British Energy Group's adjusted net cash flow (calculated on the basis set out in the summary of the Contribution Agreement in paragraph 17.2(e) of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information). This percentage may be adjusted for certain corporate actions but may never exceed 65 per cent. The requirement to make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment will greatly reduce the amount of cash that would otherwise be available for distribution to Shareholders. In addition, New British Energy may not pay any dividends without making an additional payment to the NLF if the result of paying such dividend would be that the aggregate amount of dividends paid to shareholders in the period following the Restructuring would exceed the aggregate of New British Energy's annual adjusted net cash flow in such period less the aggregate NLF Cash Sweep Payments payable in such period;
- the terms of the New Bonds contain certain covenants (which are described in detail in Part VII of the Prospectus: Terms and conditions of the New Bonds), including a restriction that allows New British Energy to pay a dividend only if the Target Amount is met and no event of default has occurred; and
- New British Energy must have distributable reserves.

As a result of these restrictions and after making a prudent allowance for collateral requirements the directors of New British Energy consider that the earliest period for which a dividend may be declared is the financial year ending 2007. A further description of New British Energy's dividend policy is set out in Part III of the Prospectus: Operating and financial review and prospects .

11. New British Energy reduction of capital

Shortly after the Restructuring Effective Date, New British Energy will seek to reduce its share premium account with the sanction of the Court. The New British Energy Reduction is intended to eliminate the deficit (if any) in the distributable reserves for New British Energy which may arise as a result of the Restructuring and to provide some distributable reserves for New British Energy to pay dividends to shareholders in the future. Further details relating to the New British Energy Reduction are set out in paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

12. Directors interests

All of the Directors have been appointed directors of New British Energy and Holdings plc. If the Members' Scheme becomes Effective, New British Energy and Holdings plc will be the ultimate and immediate parent company respectively of British Energy. Information on the Directors and the interests of the Directors in British Energy Shares and prospectively in New Shares and Warrants is set out in Part V of this document.

I have a letter of appointment with British Energy dated 20 January 2003 to serve as a non-executive director for 3 years from 1 December 2002 which may be renewed for a further 3-year period at the discretion of the Board. I also have a further letter of appointment with New British Energy and Holdings plc dated 23 September 2004. The terms of my letters of appointment provide for the payment to me of an additional fee of £100,000 contingent upon a restructuring of the British Energy Group becoming effective and binding on all interested parties. It is intended that following Admission, my letters of appointment will be amended to provide for 30 per cent. of my post-Admission base fee of £150,000 per annum to be settled in shares under arrangements which remain to be agreed in detail.

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With effect from 1 September 2004, we modified our fee structure for all non-executive Directors except myself. In addition to the fees set out in paragraph 7 of Part X of the

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Prospectus: Additional information , each non-executive Director will receive £13,000 per annum payable in New Shares, such shares to be allocated quarterly in arrears. A non-executive Director may only sell his or her New Shares in equal tranches over the 3 years following grant subject to having been on the board of New British Energy for at least 12 months following the date of grant. Current non-executive Directors will each receive a single payment of £10,000 of New Shares as soon as possible after Admission. Any new non-executive Directors joining the board of New British Energy after this time will also receive a similar payment.

Once the Restructuring is implemented, the current executive Directors who are also executive directors of New British Energy may, subject to the satisfaction of certain performance targets, be entitled to a deferred bonus under the Interim Bonus Plan and thereafter under the LT Plan. Details of the Interim Bonus Plan and the LT Plan are set out in paragraph 6 of Part V and in paragraph 8 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

In the event that the Restructuring does not go ahead as planned, Roy Anderson s service agreement entitles him to participate in a broadly comparable bonus plan to the Interim Bonus Plan and LT Plan.

Stephen Billingham s service agreement entitles him, subject to certain conditions, to a single payment of £200,000 in June 2005 provided that he has not voluntarily left the employment of British Energy before 30 June 2005 or has received notice of termination before that date. In the event that shares in New British Energy are not admitted to the Official List by 31 March 2006, Stephen Billingham will receive a further payment of £400,000 during April 2006. This payment will be offset against any awards due to Stephen Billingham under any bonus/incentive plan in operation for the financial years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

Save as set out above there are no other awards or bonuses that will become payable to the Directors if the Restructuring becomes effective.

Paragraph 15 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document contains further details of all of the Directors interests (whether as directors or as members or as creditors of the Company or otherwise) and the effect on those interests of the Members Scheme, in so far as they may be different from the effect on the like interests of other persons.

13. Meetings

Paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document provides details of the Ordinary Share Court Meeting, the A Share Court Meeting and the Extraordinary General Meeting, which are required to approve the Members Scheme and, in the case of the Extraordinary General Meeting, the Disposal. Notices of each of these meetings are set out at the end of this document.

14. Action to be taken

A detailed explanation of the action to be taken by Shareholders is set out in paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document.

You are urged to complete and return the GREEN Form of Proxy for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting, the BLUE Form of Proxy for the A Share Court Meeting and the WHITE Form of Proxy for the Extraordinary General Meeting. For the reasons discussed in paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document, only Ordinary Shareholders will be entitled to vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting. Completed Forms of Proxy should be returned to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars as soon as possible but in any event, so as

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to arrive by 10.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 12 noon respectively on 20 December 2004. Forms of Proxy for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the A Share Court Meeting may also be handed to the chairman of the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the A Share Court Meeting respectively. However, in the case of the Extraordinary General Meeting, unless the white Form of Proxy is lodged so as to be received at least 48 hours before the meeting, it will be invalid. The lodging of a Form of Proxy will not prevent you from attending the Ordinary Share Court Meeting, the A Share Court Meeting or the Extraordinary General Meeting and voting in person should you wish to do so.

Scheme Shareholders who wish to make a Shareholder Election to have New Shares and/or Warrants issued to them or their nominee, must complete the enclosed Form(s) of Election and return it/them to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars at the address shown on the Form(s) of Election by no later than the Election Return Time. In considering whether to make a Shareholder Election, Scheme Shareholders should bear in mind the expense involved in transactions in small numbers of securities. It is generally the case that stockbrokers' minimum commissions are around £10 to £25.

There are a number of risks related to ownership of the New Shares and Warrants. Part II of the Prospectus: Risk factors contains further detail in relation to such risks.

If you have any questions relating to the proposals described in this document or the completion and return of the Form(s) of Proxy or Form(s) of Election, please contact our helpline on freephone 0800-035-0844 (or if calling from outside the UK +44 (0) 1295-225-285 (calls charged at applicable rates)), Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (UK time). The helpline cannot provide advice on the merits or otherwise of the matters described in this document, nor give any financial advice.

15. Recommendation

We entered into the agreements with Creditors and the Secretary of State in October 2003 in order to avoid administration in circumstances where no other viable option was available to the Group and the agreements provide the best that we could negotiate for Shareholders at the time. We believe the only alternative would have been for us to take appropriate insolvency proceedings under which any distributions to Shareholders would have been highly unlikely. We continue to believe there is no reliable alternative option to the Restructuring available to us.

The effectiveness of the Members' Scheme and, failing that, the implementation of the Disposal, is required for the Restructuring to be implemented. Therefore, if the Members' Scheme is not approved or the Disposal Resolution is not passed, we are required to implement the Disposal without Shareholder approval. If the Disposal is implemented, Shareholders will remain holders of British Energy Shares, but we will have disposed of all of our assets and the British Energy Shares will be unlisted securities and will not have any value.

We have decided it is prudent to seek an extension to the present Restructuring Long Stop Date of 31 January 2005 but there can be no assurance that all the requisite parties will agree the proposed extension. If for any reason the Restructuring cannot be completed before the Restructuring Long Stop Date and our current standstill arrangements are terminated and a replacement standstill cannot be agreed with Creditors shortly thereafter, we would be unable to meet our financial obligations as they fall due and consequently we may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings. If we were to commence insolvency proceedings, the distributions to unsecured creditors may represent only a small fraction of their unsecured liabilities and there is highly unlikely to be any return to Shareholders.

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The Restructuring remains subject to a number of important conditions (which are outlined in detail in Part IV below) and will result in a very significant dilution of the interests of Shareholders. Notwithstanding the above, the Directors consider that the Restructuring (implemented, if necessary, by the Disposal) and the resolutions to be proposed at the EGM are in the best interests of the Group and the Shareholders as a whole.

Even if Shareholders approve the Members Scheme it may still not become Effective for other reasons and therefore Ordinary Shareholders are encouraged to vote in favour of the Disposal as well as the Members Scheme.

In light of the difficult circumstances faced by the Group, the Directors, who have received financial advice from Citigroup Global Markets Limited, consider the Restructuring to be in the interests of the Company. In providing advice to the Directors, Citigroup Global Markets Limited has placed reliance upon the commercial assessments of the Directors.

Accordingly, the Directors unanimously support the Restructuring and recommend that Shareholders vote in favour of the Members Scheme to be approved at the Court Meetings and both the resolutions to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting, that is, the Members Scheme Resolution and the Disposal Resolution. The Directors intend to vote in favour in respect of their own beneficial holdings, amounting to 4,188 Ordinary Shares.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Montague

Chairman

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PART II

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

(in compliance with section 426 of the Companies Act 1985)

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

(Registered in Scotland No. 162273)

29 November 2004

To shareholders of British Energy plc

Dear Shareholder,

Proposed Restructuring of British Energy plc

1. Introduction

On 1 October 2003, the Company announced that it had entered into the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement setting out the terms of the proposed Restructuring of the Group with certain key creditors and the Secretary of State.

In response to the requisition from Polygon and Brandes in early September 2003, on 23 September 2003 the Company announced that it would be convening the Requisitioned EGM and on the same day sent you a circular notifying you of its intention to apply for the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares. The listings of the British Energy Shares on the Official List were cancelled by the UKLA with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and the last day of dealings in British Energy Shares on the London Stock Exchange was 20 October 2004. On 22 October 2004, the Company announced that none of the resolutions had been passed at the Requisitioned EGM.

Following the receipt on 24 September 2004 by the Secretary of State of State Aid Approval, on 12 October 2004 the Company announced that all the remaining Initial Conditions to the implementation of the Restructuring had been satisfied. Notwithstanding the satisfaction of the Initial Conditions, the Restructuring remains subject to the satisfaction of a number of other conditions which are set out in Part IV of this document. Admission is also conditional upon the Restructuring being implemented.

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Your attention is drawn to the letter from the Chairman of the Company set out in Part I of this document, which forms part of this Explanatory Statement and summarises the Restructuring and recommends to Shareholders that they vote in favour of the Members' Scheme and to Ordinary Shareholders that they vote in favour of the resolutions to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting, including the Members' Scheme Resolution and the Disposal Resolution.

2. **Background to the Restructuring**

As outlined in the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document, on 5 September 2002, the Company announced that it had initiated discussions with the Government with a view to seeking immediate financial support to enable a longer-term financial restructuring to take place. The Company decided to initiate these discussions based on several factors including various unplanned outages at the Group's nuclear power stations, the failure of negotiations with BNFL and a review of the longer-term prospects of the Group.

The discussions with the Government in September 2002 resulted in the Government providing the Group with the Government Facility, intended to provide working capital for the Group's immediate requirements and to allow the Group to stabilise its trading

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position (the Government Facility ceased to be available for drawing by the Group on 22 September 2004 following the issue of State Aid Approval).

On 28 November 2002, when the Company announced the outline terms of the proposed restructuring, it highlighted some of the commercial and structural factors which had caused or compounded its financial difficulties, some of which the Restructuring seeks to address. These are set out below:

the Group's nuclear fleet in the UK had high fixed costs of production when compared with other generators of electricity (including the costs of supplies and services under its contracts with BNFL); as a merchant generator with no retail supply business the Group was (and will remain following Admission) heavily exposed to declines in wholesale electricity prices. Significant contracts for direct sales to industrial and commercial customers were closely linked to the wholesale electricity price which meant the business was unable to withstand the significant reduction in wholesale electricity prices which fell by over 35 per cent. over the two years to September 2002. Currently, subject to and following Admission, the exposure to declines in electricity prices is partially hedged, within certain parameters, by the new BNFL contracts described in paragraph 3 below (although at current wholesale electricity price levels the Group is now making additional payments to BNFL as provided for in the new BNFL contracts);

the Group's wholesale electricity price exposure at the time was exacerbated by a power purchase agreement and two contracts for differences which magnified its exposure to baseload electricity prices. The claims of the counterparties to these arrangements are being compromised pursuant to the Restructuring in exchange for New Shares to be issued by New British Energy and New Bonds to be issued by Holdings plc;

the Group has an obligation, under its nuclear site licences, to decommission its nuclear power stations at the end of their useful lives. These liabilities were estimated to have a net present value of £1.1 billion as at 31 March 2004. Certain of the decommissioning liabilities were covered by the NDF to which the Group contributed. However, there was no certainty that this fund, at the level of contributions the Group was making, would be sufficient to cover all of the liabilities to which it related. This uncertainty will, on Admission, be substantially mitigated by the new arrangements with the Secretary of State relating to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund described in paragraph 3 below;

the Group's operations generate liabilities in respect of nuclear fuel and waste estimated at £3.5 billion for discounted contracted liabilities and £1.1 billion for discounted uncontracted liabilities (in each case as at 31 March 2004). Some of these liabilities are currently covered by long term contracts with BNFL, with the balance remaining uncontracted. These uncontracted liabilities are long term in nature and therefore subject to uncertainty. There is no guarantee that the Group's business would generate sufficient funds to cover these contracted and uncontracted liabilities. This uncertainty will be substantially mitigated on Admission by the new BNFL contracts and the new arrangements with the NLF and the Secretary of State described in paragraph 3 below;

the Eggborough Station, which was acquired out of group funds, also suffered from the reduction in wholesale electricity prices through 2001 and 2002 and the narrowing differential between winter and summer prices. The acquisition was refinanced with a project finance loan on 13 July 2000 and it was difficult for the Group to fund the repayments required. The debt owed to the providers of the project finance loan will be compromised under the terms of the Restructuring as described in paragraph 3 below;

the Group had investments in the USA and Canada but these had not generated dividends and, in the case of Canada, required significant investment. As a result,

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they had stretched the Group's financial resources. These assets have now been disposed of; and

as at 30 September 2002, the Group had indebtedness of £1,050 million (including £490 million in connection with the Eggborough Station and approximately £408 million of unsecured existing Bonds) with significant debt repayment obligations to be made in cash and as a result of the loss of the Company's investment grade rating in September 2002 the Group's cash requirements increased significantly to meet the collateral requirements of trading counterparties.

The restructuring principles agreed with the Government in November 2002 formed the basis for the Restructuring and required, amongst other things, that the Company enter into a binding agreement with its Creditors by 30 September 2003 whereby their existing claims against the Group would be extinguished in exchange for a combination of new debt and new equity in the restructured Group.

Accordingly, in October 2003 the Company announced that it had entered into binding agreements with its Creditors and with the Secretary of State setting out the terms of the Restructuring of the Group and the circumstances in which the Secretary of State would support the Restructuring.

Further details on the background to the Restructuring are set out in the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document and in the Prospectus.

3. Summary of the Restructuring

The principal elements of the Restructuring are set out below.

New Bonds and New Shares

The Creditors who signed up to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement (other than BNFL) have agreed, under the terms of that agreement, to extinguish their existing unsecured claims against the Group in exchange for £275 million of New Bonds of Holdings plc and at least 97.5 per cent. of the New Shares of New British Energy. If the Members' Scheme does not become Effective, Creditors (other than BNFL) will receive 100 per cent. of the New Shares in New British Energy immediately following implementation of the Restructuring.

The claims of Creditors will be extinguished in two ways. Firstly, the Company is proposing the Creditors' Scheme to Bondholders and RBS under which Bondholders and RBS will agree to extinguish their claims against the Group (under the Bonds and the RBS Letter of Credit) in exchange for the issue to them of New Shares and New Bonds. To become Effective, the Creditors' Scheme must be approved by a majority in number of the Bond Trustees and RBS representing three-fourths in value of their claims against the Group. Following approval of the Creditors' Scheme by the requisite majority, the Creditors' Scheme will also need to be sanctioned by the Court and the Creditors' Order filed with the Companies Registrar. The Creditors' Scheme Circular was made available to Bondholders and RBS on the same date as this document and is available for inspection at the registered office of the Company.

Secondly, the Significant Creditors and the Eggborough Banks (in respect of their unsecured claims only) have agreed to extinguish their claims against the Group in exchange for New Bonds and New Shares pursuant to the operation of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement itself.

Eggborough Arrangements

The Eggborough Banks as lenders with the benefit of the RBS Letter of Credit and security over, amongst other things, the shares in, and assets of, EPL (the Company's subsidiary

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that owns the Eggborough Station), will be re-paid approximately £37.5 million pursuant to the RBS Letter of Credit and have agreed to replace the balance of their existing secured claims with a right to receive payments under the Amended Credit Agreement on substantially the same payment terms as £150 million of New Bonds.

In addition, the Eggborough Banks will be granted: (i) options exercisable at any time prior to 31 August 2009 under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL on 31 March 2010 in consideration for, amongst other things, £104 million (subject to certain adjustments depending on the condition of the Eggborough Station on 31 March 2010) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under the Amended Credit Agreement at such time; and (ii) options under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL at any time prior to 31 August 2009 on or after the occurrence of an event of default under the Amended Credit Agreement that is continuing in consideration for a fee (which varies depending on the type of event of default) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under the Amended Credit Agreement at such time. The Eggborough Banks will be entitled to assign and/or transfer all (but not part only) of their rights under the options to a third party, subject to a pre-emption right in favour of the New British Energy Group under which a member of the New British Energy Group may purchase such rights at 105 per cent. of the price offered to the relevant third party.

The Eggborough Banks will continue to benefit from their existing security and certain new security which will secure, amongst other things, the Eggborough Banks' rights under the Amended Credit Agreement and the options. As a result, on and at any time after the occurrence of an event of default under the Amended Credit Agreement that is continuing, the Eggborough Banks will have the right to:

- (a) prior to 31 August 2009, exercise the option or enforce their security referred to above; or
- (b) on or post 31 August 2009, enforce their security.

EPL's payments under the Amended Credit Agreement will be funded by the New British Energy Group and consequently the recovery of the Eggborough Banks on enforcement of their security should effectively equal the outstandings under the Amended Credit Agreement at the relevant time even in circumstances where the shares in, or assets of, EPL are worth less than such outstandings.

The Nuclear Liabilities Fund

Under new arrangements with the Secretary of State, the existing NDF will be enlarged into and renamed the NLF which will fund certain of the Group's qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and decommissioning costs.

The Secretary of State has agreed to fund: (i) qualifying decommissioning costs and qualifying uncontracted liabilities to the extent they exceed the assets of the NLF; and (ii) subject to certain exceptions, contracted liabilities for historic spent fuel. As at 31 March 2004, the market value of the NDF was £440 million. To the extent that there is any surplus in the NLF, this amount will be paid to the Secretary of State. The New British Energy Group will be responsible for funding certain excluded or disqualified liabilities and will, in certain circumstances, be required to compensate or indemnify the NLF and the Government in relation to such liabilities. These include, amongst other things, employment and redundancy costs, certain environmental expenses and liabilities arising from any breach by BEG or BEG UK of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 in relation to occurrences involving nuclear material or ionising radiation. Disqualified liabilities include the increases in the net present value of costs of discharging liabilities of £100,000

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(in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) or more arising out of: (i) failure by BEG and BEG UK as licensees to behave in accordance with a defined minimum performance standard; or (ii) the implementation of certain operational changes (broadly speaking where not required or anticipated to be required by law or accepted standards); and (iii)

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any such increases arising out of key operational changes where the required Nuclear Decommissioning Authority consent has not been obtained.

In consideration for the assumption of these liabilities by the Secretary of State and the NLF, Holdings plc will issue £275 million in New Bonds to the NLF and the New British Energy Group will make the following ongoing payments:

- (a) fixed decommissioning contributions equal to £20 million per annum (in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) but tapering off as the AGR nuclear power stations are currently scheduled to close;
- (b) £150,000 (stated in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to the Retail Price Index) per tonne of uranium in fuel loaded into the Sizewell B reactor after the Restructuring Effective Date; and
- (c) the NLF Cash Sweep Payment, which will be an annual contribution of, initially, 65 per cent. (subject to adjustment) of the Group's adjusted net cash flow (calculated on the basis set out in the summary of the Contribution Agreement in paragraph 17.2(e) of Part X of the Prospectus: *Additional information*). The NLF's entitlement to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment is convertible into an equity shareholding of New British Energy.

On a full conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment, the NLF would hold up to 65 per cent. of the thereby enlarged equity share capital of New British Energy. However, the terms of the Convertible Shares into which such entitlement will convert, will limit the general voting rights attaching to such shares to the maximum amount of shares as can be held without triggering a mandatory offer under the Takeover Code, being currently 29.9 per cent. of the voting rights of New British Energy (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other New Shares held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF). Paragraph 11 below contains further details on the Convertible Shares and the NLF Conversion Right.

In addition, the Secretary of State will have an option to acquire for £1 each of the Group's nuclear power stations and related station assets (subject to certain exclusions) for the purpose of decommissioning or continuing the operation of those nuclear power stations beyond the date of closure of those stations assumed by the Group (which date will include any changes to such dates in New British Energy's financial statements following the extension of current station lifetimes). An option to continue to operate a nuclear power station may (unless the New British Energy Group has given notice that it will close the station early) only be exercised at any time up to and including the date which is two years before the scheduled closure date of the station but transfer of the station pursuant to the exercise of the option cannot complete until the scheduled closure date of the station, at the earliest. The Secretary of State also has an option to acquire the Group's interest in United Kingdom Nirex Limited.

New BNFL contracts

On 31 March 2003 and 16 May 2003 respectively, the Company exchanged contracts with BNFL covering front-end AGR fuel supply (that is, fuel preparation before it enters the reactor) and back-end AGR fuel services (i.e. handling, storage and ultimate disposal of spent fuel) required to give effect to the Restructuring. The amendments to the Company's existing front-end contracts became effective on 1 April 2003 but, with the exception of the new arrangements for the supply of uranium to BEG, may be terminated if the Restructuring is not completed. The new post 2006 front-end fuel contracts, the amendments to the back-end fuel contracts and the new back-end fuel contracts are also conditional upon completion of the Restructuring.

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The pricing provisions in the new BNFL contracts are intended to enable the Group to reduce a proportion of its fuel costs by providing for a discount when the market baseload

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price of electricity is below a specified amount and a surcharge when above this amount. As electricity prices have risen substantially since October 2003, the Group is now making additional payments to BNFL under the new arrangements for spent fuel management in the form of the surcharge. This will continue for so long as electricity prices remain above £16.0 per MWh (in 2002/2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI).

Shareholder allocation

If the Restructuring is completed, New British Energy will issue a mix of New Shares and Warrants to Shareholders on the following basis:

- if the Members Scheme is approved by Shareholders and it becomes Effective, Shareholders will receive New Shares representing 2.5 per cent. of the issued share capital of New British Energy immediately following implementation of the Restructuring and Warrants entitling them to subscribe for New Shares equal to 5 per cent. of New British Energy's thereby diluted share capital immediately following completion of the Restructuring (excluding the impact of the Employee Options and conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment);
- if the Members Scheme is not approved by Shareholders (or it otherwise Lapses) but Ordinary Shareholders approve the Disposal, then Shareholders will not receive any New Shares but will receive Warrants entitling them to subscribe for New Shares equal to 5 per cent. of New British Energy's thereby diluted share capital immediately following completion of the Restructuring (excluding the impact of the Employee Options and conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment); and
- if Shareholders do not vote in favour of the Members Scheme (or it otherwise Lapses) and Ordinary Shareholder approval in respect of the Disposal is not obtained, Shareholders will receive no New Shares or Warrants.

A more detailed description of the terms of the Restructuring is contained in Part VI of the Prospectus: Further information relating to the Restructuring .

4. Cancellation of listings

On 3 September 2004, Polygon and Brandes requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting of the Company. In accordance with the Company's obligations under the Act, the Company sent a circular to you on 24 September 2004 containing notice of the Requisitioned EGM which was held on 22 October 2004. The resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes at the Requisitioned EGM sought to stop the Company from taking certain actions which may be necessary to implement the Restructuring.

One of the resolutions proposed at the Requisitioned EGM would have had the effect, if passed, of requiring British Energy to seek Shareholder approval prior to applying for the cancellation of its listings. If British Energy were required to take steps to cancel the London listing of its shares in circumstances where Shareholders do not approve the Members Scheme or the Disposal, but could not do so as a result of a failure to achieve such Shareholder approval, British Energy believed, having taken legal advice, that it would be likely to be in breach of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement.

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British Energy was informed by certain creditors to whom the Group owe significant amounts that if that happens and they could not compel the Company to perform its obligations under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, they would take steps to terminate the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the related standstill arrangements. Further they said that they would then take steps to recover amounts owing to them including taking steps to force British Energy into administration. If that had happened British Energy believed that the other creditors who are also a party to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement would also demand payment. Therefore the Group would be

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required to pay approximately £1.5 billion to Creditors. The Group did not and does not have the resources to pay that amount. As a result of such breach of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement British Energy may have been exposed to significant claims for damages for breach of contract. Moreover, because the creditors said that they would demand immediate repayment of monies which British Energy judged, for the reasons set out above, it would be unable to pay, British Energy considered that its directors would have no choice but to place British Energy into administration.

For this reason, on 23 September 2004, the Company sent you a circular, notifying you, in accordance with the Company's obligations under the Listing Rules, that the Company intended to seek cancellation and apply for the UKLA to cancel the listing of the British Energy Shares from the Official List of the UKLA at the end of the 20 Business Day notice period, such cancellation to take immediate effect. Under the Listing Rules, the Company could apply to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares from the Official List without shareholder approval.

On 30 September 2003, Polygon announced that, having considered the Company's recent circulars, it had agreed, amongst other things, to vote against the resolutions proposed at the Requisitioned EGM and not to further oppose the Restructuring. In addition, on 30 September 2004 the Company announced that it would be withdrawing its action against Polygon in the United States and that the Bondholders had agreed terms to stop the proceedings in London insofar as they related to Polygon. Brandes subsequently announced on 6 October 2004, that it was not going to pursue the matter further for the time being but that it would continue to monitor events so that it may take appropriate steps to promote the legitimate interests of its clients.

Following the Company's application for the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares from the Official List, the UKLA cancelled the listings of the British Energy Shares with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and the last day of dealings in British Energy Shares on the London Stock Exchange was 20 October 2004. The Company is not intending to apply for the UKLA to cancel the London listing of its Bonds prior to the Restructuring Effective Date.

Although the British Energy Shares are no longer listed on the Official List, the London listings of the Bonds have not been cancelled and the Company, therefore, remains subject to the continuing obligations applying to issuers of specialist debt securities under the Listing Rules. The Company is exempt from the other continuing obligation provisions of the Listing Rules which apply to issuers of equity securities but intends to comply with these obligations as if the listings of the British Energy Shares had not been cancelled. It will not, however, regard itself as being subject to the requirements of the Listing Rules to seek shareholder approval for significant transactions such as the Disposal or related party transactions. Therefore, although Ordinary Shareholders are being asked to approve the Disposal at the EGM, if the Disposal Resolution is not passed in circumstances where the Members Scheme has not become Effective, the Company will proceed with the Disposal without such approval.

Following the Company's notice to Shareholders of its intention to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares, on 28 September 2004, the NYSE suspended trading in the British Energy ADRs and instituted proceedings to permanently delist the British Energy ADRs from the NYSE. British Energy has appealed the NYSE's decision. However, there can be no assurance that the appeal will be successful.

5. The Members Scheme

In order to implement the Restructuring, it is proposed that the Company will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of New British Energy by means of the Members Scheme. The Members Scheme is a court-approved scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Act involving a reduction of capital of the Company by the cancellation of the British

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Energy Shares. At the same time the Company will also apply to the Court to reduce the Company's capital further by cancelling the valueless Non-voting Deferred Shares which were issued in connection with the return of value by the Company in 1999. In order to reduce the deficit in its profit and loss account brought about by a permanent loss of capital, the Company proposes to apply the reserve arising in its books as a result of the cancellation of the British Energy Shares and Non-voting Deferred Shares (save for 44²⁸/43p) to its profit and loss account. The 44²⁸/43p of the reserve not so applied will be used in paying up in full, at par, one new Ordinary Share which will be issued to New British Energy or its nominee and which will comprise the entire issued ordinary share capital of the Company. A single new Ordinary Share will be issued to New British Energy at par because that is all that is required to make the Company a subsidiary of New British Energy and maximises the amount of the balance of the reserve arising from the cancellation of the Company's existing Ordinary Shares which will be credited to the profit and loss account of the Company to reduce the present deficit. New British Energy has agreed to transfer the new share in the Company acquired pursuant to the Members' Scheme to Holdings plc following which the Company will be a subsidiary of Holdings plc.

The Members' Scheme requires the approval of the Ordinary Shareholders at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting and of the A Shareholders at the A Share Court Meeting, and must thereafter be sanctioned by the Court. If the requisite majority of Shareholders vote in favour of the Members' Scheme and the Members' Scheme becomes Effective, it will bind the Company and all its Shareholders whether or not they voted for the Members' Scheme.

The Non-voting Deferred Shares will not form part of the Members' Scheme and will be cancelled as part of the further reduction of capital of the Company referred to above.

The Special Share in the Company will not be cancelled and will continue to be held jointly by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Scotland. However, the provisions in the Company's articles of association relating to the Special Share will be amended to, amongst other things, reflect the fact that the holder will, following the amendments, only be able to withhold consent to certain matters if, in the holder's opinion, the matter in question would be contrary to the interests of national security.

Paragraph 8 below sets out what Scheme Shareholders will be entitled to receive if Shareholders vote in favour of the Members' Scheme and the Members' Scheme becomes Effective, the manner in which fractional entitlements to New Shares and Warrants will be dealt with as well as the Shareholder Election which Scheme Shareholders will need to make if they wish to have New Shares and Warrants issued to them or their nominees.

The full text of the Members' Scheme is set out at the end of this document.

6. Approval of the Members' Scheme

Subject to the implementation of the Restructuring, the Members' Scheme will become Effective if:

- (a) the Members' Scheme is approved by: (i) a majority in number of holders of Ordinary Shares who vote, representing three-fourths in value of the votes cast at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting (either in person or by proxy); and (ii) a majority in number of holders of A Shares who vote, representing three-fourths in value of the votes cast at the A Share Court Meeting (either in person or by proxy);

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- (b) the resolution to approve the matters necessary to effect the Members Scheme set out in the notice of Extraordinary General Meeting at the end of this document is duly passed as a special resolution;
- (c) the Members Scheme is sanctioned by the Court with or without modification and the reduction of share capital of the Company which forms part of the Members Scheme is confirmed by the Court; and

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- (d) a copy of the order of the Court sanctioning the Members Scheme and confirming the reduction of share capital is delivered to, and in relation to the reduction of share capital registered by, the Companies Registrar.

The Ordinary Share Court Meeting has been convened for 10.30 a.m. on 22 December 2004 at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ. The A Share Court Meeting has been convened for 11.30 a.m. on 22 December 2004 at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ (or as soon as possible following the conclusion or adjournment of the Ordinary Share Court Meeting).

The Court hearing of the Petition to sanction the Members Scheme is expected to be held at the earliest on 14 January 2005 at the Court although the exact date will depend on, amongst other things, the timetable fixed by the Court. The existence of the Petition will be advertised in the Scotsman, the Edinburgh Gazette, the Financial Times (the UK and international editions) and the New York Times at least 14 days before the date of the Court hearing. Any interested party (including a Scheme Shareholder) who wishes to object to the sanctioning of the Members Scheme can lodge answers to the Petition within 14 days of the date of advertisement and thereafter appear or be represented at the Court hearing to oppose the sanctioning of the Members Scheme. The Court will remit to a Reporter to enquire into the facts and circumstances of the Petition and to provide a report to the Court for its consideration.

If the Members Scheme is sanctioned by the Court, the conditions to the implementation of the Restructuring have been satisfied or waived and the Members Scheme becomes Effective, it is expected that dealings in the New Shares and Warrants will commence on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date. If the Members Scheme has not become Effective by the Restructuring Long Stop Date it will Lapse.

7. The Disposal

If the Members Scheme is not approved by Ordinary Shareholders at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the Extraordinary General Meeting, and by A Shareholders at the A Share Court Meeting or, if the Members Scheme is not sanctioned by the Court or for some other reason Lapses, the Restructuring will be effected through the Disposal.

Under the Business Transfer Agreement, the Company will sell the entire business of the Company, including all of its assets (except for the non-voting shares held by it in each of New British Energy and Holdings plc) and shares in its subsidiaries, to Holdings plc as a going concern. In consideration for such sale Holdings plc will perform the outstanding obligations under all of the Company's contracts and will satisfy or discharge all its liabilities. The Company's balance sheet liabilities, in accordance with the Company's unaudited results for the three months ended 30 June 2004, are set out in paragraph 8 of the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document. If the benefit of any of the contracts can be assigned by the Company without any person's consent, then the Business Transfer Agreement will constitute an assignment by the Company of the relevant contracts but if a contract cannot so be assigned, until the consent is obtained or a novation is achieved, the Company will hold the relevant contract and all benefits thereunder as trustee for Holdings plc and will upon receipt of any monies, goods, services or benefits account for and pay or deliver the same to the Buyer. Holdings plc will indemnify the Company against each loss, liability, cost and expense which the Company may suffer in connection with the liabilities assumed by Holdings plc or arising from the ownership or operation of the Business.

The Business Transfer Agreement will become effective only if the Members Scheme is not approved by the relevant Shareholders or otherwise Lapses. Completion of the sale of the Business under the Business Transfer Agreement will take place immediately after the Creditors Scheme has become Effective. If the Business Transfer Agreement has not been completed by the Restructuring Long Stop Date, then it will automatically terminate. The Business Transfer Agreement is summarised in

paragraph 8 of Part V of this document.

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The Disposal would, if the British Energy Shares were listed at the time of such Disposal, constitute a Class 1 transaction for the purposes of the Listing Rules requiring shareholder approval. The British Energy Shares are no longer listed on the Official List but the Company is, nonetheless, seeking the approval of Ordinary Shareholders at the Extraordinary General Meeting which has been convened for 12 noon on 22 December 2004 at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ. However, if this approval is not obtained the Creditor Restructuring Agreement requires the Company to proceed with the Disposal without shareholder approval.

A Shareholders are entitled to attend and vote at general meetings of the Company only if their preferential dividend has remained unpaid for six months or more from the date on which such payment is due. No A Share preferential dividend was due in August 2003 or August 2004 because the Company had no profits available for distribution. Consequently, A Shareholders are not entitled to attend and vote on either of the resolutions proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting, including the Disposal Resolution.

If the Members Scheme is not approved and the Company proceeds with the Disposal (either with or without Ordinary Shareholder approval), Shareholders will remain holders of British Energy Shares which will be unlisted securities. Following the Disposal, the Company will cease to beneficially own any assets (including shares in subsidiary companies) as these will have been transferred to Holdings plc and the British Energy Shares will, therefore, be unlisted shares in an empty shell company with no value. In due course the Company will be wound up or struck off the register on a solvent basis and there will be no further return to Shareholders.

8. What Shareholders will receive

The issued share capital of the Company includes Ordinary Shares and A Shares. The A Shares, in certain circumstances, have preferential rights on a liquidation over the Ordinary Shares. Since Shareholders would be highly unlikely to receive any return in a liquidation, the Company believes (and has agreed in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement), that the theoretical preferential rights of the A Shareholders on a liquidation should be disregarded for the purposes of allocating consideration between the A Shareholders and the Ordinary Shareholders. Accordingly, since each class of Shareholder will be required to vote to approve the Members Scheme, if the Members Scheme becomes Effective, any New Shares and/or Warrants offered to Scheme Shareholders will be allocated between A Shareholders and Ordinary Shareholders pro rata to shares outstanding. Similarly, if the Members Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal Resolution is passed, the Warrants to which Shareholders would be entitled will be allocated between Ordinary Shareholders and A Shareholders on the same basis. The A Shareholders who hold approximately 81 million A shares will, therefore, receive approximately 11.5 per cent. of the total allocation to Shareholders and the Ordinary Shareholders who hold approximately 621 million Ordinary Shares will receive approximately 88.5 per cent. of the total allocation to Shareholders.

Members Scheme

If the Members Scheme becomes Effective, in consideration of the cancellation of the Scheme Shares and the compromise, full and final discharge, satisfaction and cancellation of part of the liabilities owed by New British Energy to the Significant Creditors and the Eggborough Banks, and the Bondholders and RBS under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Creditors Scheme respectively, Scheme Shareholders will, subject to certain restrictions relating to overseas Shareholders, be entitled to receive:

for every 50 Scheme Ordinary Shares	1.0 New Share and 2.1 Warrants
for every 50 Scheme A Shares	1.0 New Share and 2.1 Warrants

in respect of Scheme Shares held at the Scheme Record Time.

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If the resulting number of New Shares and Warrants allocated to a Scheme Shareholder is not a whole number, the number of New Shares and Warrants receivable by a Scheme Shareholder will be rounded down to the nearest whole number. Fractional entitlements for New Shares and Warrants will not be issued to Scheme Shareholders or on their behalf. Instead, fractional entitlements for New Shares will be aggregated and sold in the market and the net proceeds will be distributed pro rata to the Scheme Shareholders entitled thereto. Consequently, any Scheme Shareholder entitled to less than one New Share under the Members Scheme will only be entitled to the net proceeds of his or her fractional entitlements. Fractional entitlements to Warrants will not be sold in the market and consequently Scheme Shareholders will not receive any net proceeds of sale of their fractional entitlements.

Each Scheme Shareholder will receive New Shares and Warrants under the Members Scheme only if he or she elects to do so by completing a Form of Election. In addition, every Scheme Shareholder shall be deemed to have elected to have the Warrants allotted to him or her pursuant to the Members Scheme, if the Company is advised that the Share Price is less than the Subscription Price. If a Scheme Shareholder does not make a valid Shareholder Election or Deemed Election, the relevant New Shares and Warrants will be sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) will be remitted to the relevant Scheme Shareholder. In considering whether to make a Shareholder Election, Scheme Shareholders should bear in mind the expense involved in transactions in small numbers of securities. It is generally the case that stockbrokers' minimum commissions are around £10 to £25.

A Shareholder Election or a Deemed Election will not be valid and a Scheme Shareholder will not be entitled to receive New Shares and Warrants if he or she is a Restricted Overseas Person. In such event, the relevant New Shares will be sold in the market at the best price obtainable with the net proceeds remitted to the relevant holder. The relevant Warrants will either: (i) be sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) remitted to the relevant holder; or (ii) exercised and the resulting New Share sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) remitted to the relevant holder.

The New Shares to which the Scheme Shareholders will be entitled under the Members Scheme will, in aggregate, represent 2.5 per cent. of the issued share capital of New British Energy immediately following the implementation of the Restructuring. The New Shares are ordinary shares in New British Energy having the rights attaching to them which are set out in the summary of the articles of association of New British Energy in Part X of the Prospectus: [Additional information](#) .

Each Warrant will entitle the holder to subscribe 98p for one New Share. The Warrants will, in aggregate, entitle the Shareholders to subscribe for New Shares equal to 5 per cent. of New British Energy's thereby diluted issued ordinary capital immediately following implementation of the Restructuring (excluding the impact of the Employee Options and conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment referred to in paragraph 3 above) for a total subscription price of £28.95 million. The terms and conditions of the Warrants are set out in Part VIII of the Prospectus: [Conditions of the Warrants](#) .

Disposal with Ordinary Shareholder approval

If the Members Scheme is not approved by the requisite majorities of Shareholders, is not sanctioned by the Court or otherwise Lapses but Ordinary Shareholders approve the Disposal Resolution at the EGM, then following completion of the Restructuring,

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Shareholders will, subject to certain restrictions relating to overseas Shareholders, be entitled to receive:

for every 50 Ordinary Shares	2.1 Warrants
for every 50 A Shares	2.1 Warrants

in respect of British Energy Shares held at the Disposal Record Time.

If the resulting number of Warrants allocated to a Shareholder is not a whole number, the number of Warrants receivable by a Shareholder will be rounded down to the nearest whole number. Fractional entitlements for Warrants will not be issued to Shareholders and will not be sold in the market. Consequently, Shareholders will not receive any net proceeds of sale of their fractional entitlements.

Each Shareholder will receive Warrants under the Disposal only if he or she elects to do so by completing a Form of Election. In addition, every Shareholder shall be deemed to have elected to have the Warrants allotted to him or her if the Company or New British Energy is advised that the average price which could reasonably be expected to be obtained for the sale of the New Share arising on the exercise of the Warrant to be sold is less than the Subscription Price. If a Shareholder does not make a valid Shareholder Election or Deemed Election, the relevant Warrants (or New Shares arising on the exercise of such Warrants) will be sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) will be remitted to the relevant Shareholder. In considering whether to make a Shareholder Election, Shareholders should bear in mind the expense involved in transactions in small numbers of securities. It is generally the case that stockbrokers' minimum commissions are around £10 to £25.

A Shareholder Election or a Deemed Election will not be valid and a Shareholder will not be entitled to receive Warrants if he or she is a Restricted Overseas Person. In such event, the relevant Warrants will either: (i) be sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) remitted to the relevant holder; or (ii) exercised and the resulting New Share sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable in the market and the net proceeds (if any) remitted to the relevant holder.

Each Warrant will entitle the holder to subscribe 98p for one New Share. The Warrants will, in aggregate, entitle the Shareholders to subscribe for New Shares equal to 5 per cent. of New British Energy's thereby diluted issued ordinary capital immediately following implementation of the Restructuring (excluding the impact of the Warrants, Employee Options and conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment referred to in paragraph 3 above) for a total subscription price of £28.95 million. The terms and conditions of the Warrants are set out in Part VIII of the Prospectus: *Conditions of the Warrants* .

Disposal without Ordinary Shareholder approval

If: (i) the Members' Scheme is not approved by the requisite majorities of Shareholders, is not sanctioned by the Court or otherwise Lapses; and (ii) the Ordinary Shareholders do not approve the Disposal Resolution at the EGM, then Shareholders will not receive any New Shares or Warrants.

9. Conditions to completion of the Restructuring

The implementation of the Restructuring is subject to three stages of conditionality, namely:

- (a) conditions which had to be satisfied prior to the proposal of the Creditors' Scheme to the Bond Trustees and RBS and the proposal of the Members' Scheme to Shareholders (the Initial Conditions);

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- (b) subsequent to the satisfaction of the Initial Conditions, conditions which need to be satisfied before the necessary steps may be taken to make the Creditors Scheme Effective and, if the Members Scheme is approved by Shareholders and sanctioned by the Court, before the necessary steps may be taken to make the Members Scheme Effective (the Filing Conditions); and
- (c) the Creditors Scheme becoming Effective and, unless the Members Scheme has Lapsed, the Members Scheme becoming Effective.

As mentioned above, the Initial Conditions have been satisfied. The Filing Conditions include, amongst other things, the Secretary of State not having determined and notified British Energy in writing that, in her opinion, the New British Energy Group will not be viable in all reasonable foreseeable conditions without access to additional financing (other than financing which the Secretary of State is satisfied has been committed and will continue to be available when required).

In addition to the above conditions, the Restructuring will not be implemented if either of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or the Government Restructuring Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms. In such circumstances the standstill arrangements, which restrict the Creditors from taking any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable to them by any member of the British Energy Group, would also terminate. Both the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement will automatically terminate if British Energy receives a valid notice from the relevant parties, prior to the Creditors Scheme (and if relevant, the Members Scheme) being made Effective, terminating such agreement on the basis that there is a continuing Material Adverse Change.

Also, unless otherwise agreed by the Creditors, the Secretary of State and British Energy, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, the Government Restructuring Agreement and the standstill under the amended terms and conditions of the existing Bonds will automatically terminate (and consequently the Restructuring will not be implemented) if the Creditors Scheme has not become Effective by the Restructuring Long Stop Date, that is, 31 January 2005, which date may be extended subject to the agreement of British Energy, BNFL, the Secretary of State and certain majorities of relevant Creditors and, in relation to the standstill of the existing Bonds, a written resolution of holders of each of the series of existing Bonds. The Company has decided it is prudent to seek an extension to the present Restructuring Long Stop Date of 31 January 2005 but there can be no assurance that the requisite parties will agree an extension (see paragraph 4 of the Chairman's Letter in Part I of this document).

Admission is conditional upon the Restructuring being implemented. The Filing Conditions, the Restructuring Condition and the termination events are described in more detail below in Part IV.

10. New British Energy reduction of capital

The New British Energy Reduction is intended to eliminate the deficit (if any) in the distributable reserves of New British Energy which may arise as a result of the Restructuring and to provide some distributable reserves for New British Energy to pay dividends to shareholders in the future, subject to the dividend policy of New British Energy outlined in paragraph 10 of the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document.

Under the New British Energy Reduction, following the Restructuring Effective Date the share premium account of New British Energy will be eliminated and the resulting reserve will, subject to confirmation by the Court, be transferred to New British Energy's profit and loss account. The amount (if any) by which the reserve arising on the New British Energy Reduction exceeds the deficit

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in the distributable reserves of New British Energy will be available for distribution by New British Energy once all New British Energy's creditors at the time of the New British Energy Reduction have been discharged or have consented to

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the New British Energy Reduction. The Directors expect that there will be no material creditors of New British Energy at the time of the New British Energy Reduction.

The New British Energy Reduction will be carried out under section 135 of the Act and is subject, amongst other things, to confirmation by the Court and a copy of the Court order being filed with and registered by the Companies Registrar. The New British Energy Reduction process will be commenced before the Restructuring Effective Date. Although the New British Energy Reduction will require certain resolutions to be passed at an extraordinary general meeting of New British Energy, such resolutions will be voted on by the Initial Shareholder of New British Energy prior to the Restructuring Effective Date. Accordingly, the Initial Shareholder will be the only shareholder entitled to vote on such resolutions. The Court hearing to confirm the New British Energy Reduction will, however, be held after the Restructuring Effective Date.

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11. The New British Energy Group

Group structure

The diagrams below show a simplified structure of the Group immediately before and immediately after implementation of the Restructuring. Diagrams (ii), (iii) and (iv) show the different shareholdings in the New British Energy Group following implementation of the Restructuring depending on whether the Restructuring is effected through the Members' Scheme, the Disposal with Ordinary Shareholder approval or the Disposal without such approval.

Notes:

1. Following Admission, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Scotland will jointly hold a Special Share in New British Energy and in Holdings plc and they will continue to jointly hold a Special Share in the Company. The Secretary of State will continue to hold a Special Share in BEG and the Secretary of State for Scotland will continue to hold a Special Share in BEG UK. In addition, if the NLF converts its entitlement to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment it will hold Convertible Shares in New British Energy.
2. After the Disposal the British Energy Shares will be unlisted and have no value.
3. The operating companies include, amongst others, BEG, BEG UK, EPL, EPHL and BEPET.

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As explained above, if the Members Scheme is not approved or otherwise Lapses, the Restructuring will be effected through the Disposal (diagrams (iii) or (iv) above) and accordingly, British Energy will be an empty shell company. In this case, the British Energy Shares which will continue to be held by Shareholders will be valueless.

Shareholdings following implementation of the Restructuring

Immediately following Admission, New British Energy's authorised share capital will be divided into 2,800,000,000 New Shares (which are ordinary shares of 10p each), 2,000,000,000 Convertible Shares, 50,000 non-voting ordinary shares of £1 each and one Special Share of which approximately 561,016,553 New Shares, the Special Share and 50,000 non-voting ordinary shares will be in issue and fully paid. The interests in New Shares of the Directors and persons (not being Directors) which, directly or indirectly, amount to 3 per cent. or more of New British Energy's issued share capital as expected immediately following Admission are set out in paragraph 5 of Part V of this document.

Of the unissued share capital, 2,029,527,187 New Shares will be reserved for issue on exercise of the Warrants (if the Restructuring is effected through the Members Scheme or the Disposal with Ordinary Shareholder approval) and conversion of the Convertible Shares.

Limitations on shareholdings

The articles of association of New British Energy contain provisions in relation to limitations on shareholdings which require the New British Energy board of directors to give notice to the holder of New British Energy's Special Share if, to the knowledge of the board, any person (not being a specifically permitted person) has, or appears to the board to have, an interest in New British Energy's shares which carry 15 per cent. or more of the total votes attaching to its relevant share capital (referred to as a Relevant Person). If the holder of the Special Share gives notice to the board that ownership or control of such relevant shares by the Relevant Person would be contrary to the interests of national security, the board must notify the Relevant Person and call for a disposal of such number of relevant shares as will cause the Relevant Person to cease to be a Relevant Person to be made within 21 days (referred to as a Required Disposal).

After the giving of such a notice no transfer of any of the relevant shares held by the Relevant Person (other than a Required Disposal) may be made or registered until either the notice is withdrawn or a Required Disposal has been made to the satisfaction of the board of directors of New British Energy and registered. If that notice is not complied with to the satisfaction of the board and has not been withdrawn, the board must, so far as it is able, effect a Required Disposal on such terms as it decides, based upon advice obtained by it for the purpose and being reasonably practicable having regard to all the circumstances.

A registered holder on whom a valid notice referred to above has been served is not entitled in respect of all the relevant shares, until that notice has been complied with to the satisfaction of the board or withdrawn, to attend or vote at any general meeting of New British Energy or meeting of the holders of a class of shares and those rights will vest in the chairman of the meeting who may act entirely at his discretion.

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These provisions will remain in force until the date of redemption of the Special Share. Further details of the provisions on the limitations on shareholdings are set out in the summary of the articles of association of New British Energy in paragraph 3 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

Special Share

Following Admission, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Scotland will jointly hold a Special Share in New British Energy and in Holdings plc and they will

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continue to jointly hold a Special Share in the Company. The Secretary of State will continue to hold a Special Share in BEG and the Secretary of State for Scotland will continue to hold a Special Share in BEG UK. Each such Special Share may only be held by a Minister of the Crown or other person acting on behalf of the Government, and does not carry any rights to vote at general meetings, but entitles the holder to attend and speak at such meetings. Each Special Share is redeemable at the option of the holder after consultation with the relevant company at any time after 30 September 2006.

The provisions relating to the Special Share in the articles of association of New British Energy, Holdings plc, British Energy, BEG UK and BEG and the provisions relating to limitations on shareholdings in the articles of association of New British Energy may not be amended or removed without the consent of the holder of the relevant Special Share.

In addition, consent of the holder of the relevant Special Share will be required (and may only be withheld in these cases if, in the holder's opinion, the matter in question would be contrary to the interests of national security) in relation to:

- (a) certain amendments to the articles of association of Holdings plc, British Energy, BEG UK or BEG which would enable the board of directors of Holdings plc, British Energy, BEG UK or BEG to issue any shares (other than to certain Group companies) without the consent in writing of the relevant holder of the Special Share (such consent only to be withheld if in the relevant holder's opinion such issue would be contrary to the interests of national security); or
- (b) the giving by New British Energy, Holdings plc, British Energy or BEG UK (as appropriate) of any consent or agreement to any issue of shares in Holdings plc, British Energy, BEG UK or BEG (other than to certain other Group companies); or
- (c) a disposal by New British Energy, Holdings plc, British Energy and BEG UK of the shares held (directly or indirectly) by the relevant company in Holdings plc, British Energy, BEG UK or BEG; or
- (d) a disposal by BEG or BEG UK of any of their respective nuclear power stations.

Further details of the rights attaching to the Special Share in New British Energy are set out in the summary of the articles of association of New British Energy in paragraph 3 of Part X of the Prospectus: [Additional information](#) .

Convertible Shares

The entitlement of the NLF to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment is convertible into Convertible Shares equal to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment percentage prevailing at the time of conversion. On a full conversion the NLF would, therefore, hold up to 65 per cent. of the thereby enlarged equity share capital of New British Energy. The terms of the Convertible Shares will limit the general voting rights attaching to such shares to the maximum amount of shares as can be held without triggering a mandatory offer under the Takover Code, being currently 29.9 per cent. of the voting rights in New British Energy (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other New Shares held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF).

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The Convertible Shares will convert into New Shares automatically on their transfer to a third party by the NLF but are not convertible at the election of the NLF prior to such transfer. Apart from the limitations on voting rights and their convertibility into New Shares, the Convertible Shares shall have the same rights, be subject to the same restrictions and rank *pari passu* with the New Shares in all respects. Further details of the rights attaching to the Convertible Shares are set out in paragraph 4 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

The NLF will, subject to the restrictions on the disposal of Convertible Shares issued pursuant to the exercise of the NLF Conversion Right set out in the Contribution

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Agreement, comply with any directions given to it by the Secretary of State in relation to the exercise of the NLF Conversion Right and the retention or disposal of any shares in New British Energy resulting from such conversion. The NLF will not take any action to exercise the NLF Conversion Right or dispose of any shares in the Company before receiving such directions.

During the six month period immediately following the implementation of the Restructuring, the Secretary of State will not direct the NLF to exercise the NLF Conversion Right or to dispose of any shares in New British Energy, unless: (i) a person (or persons acting jointly by agreement, understanding or arrangement, whether or not legally binding) has acquired or proposed the acquisition of 14.9 per cent. or more of the voting rights or equity share capital of New British Energy; (ii) New British Energy or any other New British Energy Group company commits a material breach or persistent breaches of any of the covenants or any other material provision set out in the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements or any of the covenants set out in the Trust Deed constituting the New Bonds; (iii) a Default Event (as defined in the NLFA) has occurred; (iv) an Event of Default occurs under the terms of the New Bonds; (v) actions taken or proposed by any person in respect of a member of the New British Energy Group (and not expressly contemplated by any of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements) will or may, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, have an adverse effect on the interests of the Secretary of State or the NLF; or (vi) the exercise or disposal is required by law or by the rules of any regulatory body.

The Secretary of State has no current intention to direct the NLF to exercise the NLF Conversion Right following the expiry of the six month period referred to above but reserves the right to do so. The Secretary of State intends to ensure that, prior to the giving of any direction to the NLF to exercise the NLF Conversion Right or to dispose of the shares issued pursuant to such exercise, she (and/or the NLF at her direction) would take financial advice and would take such advice into account as to the market impact of the conversion or disposal (including the desirability of avoiding multiple sales of small amounts of shares). The Secretary of State has confirmed to New British Energy that she does not currently intend to change the investment policy as regards the matters described above.

12. Business Strategy

A detailed description of the business strategy of the Group post-restructuring is provided in Part III of the Prospectus: Operating and financial review and prospects .

13. Overseas Shareholders

Overseas Shareholders generally Members Scheme and Disposal

The provisions of the Members Scheme, and the issue and allotment of Warrants to Shareholders if the Members Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal Resolution is passed are subject to any prohibition or condition imposed by law. Each Scheme Shareholder will only receive New Shares and Warrants if the Members Scheme becomes Effective and each Shareholder will only receive Warrants if the Members Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal Resolution is passed, if he or she makes a valid Shareholder Election or Deemed Election.

A Shareholder Election or a Deemed Election will not be valid if such electing Scheme Shareholder or Shareholder (as appropriate) is a Restricted Overseas Person. In this case, the relevant New Shares to which such Scheme Shareholder would be entitled will be allotted to a person determined by New British Energy on terms that such person shall sell such New Shares in the market as

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soon as possible after the Restructuring Effective Date at the best price which can reasonably be obtained in the market at the time of sale. The net proceeds of such sale (if any), after the deduction of all expenses and commission, including any value added tax payable thereon, will be remitted by sending a cheque to

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such Scheme Shareholder or as he or she may direct by post within 14 days following completion of such sale. The relevant Warrants will be issued to a person determined by New British Energy on terms that such person shall either:

- (a) sell the Warrants in the market at the best price which can reasonably be obtained in the market at the time of sale; or
- (b) exercise the Warrants and shall sell the resulting New Shares in the market at the best price which can reasonably be obtained in the market at the time of sale.

The net proceeds of such sale (if any), after the deduction of all expenses and commission, including any value added tax payable thereon (and, if any Warrants are exercised, after deduction of the aggregate Subscription Price for such Warrants), will be remitted by sending a cheque to such Scheme Shareholder or Shareholder (as appropriate) or as he or she may direct by post within 14 days following completion of such sale. In the absence of bad faith or wilful default, neither New British Energy, its directors and officers nor the person selling the New Shares and/or Warrants shall have any liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of the timing or terms of such sale or exercise.

Overseas Shareholders should consult their own legal and tax advisers with respect to legal and tax consequences of the Members Scheme and the Disposal in their particular circumstances. This document has been prepared for the purposes of complying with English and Scottish law and the rules of the UKLA and information disclosed may not be the same as that which would have been disclosed if this document had been prepared in accordance with the laws of any jurisdiction outside the UK.

US Securities laws Members Scheme

The New Shares and Warrants to be issued to Scheme Shareholders under the Members Scheme have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act or the securities laws of any state of the US and will be distributed pursuant to exemptions from, or in transactions not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act, including the exemption provided by Section 3(a)(10) thereof.

In order to qualify for the exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act provided by section 3(a)(10) in relation to the issue of the New Shares and Warrants, there must be a hearing on the fairness of the Members Scheme to the relevant Shareholders, which all Shareholders are entitled to attend in person or by proxy to oppose the sanctioning of the Members Scheme, and with respect to which notification will be given to all Shareholders. New British Energy and Holdings plc intend to rely on the Court hearings to sanction the Members Scheme for this purpose and will advise the Court that this is their intention in advance of or at the sanction hearing. Any Shareholder wishing to attend or be represented at the Court hearing will require to have lodged answers in advance thereof as detailed in paragraph 6 above.

US Securities laws Disposal

Warrants to be issued to Shareholders if the Disposal Resolution is passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act and will only be issued pursuant to an exemption from or in a transaction not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act, including the exemptions provided by Section 4 (2) of the Securities

Act and by Regulation S thereunder.

US Securities laws Exercise of Warrants

New Shares to be issued upon exercise of Warrants have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act. Accordingly, Shareholders will be issued New Shares upon the exercise of such Warrants only if they certify, to the satisfaction of the Company, that they are either: (a) accredited investors as such term is defined in Rule 501 (a) of the Securities Act; or (b) not a US person (as defined in Regulation S under the Securities Act).

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Any New Shares to be issued upon the exercise of Warrants allotted to any Shareholder who cannot make the foregoing certifications to the satisfaction of the Company will be sold in the market at the best price reasonably obtainable with the net proceeds remitted to the relevant Shareholder as set out above.

Australia, Canada and Germany Members Scheme and Disposal

No steps have been taken, nor will any be taken, to enable the New Shares or Warrants to be offered in compliance with the applicable securities laws of Australia, Canada or Germany and any offer or invitation in relation to the New Shares and Warrants is not available, directly or indirectly, to persons in, or with registered addresses in, Australia, Canada or Germany. This document is being sent to Shareholders with registered addresses in Australia, Canada or Germany solely in connection with the Court Meetings and the Extraordinary General Meeting. Shareholders in, or with registered addresses in, Australia, Canada or Germany will not receive any New Shares and/or Warrants under or in connection with the Restructuring.

The New Shares and Warrants which Scheme Shareholders with registered addresses in Australia, Canada or Germany would be entitled to if the Members Scheme becomes effective or the Warrants which Shareholders with registered addresses in Australia, Canada or Germany would be entitled to if the Members Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal Resolution is duly passed, will be sold in the market at the best price which can reasonably be obtained in the market at the time of sale and the net proceeds of such sale (if any) remitted to the relevant Shareholder as described above.

14. Shareholder Election

As outlined above, unless a Shareholder makes a valid Shareholder Election or Deemed Election, he or she will not be allotted and issued with any New Shares and/or Warrants if the Members Scheme becomes Effective or Warrants if the Members Scheme is not approved but the Disposal Resolution is passed. In the event that a Shareholder does not make a valid Shareholder Election or Deemed Election, the relevant New Shares and/or Warrants will be allotted and/or issued (as appropriate) to a person determined by New British Energy. Such person shall sell such New Shares and/or Warrants (or exercise such Warrants and sell the resulting New Shares) as soon as possible after the Restructuring Effective Date at the best price which can reasonably be obtained in the market at the time of sale, and account for the net proceeds of such sale (if any), after the deduction of all expenses and commission, including any value added tax payable thereon (and, if any Warrants are exercised, after deduction of the aggregate Subscription Price for such Warrants), by sending a cheque to such Shareholder or as he or she may direct by post within 14 days following completion of such sale. In the absence of bad faith or wilful default, neither New British Energy, its directors and officers nor the person selling the New Shares and/or Warrants shall have any liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of the timing or terms of such sale or exercise.

In order to ensure compliance with any applicable money laundering legislation, Shareholders may, in certain circumstances, be asked to verify their identity before the net proceeds of the sale of their New Shares or Warrants are remitted to them.

In considering whether to make a Shareholder Election, Shareholders should bear in mind the expense involved in transactions in small numbers of securities. It is generally the case that stockbrokers' minimum commissions are around £10 to £25.

Shareholders who wish to receive New Shares and/or Warrants instead of the net proceeds of the sale of their entitlement must complete (a) Form(s) of Election and return it/them to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars at the address shown on the Form(s) of Election by the Election Return Time. Shareholders with registered addresses in Australia, Canada or Germany have not been sent (a) Form(s) of Election.

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15. Directors interests

All of the Directors have been appointed directors of New British Energy and Holdings plc. If the Members Scheme becomes Effective, New British Energy and Holdings plc will be the ultimate and immediate parent company respectively of British Energy. Information on the Directors and the interests of the Directors in British Energy Shares and prospectively in New Shares and Warrants is set out in Part V of this document.

As explained in the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document, the terms of Adrian Montague's letters of appointment provide for the payment to him of an additional fee of £100,000 contingent upon a restructuring of the British Energy Group becoming effective and binding on all interested parties. If the Members Scheme becomes Effective and the Restructuring is implemented this amount will become payable to him. It is intended that following Admission, Adrian Montague's letters of appointment will be amended to provide for 30 per cent. of his post-Admission base fee of £150,000 per annum to be settled in shares under arrangements which remain to be agreed in detail.

With effect from 1 September 2004, British Energy modified its fee structure for all non-executive Directors except Adrian Montague. In addition to the fees set out in paragraph 7 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information, each non-executive Director will receive £13,000 per annum payable in New Shares, such shares to be allocated quarterly in arrears. A non-executive Director may only sell his or her New Shares in equal tranches over the 3 years following grant subject to having been on the board of New British Energy for at least 12 months following the date of grant. Current non-executive Directors will each receive a single payment of £10,000 of New Shares as soon as possible after Admission. Any new non-executive Directors joining the board of New British Energy after this time will also receive a similar payment.

The current executive Directors who are also executive directors of New British Energy will be entitled to participate in the LT Plan and the Interim Bonus Plan once the Restructuring is implemented. Subject to the satisfaction of certain performance targets, participants in the Interim Bonus Plan may be granted a deferred bonus in respect of the financial year ending 31 March 2005 and participants in the LT Plan may be granted a deferred bonus in each financial year thereafter. Details of the LT Plan and the Interim Bonus Plan are set out in paragraph 6 of Part V of this document and in paragraph 8 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information.

Stephen Billingham's service agreement entitles him, subject to certain conditions, to a single payment of £200,000 in June 2005 provided that he has not voluntarily left the employment of British Energy before 30 June 2005 or has received notice of termination before that date. In the event that shares in New British Energy are not admitted to the Official List by 31 March 2006, Stephen Billingham will receive a further payment of £400,000 during April 2006. This payment will be offset against any awards due to Stephen Billingham under any bonus/incentive plan in operation for the financial years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

In the event that the Restructuring does not go ahead as planned, Roy Anderson's service agreement entitles him to participate in a broadly comparable bonus plan to the Interim Bonus Plan and LT Plan.

Paragraph 7 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information contains further details of all the Directors' service agreements and letters of appointment.

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Adrian Montague is also a director of Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd which has entered into two electricity supply agreements with BEG. If the Restructuring is implemented through the Members Scheme there may be an event of default under these agreements which could entitle Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd to terminate.

Save as set out or referred to above, the effect of the Members Scheme on the interests of the Directors does not differ from its effect on the like interests of other persons.

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16. Tax

Information concerning the taxation consequences of the Members Scheme and the Disposal is contained in paragraph 7 of Part V of this document and information concerning the taxation consequences of holding the New Shares and/or the Warrants is set out in paragraph 12 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information. Shareholders who may be liable to taxation in jurisdictions other than the UK or the US or who are in any doubt as to the taxation consequences of the Members Scheme or the Disposal should seek advice from their own independent professional advisers.

17. Risk factors

There are a number of risks related to the implementation of the Restructuring or a delay in implementing the Restructuring as well as operating risks related to the business of the Group and risks related to ownership of the New Shares and Warrants. Part III of this document and Part II of the Prospectus: Risk factors contain further detail in relation to such risks. All information contained in this document should be read in conjunction with the risk factors outlined.

18. Settlement, listing of New Shares and Warrants and cancellation of listings of British Energy Shares

Cancellation of listings

On 23 September 2004, the Company sent Shareholders a letter notifying them, in accordance with the Company's obligations under the Listing Rules, that the Company intended to seek cancellation and apply for the UKLA to cancel the listing of the British Energy Shares from the Official List of the UKLA at the end of the 20 Business Day notice period, such cancellation to take immediate effect. The listings of the British Energy Shares on the Official List were cancelled by the UKLA with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and the last day of dealings in British Energy Shares on the London Stock Exchange was 20 October 2004.

Members Scheme

Application has been made to the UKLA for the New Shares and Warrants to be admitted to the Official List and to trading on the London Stock Exchange. It is expected that Admission of the New Shares and Warrants to the Official List will become effective and that dealings in the New Shares and Warrants will commence on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date.

If confirmation is not given by the UKLA that upon the allotment and issue of the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds, Admission to the Official List will become effective or such Admission is refused, New British Energy will, in order to implement the Restructuring, be required to seek admission of the New Shares and Warrants to trading on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange and, in respect of the New Bonds, Holdings plc will be required to seek admission to listing on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. In such case, the relevant documentation for such admission would be despatched to Shareholders and Creditors as required.

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Once the Members Scheme becomes Effective, share certificates for the British Energy Shares will cease to be valid and CREST will be instructed to cancel the entitlements of the relevant Scheme Shareholders with respect to the British Energy Shares held in uncertificated form. The last date for registration of transfers of British Energy Shares is expected to be on the day immediately prior to the Restructuring Effective Date. For Shareholders who make valid Shareholder Elections and hold their shares through CREST, New Shares and Warrants are expected to be credited to CREST accounts on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date. Warrants in respect of Shareholders who have made a valid Deemed Election will be credited to CREST accounts within 14 days of the Restructuring Effective Date.

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For those holding shares in certificated form, definitive certificates for New Shares and Warrants are expected to be despatched within 14 days of the Restructuring Effective Date. Pending despatch of such certificates, transfers of New Shares and Warrants will be certificated by the Registrars against the relevant register. No temporary documents of title have been or will be issued in respect of the New Shares and Warrants. Notwithstanding the above, New British Energy reserves the right to issue New Shares and Warrants in certificated form to all Scheme Shareholders who make valid Shareholder Elections or Deemed Elections (regardless of whether they hold their British Energy Shares in certificated or uncertificated form) if for any reason, it wishes to do so.

All mandates in force at the Scheme Record Time (6.00 p.m. on the Business Day immediately prior to the Restructuring Effective Date) relating to payment of dividends on British Energy Shares and all instructions given relating to notices and communications will, unless and until varied or revoked, be deemed to be effective mandates or instructions to New British Energy in relation to the corresponding holding of New Shares and Warrants.

In the case of joint holders, certificates will be despatched to the joint holder whose name appears first in the register of members of the Company or in accordance with any special instruction which such joint holders may have given. All documents, certificates, or other communications sent by or to Shareholders, or as such persons shall direct, will be sent at their own risk and will be sent by post.

ADRs

On 28 September 2004, the NYSE suspended trading in the British Energy ADRs and commenced proceedings to permanently delist British Energy ADRs from the NYSE. The NYSE announced it had taken this action in response to the Company's announcement on 23 September 2004 of its intention to delist the Ordinary Shares and A Shares from the London Stock Exchange. The Company has appealed the NYSE's decision to delist the ADRs. However, there can be no assurance that the Company's appeal will be successful or that British Energy or New British Energy will meet the relevant listing criteria of the NYSE for the New ADRs.

If the Members' Scheme becomes Effective and the Company or New British Energy satisfies the relevant listing criteria for the NYSE on or prior to Admission all British Energy ADRs will be cancelled and Shareholders who have made valid Shareholder Elections or Deemed Elections and who hold British Energy ADRs will be issued New ADRs by the ADR Depositary at a ratio of 3 New ADRs to 8 British Energy ADRs. No fractional New ADRs will be issued. If the Members' Scheme becomes Effective but British Energy and New British Energy are unable to satisfy the listing criteria of the NYSE on or prior to Admission, holders of British Energy ADRs who have made valid Shareholder Elections or Deemed Elections will receive the New Shares and Warrants to which they would be entitled.

If the Members' Scheme does not become Effective and the Disposal Resolution is passed, holders of British Energy ADRs who have made valid Shareholder Elections or Deemed Elections will receive the Warrants to which they are entitled. In addition, New British Energy has agreed to take all reasonable steps to the New ADRs on the NYSE at such time following Admission as it is able to satisfy the NYSE listing criteria. In such circumstances, however, New British Energy will be required to satisfy the NYSE's listing criteria for new securities, including minimum public float and minimum shareholder eligibility requirements and may not be able to satisfy these requirements immediately after Admission.

Disposal

If the Members' Scheme is not approved by Shareholders, or otherwise Lapses, and the Disposal Resolution is passed, New British Energy will issue Warrants to eligible Shareholders who have made valid Shareholder Elections or Deemed Elections in respect

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of the British Energy Shares held by them at the Disposal Record Time. Application has been made to the UKLA for the Warrants to be admitted to the Official List and to trading on the London Stock Exchange.

For Shareholders who have made valid Shareholder Elections or Deemed Elections and who hold their British Energy Shares through CREST, Warrants are expected to be credited to CREST accounts on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date. For those holding British Energy Shares in certificated form, definitive certificates for Warrants are expected to be despatched within 14 days of the Restructuring Effective Date. Pending despatch of such certificates, transfers of Warrants will be certified by the Registrars against the warrant register. No temporary documents of title have been or will be issued in respect of the Warrants. Notwithstanding the above, New British Energy reserves the right to issue Warrants in certificated form to all Shareholders who have made valid Shareholder Elections or Deemed Elections (regardless of whether they hold their British Energy Shares in certificated or uncertificated form) if for any reason, it wishes to do so.

In the case of joint holders, certificates will be despatched to the joint holder whose name appears first in the register or in accordance with any special instruction which such joint holders may have given.

19. Meetings and resolutions

You will find set out at the end of this document, notices of the meetings which are being convened to enable Shareholders to consider and, if thought fit, to approve, the Members Scheme and for Ordinary Shareholders to approve the associated reduction of share capital and the Disposal. The Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the A Share Court Meeting are being convened by order of the Court to seek the approval of the holders of the Ordinary Shares and holders of the A Shares for the Members Scheme. The Extraordinary General Meeting of Ordinary Shareholders is being convened to enable the Directors to implement the Members Scheme or, if the Members Scheme is not approved or lapses, to effect the Disposal.

Court Meetings

The Ordinary Share Court Meeting has been convened for 10.30 a.m. on 22 December 2004 at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ to enable the holders of Ordinary Shares to consider and, if thought fit, approve the Members Scheme. At the Ordinary Share Court Meeting, voting will be by poll and each holder of an Ordinary Share present in person or by proxy will be entitled to one vote for each Ordinary Share held. The statutory majority required to approve the Members Scheme at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting is a majority in number of those present and voting representing three-fourths in value of Ordinary Shares held by those present and voting. **In order that the Court can be satisfied that the votes cast constitute a fair representation of the views of the holders of Ordinary Shares it is important that as many votes as possible are cast at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting. Holders of Ordinary Shares are therefore urged to take the action referred to in paragraph 20 below.**

The A Share Court Meeting has been convened for 11.30 a.m. on 22 December 2004 at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ to enable the holders of A Shares to consider and, if thought fit, approve the Members Scheme. At the A Share Court Meeting, voting will be by poll and each holder of an A Share present in person or by proxy will be entitled to one vote for each A Share held. The statutory majority required to approve the Members Scheme at the A Share Court Meeting is a majority in number of those present and voting representing three-fourths in value of A Shares held by those present and voting. **In order that the Court can be satisfied that the votes cast constitute a fair representation of the views of the holders of A Shares it is important that as many votes as possible are cast at the A Share Court Meeting. Holders of A Shares are**

therefore urged to take the action referred to in paragraph 20 below.

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Extraordinary General Meeting

The Extraordinary General Meeting has been convened for 12 noon on 22 December 2004 at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ, following the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the A Share Court Meeting, for Ordinary Shareholders to consider and, if thought fit, pass the resolutions contained in the notice convening the meeting set out at the end of this document. For the reasons outlined in paragraph 7 above, in accordance with the Company's articles of association, the A Shareholders will not be entitled to attend and vote on either the Members' Scheme Resolution or the Disposal Resolution at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

The Members' Scheme Resolution provides for:

- (a) the approval of the Members' Scheme;
- (b) the approval of the reduction of share capital of the Company by cancelling and extinguishing the Scheme Shares and the Non-voting Deferred Shares;
- (c) subject to the approval referred to in paragraph (b) being given, increasing the authorised share capital of the Company by 44²⁸/43p by the creation of one new Ordinary Share of 44²⁸/43p in the Company;
- (d) authorising the Directors to allot the new share referred to in paragraph (c) above pursuant to sections 80 and 95 of the Act for the purposes of giving effect to the Members' Scheme; and
- (e) capitalising and applying 44²⁸/43p of the reserve arising in the Company, as a result of the cancellation of the British Energy Shares, to pay up in full at par the new Ordinary Share created pursuant to paragraph (c) above and the allotment and issue of the same credited as fully paid up at par to New British Energy or its nominee and crediting the balance of the reserve arising in the Company, as a result of the cancellation of the British Energy Shares and Non-voting Deferred Shares to the profit and loss account of the Company; and
- (f) amendments to the articles of association to compulsorily transfer British Energy Shares issued to any person after the Members' Scheme has become Effective to Holdings plc in consideration of and conditionally on the allotment and issue by Holdings plc of shares in the capital of Holdings plc to such person. (Under the articles of association of Holdings plc such shares in the capital of Holdings plc will be exchanged for such number of New Shares and Warrants as such person would have been entitled to receive under the Members' Scheme in respect of such British Energy Shares.)

The Disposal Resolution provides for the approval of the Disposal.

The majority required for the passing of the Members' Scheme Resolution is three-fourths of the votes cast. The majority required for the passing of the Disposal Resolution is a simple majority of the votes cast. On a show of hands every Ordinary Shareholder present in person will have one vote and on a poll each Ordinary Shareholder present in person or by proxy will have one vote for each share held.

Approval of the Members Scheme will not constitute approval of the Disposal. The Disposal is an alternative to the Members Scheme and will only be implemented in the event that the Members Scheme does not become Effective. The Disposal Resolution is separate from the Members Scheme Resolution. Consequently, Ordinary Shareholders are encouraged to vote on the Disposal Resolution irrespective of how they vote on the Members Scheme at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting or on the Members Scheme Resolution at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

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20. Action to be taken

Holders of Ordinary Shares only

If you are an Ordinary Shareholder you will have received together with this document:

- (a) a GREEN Form of Proxy for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting (or an ORANGE form of direction if you have transferred your Ordinary Shares under the CREST Nominee Service);
- (b) a WHITE Form of Proxy for the Extraordinary General Meeting (or a PINK form of direction if you have transferred your Ordinary Shares under the CREST Nominee Service); and
- (c) a GREEN Form of Election (or a PINK Form of Election if you have transferred your Ordinary Shares under the CREST Nominee Service).

Ordinary Shareholders may vote in person at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and at the Extraordinary General Meeting or they may appoint another person, whether a member of the Company or not, as their proxy to attend and vote in their stead. Whether or not you intend to be present at the meetings you are requested to complete and sign the Forms of Proxy and return them to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing BN99 6ED, as soon as possible and in any event so as to be received no later than 48 hours before the relevant meeting.

The GREEN Form of Proxy in respect of the Ordinary Share Court Meeting may also be handed to the chairman of the Ordinary Share Court Meeting. However, in the case of the Extraordinary General Meeting, unless the WHITE Form of Proxy is lodged so as to be received at least 48 hours before the meeting, it will be invalid. The lodging of a Form of Proxy will not prevent you from attending the Ordinary Share Court Meeting or the Extraordinary General Meeting and voting in person should you wish to do so.

Ordinary Shareholders who wish to make a Shareholder Election and have New Shares and/or Warrants issued to them or their nominee, must complete the enclosed GREEN Form of Election and return it to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars at the address shown on the Form of Election by no later than the Election Return Time.

Holders of A Shares only

If you are an A Shareholder you will have received together with this document:

- (a) a BLUE Form of Proxy for the A Share Court Meeting (or a GREY form of direction if you have transferred your A Shares under the CREST Nominee Service); and

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- (b) a BLUE Form of Election (or a WHITE Form of Election if you have transferred your A Shares under the CREST Nominee Service).

A Shareholders may vote in person at the A Share Court Meeting or they may appoint another person, whether a member of the Company or not, as their proxy to attend and vote in their stead. Whether or not you intend to be present at the meeting you are requested to complete and sign the BLUE Form of Proxy and return it to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars, SEA 9441, The Causeway, Worthing BN99 6ED, as soon as possible and in any event so as to be received no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

The BLUE Form of Proxy in respect of the A Share Court Meeting may also be handed to the chairman of the A Share Court Meeting. The lodging of a Form of Proxy will not prevent you from attending the A Share Court Meeting and voting in person should you wish to do so.

A Shareholders who wish to make a Shareholder Election and have New Shares and/or Warrants issued to them or their nominee, must complete the enclosed BLUE Form of Election and return it to the Registrars, Lloyds TSB Registrars at the address shown on the Form of Election by no later than the Election Return Time.

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Holders of both Ordinary Shares and A Shares

If you are an Ordinary Shareholder as well as an A Shareholder you will have received together with this document:

- (a) a GREEN Form of Proxy for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting (or an ORANGE form of direction if you have transferred your Ordinary Shares under the CREST Nominee Service);
- (b) a BLUE Form of Proxy for the A Share Court Meeting (or a GREY form of direction if you have transferred your A Shares under the CREST Nominee Service);
- (c) a WHITE Form of Proxy for the Extraordinary General Meeting (or a PINK form of direction if you have transferred your Ordinary Shares under the CREST Nominee Service);
- (d) a GREEN Form of Election (or a PINK Form of Election if you have transferred your Ordinary Shares under the CREST Nominee Service); and
- (e) a BLUE Form of Election (or a WHITE Form of Election if you have transferred your A Shares under the CREST Nominee Service).

You should take the action described in relation to the holders of Ordinary Shares above and the action described in relation to the holders of A Shares above.

Shareholders generally

In the case of joint holders, the vote of the senior holder who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders and for this purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register of members of the Company in respect of the joint holding.

Only those Shareholders registered on the relevant register of members as at the Voting Record Time shall be entitled to attend or vote at the Court Meetings and the Extraordinary General Meeting in respect of the number of shares registered in their name as at that time. Changes to entries in the relevant register after the Voting Record Time shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the Court Meetings and the Extraordinary General Meeting.

In considering whether to make a Shareholder Election, Shareholders should bear in mind the expense involved in transactions in small numbers of shares. It is generally the case that stockbrokers' minimum commissions are around £10 to £25.

If you have any questions relating to the proposals described in this document or the completion and return of the Form of Proxy or Forms of Election, please contact the Company's helpline on freephone 0800-035-0844 (or if calling from outside the UK +44 (0) 1295-225-285 (calls charged at applicable rates)), Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (UK time). The helpline cannot provide advice on the merits or otherwise of the matters described in this document, nor give any financial advice.

21. Further information

Your attention is drawn to the Members' Scheme which forms part of this document, the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document, and to the information regarding the Restructuring set out in Part III and IV of this document. This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Prospectus.

Yours sincerely

Robert Armour

Company Secretary

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PART III

RISK FACTORS

This Part sets out the principal risk factors affecting the implementation of the Restructuring, and should be read in conjunction with the detailed risk factors relating to, inter alia, operating, industry, environmental and regulatory risks and risks related to the ownership of New Shares and Warrants set out in Part II of the Prospectus: Risk factors and all other information relating to the Company, New British Energy and Holdings plc contained in this document and the Prospectus. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to the Company, New British Energy or Holdings plc or that the Company, New British Energy or Holdings plc deem immaterial may also have a material adverse effect on the ability of the Company to implement the Restructuring in a timely manner, or at all.

(A) *Implementation of the Creditors Scheme*

If the Company is unable to implement the Creditors Scheme, the Restructuring may not be completed within the timescales envisaged, or at all, and the Company may be unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due and consequently, it may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings. If insolvency proceedings are commenced, the distributions to unsecured creditors may represent only a small fraction of their unsecured liabilities and it is highly unlikely that there will be any return to the Company's Shareholders.

(B) *Effectiveness of the Creditors Scheme requires the approval of Bondholders*

In order to authorise the Bond Trustee of a series of Bonds to vote in respect of the Creditors Scheme at the Creditors Scheme Meeting, it is necessary for the Bondholders holding Bonds of such series to vote in favour of the relevant Bondholder Resolutions at the Bondholder Meetings. If, notwithstanding the fact that Consenting Bondholders have given undertakings (subject to no Material Adverse Change having occurred) to vote in favour of the Bondholder Resolutions, neither of the Bondholder Resolutions in respect of any series of Bonds are approved by Bondholders, then such Bond Trustee may not vote at the Creditors Scheme Meeting. If a Bond Trustee of a series of Bonds does not vote, votes against the Creditors Scheme or splits its vote in accordance with the second resolution at the Creditors Scheme Meeting, the Creditors Scheme may not be approved at the Creditors Scheme meeting by the requisite majorities in number or value notwithstanding the fact that Bond Trustees of other series of Bonds have voted in favour of the Creditors Scheme. If the Creditors Scheme is not approved at the Creditors Scheme Meeting, the Restructuring will fail.

(C) *Effectiveness of the Creditors Scheme requires the approval of Scheme Creditors*

In order for the Creditors Scheme to become Effective, it must be approved by the Scheme Creditors as described in the Creditors Scheme Circular. If, notwithstanding the fact that RBS has given an undertaking (subject to no Material Adverse Change having occurred) to vote in favour of the Creditors Scheme at the Creditors Scheme Meeting, RBS does not vote in favour of the Creditors Scheme (whether due to a Material Adverse Change having occurred or otherwise) then this may have the effect (in conjunction with the circumstances described in paragraph (B) above) that the Creditors Scheme may not be approved at the Creditors Scheme Meeting, in which case the Creditors Scheme will be withdrawn and the Restructuring will not be implemented.

- (D) ***Even if the Scheme Creditors approve the Creditors Scheme, the Restructuring may be objected to and may not be completed***

If the Creditors Scheme is approved at the Creditors Scheme Meeting, it is possible for a person with an interest in the Creditors Scheme (whether a Scheme Creditor, a

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Bondholder or another person) to lodge objections to the Creditors Scheme with the Court and to attend or be represented at the hearing of the Court to sanction the Creditors Scheme in order to make representations that the Creditors Scheme should not be approved and to appeal against the granting of the Creditors Order. Notwithstanding the fact that RBS and Consenting Bondholders have given undertakings (subject to certain conditions, including a Material Adverse Change as described above) not to attend the Court hearing other than in support of the Creditors Scheme there can be no assurance that such objections will not delay or possibly prevent the Restructuring.

(E) *Effectiveness of the Creditors Scheme requires the sanction of the Court*

In order for the Creditors Scheme to become Effective, it must receive the sanction of the Court. The Court will not sanction the Creditors Scheme unless it is satisfied that the correct procedures have been followed, that the proposed arrangements are reasonable and that there are no other reasons why the Creditors Scheme should not be approved. The Court will appoint a Reporter to review and report on the Creditors Scheme. There can be no assurance that the Court will determine that the Creditors Scheme is reasonable or that the Court will not conclude that there are other reasons why the Creditors Scheme should not be approved. If the Court does not approve the Creditors Scheme, or approves it subject to conditions or amendments which: (i) the Company deems unacceptable; or (ii) would have (directly or indirectly) a material adverse effect on the interests of any Scheme Creditor or Bondholder and such conditions or amendments are not approved by the Scheme Creditors, the Creditors Scheme will not become Effective and the Restructuring will fail.

(F) *Effectiveness of the Members Scheme requires the approval of Scheme Shareholders and the Members Scheme may be objected to*

In order for the Members Scheme to become Effective, it must be approved by the Scheme Shareholders as described in the Explanatory Statement. Even if the Scheme Shareholders approve the Members Scheme it is possible for a person with an interest in the Members Scheme (whether a Scheme Shareholder or another person) to lodge objections to the Members Scheme with the Court and to attend or be represented at the hearing of the Court to sanction the Members Scheme to make representations that the Members Scheme should not be approved and to appeal against the granting of the Members Order. There can be no assurance that such objections will not delay or possibly prevent the Members Scheme becoming Effective.

(G) *Effectiveness of the Members Scheme requires the sanction of the Court*

In order for the Members Scheme to become Effective, it must receive the sanction of the Court. The Court will not sanction the Members Scheme unless it is satisfied that the correct procedures have been followed, that the proposed arrangements are reasonable and that there are no other reasons why the Members Scheme should not be approved. The Court will appoint a Reporter to review and report on the Members Scheme. There can be no assurance that the Court will determine that the Members Scheme is reasonable or that the Court will not conclude that there are other reasons why the Members Scheme should not be approved. If the Court does not approve the Members Scheme, Shareholders will not receive any New Shares and will only receive Warrants if the Disposal Resolution is passed at the EGM and the Creditors Scheme becomes Effective.

(H) *If certain timing deadlines are not satisfied, the Restructuring may not be implemented*

In order for the Creditors Scheme to be Effective, it must receive the sanction of the Court. The timing of the Court process is at the discretion of the Court and accordingly there can be no assurance that the Court process to sanction the Creditors Scheme and to

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determine any appeal will be completed by the Restructuring Long Stop Date. In the event that the Creditors Scheme is not sanctioned or is appealed and cannot be made Effective by the Restructuring Long Stop Date (subject to any extensions as may be agreed), the Creditor Restructuring Agreement will automatically terminate, undertakings given by certain Creditors pursuant to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement will terminate and the standstill period under the standstill arrangements will expire.

(I) ***If certain timing deadlines are not satisfied, the Members Scheme may not become Effective in which case Shareholders will not receive any New Shares***

In order for the Members Scheme to become Effective, it must receive the sanction of the Court. The timing of the Court process is at the discretion of the Court and accordingly there can be no assurance that the Court process to sanction the Members Scheme and to determine any appeal will be completed by the Restructuring Long Stop Date. In the event that the Members Scheme is not sanctioned or is sanctioned but appealed and the Company, acting reasonably, decides that the Members Scheme is not capable of becoming Effective in accordance with its terms before the Restructuring Long Stop Date (subject to any extensions as may be agreed) the Members Scheme will Lapse and will not be made Effective. In this case, even if the Members Scheme had been approved by Shareholders, Shareholders will not receive any New Shares and will only receive Warrants if the Disposal Resolution is passed at the EGM and the Creditors Scheme becomes Effective.

(J) ***Completion of the Restructuring is subject to a number of important conditions and termination events***

Completion of the Restructuring is subject to a number of important conditions, including the Filing Conditions and the Restructuring Condition over which the Company, New British Energy or Holdings plc have only limited control. If the Filing Conditions are not satisfied, British Energy will not be entitled to make the Creditors Scheme Effective by delivering the Creditors Order to the Companies Registrar even if the Creditors Scheme has been approved by Scheme Creditors and sanctioned by the Court. If the Creditors Scheme cannot be delivered to the Companies Registrar or the Creditors Scheme does not become Effective for some other reason, the Restructuring Condition will not be satisfied and the Restructuring will not be implemented.

In addition, the Restructuring will not be implemented if the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, the Government Restructuring Agreement, the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement, the New Standstill Agreement or the standstill arrangements for the existing Bonds terminate on the occurrence of any of the relevant termination events set out in Part IV of this document. If these agreements or arrangements terminate, the standstill arrangements, which restrict the Creditors from taking any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable to them by any member of the British Energy Group, would also terminate.

If the current standstill arrangements are terminated and a replacement standstill cannot be agreed with Creditors shortly thereafter, the Company would be unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due and consequently it may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings. If the Company does commence insolvency proceedings, the distributions to unsecured creditors may represent only a small fraction of their unsecured liabilities and there is highly unlikely to be any return to Shareholders.

For additional information on the conditions to completion of the Restructuring and the termination events see Part IV of this document.

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PART IV

CONDITIONS AND TERMINATION

1. Overview

The implementation of the Restructuring is subject to three stages of conditionality, namely:

- conditions which need to be satisfied before the Creditors Scheme and the Members Scheme can be proposed to the Bond Trustees and RBS, and Shareholders, respectively (the Initial Conditions);
- subsequent to the satisfaction of the Initial Conditions, conditions, which need to be satisfied before the Creditors Order and, if the Members Scheme is approved and sanctioned by the Court, the Members Order, is filed with the Companies Registrar for registration (the Filing Conditions); and
- the Creditors Scheme becoming Effective and, unless the Members Scheme has Lapsed, the Members Scheme becoming Effective (the Restructuring Condition).

In addition to the above conditions, the Restructuring arrangements may be terminated on the occurrence of certain termination events. Also, unless otherwise agreed by the Creditors, the Secretary of State and the Company, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement will automatically terminate (and consequently, the Restructuring will not be implemented) if the Creditors Scheme has not become Effective by the Restructuring Long Stop Date. The Filing Conditions, the Restructuring Condition and the Termination Events are described in greater detail below.

As mentioned above, the Initial Conditions have been satisfied. If the Filing Conditions or the Restructuring Condition are not satisfied by the Restructuring Long Stop Date and/or the right to terminate the Restructuring arrangements on the occurrence of a Termination Event are exercised, the Restructuring will not be implemented and the Company may need to commence insolvency proceedings. The Company has decided it is prudent to seek an extension to the present Restructuring Long Stop Date of 31 January 2005, but there can be no assurance that the requisite parties will agree an extension (see paragraph 4 of the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document).

2. Filing Conditions

The Company has undertaken, under the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement to: (i) notify the Creditors of the date on which it intends to file the Creditors Order with the Companies Registrar; and (ii) not to deliver the Creditors Order to the Companies Registrar for registration in certain prescribed circumstances. These circumstances include:

- (a) if the Company receives a notice from the requisite majority of Creditors (excluding BNFL) or the Secretary of State terminating the Creditor Restructuring Agreement on the basis that there is a continuing Material Adverse Change prevailing as at the Notified Filing Date;

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- (b) if before the Notified Filing Date, the requisite majority of Creditors (excluding BNFL) or the Secretary of State has validly notified the Company that there has been a material breach of the undertakings, covenants and warranties given by any Group Company in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or if there would be a material breach of such undertakings, covenants and warranties if they were repeated on the Notified Filing Date;

- (c) if confirmation has not been given by the UKLA that upon allotment and issue of the New Shares and New Bonds Admission to the Official List will become effective or, in the alternative where such Admission is refused or is impractical, confirmation has not been given of the admission of the New Shares to the

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Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange and the listing of the New Bonds to the Luxembourg Stock Exchange;

- (d) if any valuation of shares issued for non-cash consideration as a result of the Restructuring has not been obtained by the relevant issuer in accordance with section 103 of the Companies Act;
- (e) if pursuant to the Government Restructuring Agreement, the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements have not been entered into or will not become effective in accordance with their terms immediately after the delivery of the Creditors' Order to the Companies Registrar for registration (see below for a summary of the further conditions to the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements);
- (f) unless, in circumstances where the Members' Scheme has not Lapsed, the Members' Order is delivered to the Companies Registrar for registration at the same time as the Creditors' Order is delivered;
- (g) if the New EPL Arrangements remain subject to any outstanding conditions precedent where the parties have not agreed to treat the New EPL Arrangements as wholly unconditional (other than in respect of the Restructuring Condition);
- (h) unless the security interests created under certain intra-group funding arrangements have been discharged;
- (i) unless, save as otherwise agreed by the Secretary of State and the Creditors (excluding BNFL), the Government Facility has been cancelled and the security interests created under it have been discharged or will be cancelled and discharged on the delivery of the Creditors' Order to the Companies Registrar for registration;
- (j) unless, in circumstances where the Members' Scheme is not approved or has Lapsed and the Disposal Resolution has not been passed, the British Energy Shares have been delisted or will be delisted when the Creditors' Order is delivered to the Companies Registrar for registration; and
- (k) if EPL is in breach of any representation or warranty in the Amended Credit Agreement amounting to an event of default (as defined) and which has not been waived and is not capable of being cured in accordance with that agreement.

3. Restructuring Condition

Under the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement the implementation of the Restructuring is conditional upon either:

- (a) the registration by the Companies Registrar of the Members' Order and the delivery of a copy of the Creditors' Order to the Companies Registrar for registration; or
- (b) the Members' Scheme having Lapsed, the delivery of a copy of the Creditors' Order to the Companies Registrar for registration and the passing of the Disposal Resolution or confirmation from the UKLA that no such resolution is required; or

- (c) the Members Scheme having Lapsed, the delivery of a copy of the Creditors Order to the Companies Registrar for registration where the foregoing condition has not been satisfied.

4. Government Restructuring Agreement Conditions and termination events

Under the terms of the Government Restructuring Agreement, the obligations of the relevant parties (including the Secretary of State), amongst other things, to enter into certain of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements is conditional upon:

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- (a) the Secretary of State not having notified the Company in writing before the Notified Filing Date that, in her opinion, the Group (including for this purpose New British Energy and Holdings plc) will not be viable in all reasonably foreseeable conditions without access to additional financing (other than financing which the Secretary of State is satisfied has been committed and will continue to be available when required);
- (b) the Secretary of State having received a copies of letters from the auditors and financial advisers of New British Energy addressed to New British Energy giving the confirmations as to working capital and existence of the relevant financing facilities referred to in Rule 2.18 of the Listing Rules of the UKLA without qualification (whether or not New British Energy is to be listed on the Official List);
- (c) the Secretary of State being satisfied that adequate and valid security interests and security documentation have been granted and entered into by each Group Company which is a party to the Government Restructuring Agreement to secure the Decommissioning Default Payment;
- (d) New British Energy's board of directors and shareholders having passed the necessary resolutions to authorise the allotment and issue of such number of shares on a non-pre-emptive basis as is necessary to satisfy the NLF Conversion Right;
- (e) the Company having confirmed not more than 5 Business Days prior to the Notified Filing Date by way of certificate addressed to the Secretary of State signed by a director of the Company that:
 - (i) the information set out note 22 (*Nuclear Liabilities*) to the audited consolidated balance sheet of the Group in the annual report and accounts as at 31 March 2003 was prepared by the Company in good faith and was believed by the Board (having consulted appropriate officers and employees of the Group) to present fairly the provision for nuclear liabilities of the Group as at such date;
 - (ii) since 31 March 2003 nothing has come to the attention of the Board that would require a material increase in the provision for nuclear liabilities of the Group set out in the audited consolidated balance sheet of the Group as at 31 March 2003 if it were prepared again as at the date of the certificate; and
 - (iii) the Company: (a) has disclosed to the Secretary of State all material information available to its Board that it considers that the Secretary of State reasonably requires in order to assess the financial position of the Group and its viability upon completion of the Restructuring; and (b) (to the best of the Board's knowledge) none of the information disclosed was untrue or materially inaccurate except as corrected by further disclosures made to the Secretary of State;
- (f) the Creditor Restructuring Agreement not having been terminated or amended in a manner which the Secretary of State considers to be material and there having been no waiver of the conditions in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement to which the Secretary of State has not consented in writing;
- (g) the representations and warranties given in the Government Restructuring Agreement by the relevant Group companies who are parties thereto (including New British Energy and Holdings plc) being true at the date when given and at the date when the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements are entered into;
- (h) there having been no breach of any undertaking given in the Government Restructuring Agreement by the relevant Group companies who are parties thereto (including New British Energy or Holdings plc) which, in the reasonable opinion of the Secretary of State, is, or is likely to be, material in the context of the Restructuring;

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- (i) the representations and warranties given in the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements by the relevant Group companies (including New British Energy and Holdings plc) being true and there being no material breach of the undertakings in the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements given by such Group companies at the date on which all the other conditions to the Government Restructuring Agreement are satisfied;
- (j) there being no continuing event of default under the Government Facility;
- (k) the Creditors Order having been issued by the Court and, if the Members Scheme is approved, the Members Order having been issued by the Court; and
- (l) it not becoming unlawful for any party to the Government Restructuring Agreement to perform its material obligations.

The Secretary of State is entitled to waive any of the above conditions save for the conditions set out in paragraphs (a), (k) or (l) above.

The Government Restructuring Agreement will terminate if any of the conditions outlined above are not fulfilled or, in relation to those which may be waived, waived by the Secretary of State on or before the date specified therein, or, if no such date is specified, on or before 12 noon on 31 January 2005 or, if earlier, the date falling 120 days after the date on which the last of the Initial Conditions is satisfied (or such later date as the Secretary of State may agree). The Company is seeking an extension, but no assurance can be given that the Secretary of State will agree to extend the long stop date of 31 January 2005 (see paragraph 4 of the Chairman's letter in Part I of this document).

The Secretary of State may give written notice to the Company to terminate the Government Restructuring Agreement if at any time before the Notified Filing Date there is a Material Adverse Change.

5. Creditor Restructuring Agreement Termination events

Unless otherwise agreed by the Creditors, the Secretary of State and the Company, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement will automatically terminate (and consequently the Restructuring will not be implemented) if:

- (a) the circular relating to the Creditors Scheme has not been posted by 3 December 2004 or the Creditors Scheme has not been approved by Scheme Creditors by 14 January 2005 or in each case such later date as is agreed in writing by the Company, the requisite majorities of Creditors (other than BNFL) and the Secretary of State;
- (b) the Restructuring has not occurred by the Restructuring Long Stop Date;
- (c) the Restructuring Condition has ceased to be capable of satisfaction;

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- (d) the Company receives a valid notice of termination by reason of a Material Adverse Change;
- (e) the Government Restructuring Agreement is validly terminated in accordance with its terms;
- (f) the Company receives a valid termination notice under the New Standstill Agreement from any party thereto;
- (g) the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement is validly terminated in accordance with clause 4 thereof; or
- (h) the State Aid Approval is successfully overturned on appeal prior to the Restructuring Long Stop Date and the Company receives a written notice from the requisite majority of the Creditors (excluding BNFL) that they wish to terminate the Creditor Restructuring Agreement.

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6. Bondholder Restructuring Agreement and New Standstill Agreement Termination events

The Bondholder Restructuring Agreement and the New Standstill Agreement will terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- (a) any petition having been presented or other step having been taken for the purpose of winding up any Material Company (not being a petition which is frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of the process of the court and not being a petition withdrawn or struck out within 20 Business Days) or an order having been made or resolution passed for the winding up of any Material Company;
- (b) any petition having been presented or other step having been taken for the purpose of the appointment of an administrator or interim manager in respect of any Material Company (not being a petition which is frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of the process of the court and not being a petition withdrawn or struck out within 20 Business Days) or an administration order having been made in relation to any Material Company or any Material Company otherwise entering into administration;
- (c) any administrative or other receiver being appointed in respect of any Material Company or any part of their respective assets and/or undertakings or any other steps being taken to enforce any security interest over all or any material part of the assets of any Material Company;
- (d) there occurring in relation to any Material Company, in any country or territory in which any of them carries on business or to the jurisdiction of whose courts any part of their respective assets is subject, any event which in that country or territory corresponds with, or has an effect equivalent or similar to, any of those mentioned;
- (e) either the Company or any of its subsidiaries which is a party to the Government Facility failing to satisfy any valid written demand for repayment in full by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Government Facility, or any counter-indemnity provided by the Company (or any of its subsidiaries) to the Secretary of State in respect of any guarantee or other form of credit support granted by the Secretary of State for the purposes of securing any facility granted by commercial banks to the Company (or any of its subsidiaries) in order to replace the Government Facility;
- (f) the Company or the guarantors under the Bonds failing to comply with its/their covenants under the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement;
- (g) documentation being dispatched by the Company (without the consent of the creditors) for the purposes of implementing a scheme, compromise or arrangement in relation to the Bonds or Standstill Obligations (as defined in the New Standstill Agreement) which provides for distributions to the holders of the bonds or creditors (as the case may be) different to that set out in the heads of terms dated 14 February 2003;
- (h) any company failing to discharge any material Continuing Obligation (as defined in the New Standstill Agreement) when due or pay any interest on any Standstill Obligation when due, and, in either case, such failure continues for a period of 20 Business Days and has not been waived by the relevant creditor;
- (i) interest not having been paid within 20 Business Days of the due date on the Bonds;

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- (j) the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement and/or the New Standstill Agreement (as appropriate) terminating or for any reason ceasing to be in full force and effect and/or to bind its counterparties thereto; and

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- (k) the Creditor Restructuring Agreement terminating in accordance with its terms.

7. Termination events for Bond standstill

The circumstances in which the standstill arrangements for the existing Bonds (as set out in the supplements to the existing Bond trust deed) will terminate are broadly similar to those for the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement and the New Standstill Agreement, as described above, but in certain circumstances termination is subject to the Bond Trustee being requested to serve a termination notice by holders of not less than 50 per cent. in principal amount of the Bonds then outstanding and having been indemnified to its satisfaction. In addition, the standstill arrangements for the existing Bonds will terminate on the Restructuring Long Stop Date, unless extended in relation to the relevant series as described above, following approval by written resolutions of holders of such series of Bonds. The standstill arrangements under the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement and the New Standstill Agreement may terminate in certain circumstances where the existing Bond trust deed does not permit termination of the standstill in respect of the Bonds. However, the standstill in relation to the Bonds will terminate on the date on which the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement or the New Standstill Agreement are terminated.

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PART V

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Responsibility

The Directors of the Company, whose names appear in paragraph 2 below, accept responsibility for the information contained in this document. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors of the Company (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this document is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

2. Directors And Registered Office

The Directors of the Company and of New British Energy are:

- (a) Adrian Montague CBE (Chairman);
- (b) Mike Alexander (Chief Executive);
- (c) Roy Anderson (Chief Nuclear Officer*);
- (d) Stephen Billingham (Finance Director);
- (e) William A. Coley (Non-Executive Director);
- (f) Pascal Colombani (Non-Executive Director);
- (g) John Delucca (Non-Executive Director);
- (h) Ian Harley (Non-Executive Director);
- (i) David Pryde (Non-Executive Director);
- (j) Clare Spottiswoode CBE (Deputy Chairman and Non-Executive Director); and
- (k) Sir Robert Walmsley (Non-Executive Director).

*

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The appointment of Roy Anderson as Chief Nuclear Officer is to be approved by the NII under the terms of British Energy's site licences. British Energy expects this approval to be forthcoming. On this basis, for the purpose of this document, Roy Anderson is referred to as Chief Nuclear Officer.

The registered office of the Company and of New British Energy and the business address of each of the above Directors is 3 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride G74 5PR.

3. Information on New British Energy

New British Energy was incorporated and registered in Scotland on 2 July 2004 with registered number 270184 under the Act as a public company limited by shares with the name of British Energy Group plc.

Details of New British Energy's authorised and issued share capital following Admission and changes to New British Energy's authorised and issued share capital since incorporation are set out in paragraph 2 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

A summary of the material provisions of New British Energy's memorandum and articles of association is set out in paragraph 3 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

4. Directors and other interests

The interests (all of which are beneficial unless otherwise stated) of the Directors and their immediate families and the interests of persons connected with the Directors in the share

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capital of the Company as at 23 November 2004 (being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this document) and in the share capital of New British Energy on Admission which:

- (a) have been or will be notified by each Director to the Company or New British Energy by each Director pursuant to section 324 or section 328 of the Act;
- (b) are required pursuant to section 325 of that Act to be entered in the register referred to therein; or
- (c) are interests of a connected person of a Director which would, if the connected person were a Director, be required to be disclosed under paragraphs (a) or (b) above and the existence of which is known to or could with reasonable diligence be ascertained by that Director, as at 23 November 2004 (being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this document), are, and are expected following Admission to be, as follows:

Name of Director	<i>At present</i>		<i>Assuming the Members Scheme becomes Effective</i>			<i>Assuming the Disposal is approved</i>			<i>Assuming the Members Scheme does not become Effective and the Disposal is not approved</i>	
	No. of	% of	% of		% of		No. of	% of	No. of	% of
	Ordinary Shares	issued share capital	No. of New Shares	No. of Warrants	issued share capital	No. of New Shares	No. of Warrants	issued share capital	New Shares	issued share capital
Adrian Montague	2,188	Negligible	43	92	Negligible		92	Negligible		
Ian Harley	2,000	Negligible	40	84	Negligible		84	Negligible		

As at 23 November 2004 (being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this document) no options over British Energy Shares had been granted to Directors under the British Energy Option Schemes.

No Director has or has had any interest in any transaction which is or was unusual in its nature or conditions or is or was significant to the business of the British Energy Group and which was effected by any member of the British Energy Group during the current or immediately preceding financial year or which was effected during an earlier financial year and remains in any respect outstanding or unperformed.

In so far as is known to the Company and New British Energy, the following table shows the interests in New Shares, other than the interests of the Directors set out above, which, directly or indirectly, amount to 3 per cent. or more of New British Energy's issued share capital both as at 22 November (being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this document) and as expected immediately following Admission:

Assuming the Members Scheme becomes Effective

Assuming the Disposal is approved

Assuming the Members Scheme

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Name							<i>does not become Effective and the Disposal is not approved</i>	
	No. of New Shares	No. of Warrants	% of issued share capital	No. of New Shares	No. of Warrants	% of issued share capital	No. of New Shares	% of issued share capital
Duquesne Capital Management, L.L.C.	78,542,317		14.0	80,786,384		14.4	80,786,384	14.4
Deutsche Bank AG, London	57,223,688		10.2	57,784,705		10.3	57,784,705	10.3
Stark Investments*	43,882,317	3,071,897	7.8	43,571,865	3,071,897	7.8	43,571,865	7.8
The Eureka (Euro) Fund Limited	44,320,308		7.9	45,442,341		8.1	45,442,341	8.1
Fidelity Investments	34,783,026		6.2	35,669,652		6.4	35,669,652	6.4
The Royal Bank of Scotland	30,868,315		5.5	31,527,888		5.6	31,527,883	5.6
LGC Holdings, L.L.C.	18,081,564		3.2	18,542,466		3.3	18,542,466	3.3

* The percentage figures stated for Stark Investments are based on the undiluted share capital of New British Energy. After exercising all its Warrants, Stark Investments' interests in New Shares (as a percentage of New British Energy's fully diluted issued share capital) would be 8.0 per cent. assuming the Members' Scheme is approved, 7.9 per cent. assuming the Disposal is approved and 7.8 per cent, assuming neither the Members' Scheme or the Disposal is approved.

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The information in the above table has been provided to British Energy by advisers to certain of the creditors in connection with the application for Admission and, in certain cases, the number of New Shares has been calculated on the basis of the percentage figures provided. However, because the existing Bonds, the debt owed to the Eggborough Banks and the relevant claims of the Significant Creditors are tradeable (in accordance with the Creditor Restructuring Agreement), and because British Energy Shares may be bought or sold, the interests stated above may change between the date of this document and Admission. Supplementary listing particulars would be published if New British Energy becomes aware that there is a significant change in this information or a significant new matter has arisen in this regard (which would have been required to be mentioned in this document if it had arisen prior to the date of this document), in each case, which would be significant for the purpose of making an informed assessment about whether to invest in the New Shares, Warrants and/or New Bonds.

In so far as is known to the Company, no person directly or indirectly, jointly or severally exercises or could exercise control over the Company.

5. Directors service agreements and terms of appointment

Details of the Directors service agreements and letters of appointment are set out in paragraph 7 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

Copies of the executive Directors service agreements and the letters of appointment of the non-executive Directors will be available for inspection at the address specified in paragraph 13 below.

6. Management and share incentive plans

New British Energy has adopted a number of employee share incentive plans which are described in detail in paragraph 8 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information , including the Interim Bonus Plan and the LT Plan for senior executives of New British Energy and its subsidiaries.

Under the Interim Bonus Plan, the remuneration committee of New British Energy may grant a deferred bonus to senior executives of New British Energy and its subsidiaries to reward performance over the financial year ending 31 March 2005. The performance targets for this year have yet to be determined by the remuneration committee. The Interim Bonus Plan is intended to reward performance for that financial year only, and rewards for performance in subsequent financial years will be provided through the LT Plan. The Interim Bonus Plan is described in detail in paragraph 8.2 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

The LT Plan provides for the establishment of targets by the remuneration committee of New British Energy in relation to safety and environment, EBITDA (Pre-capex) (as defined in the LT Plan), nuclear output, non-outage backlog, trading measure, free cash flow and equity market capitalisation for each financial year. For executive directors and other members of the executive team this will consist entirely of Group targets. EBITDA (Pre-capex) and nuclear output targets have already been set for the financial years ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007 and 31 March 2008, and these are set out in paragraph 8.3 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

7. Taxation

This section describes certain UK and US tax consequences for Shareholders of implementation of the Members' Scheme and the Disposal and also the tax consequences for the Shareholders where neither the Members' Scheme nor the Disposal is approved. It should be noted that there are significant differences between the tax consequences for Shareholders in the UK and the US which result from the differences in the underlying tax.

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systems. The discussion of the tax consequences in the UK and US does not purport to be comprehensive, and the tax consequences of the proposals in other jurisdictions are not discussed. Shareholders considering the various alternatives set out in this document are therefore encouraged to consult their own tax advisers concerning the tax consequences of the proposals in light of their particular circumstances. A description of certain UK and US tax consequences of holding the New Shares and Warrants is set out in paragraph 12 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information .

UK Taxation

The following summary describes certain UK income tax, capital gains tax, corporation tax, stamp duty and SDRT consequences for Shareholders of the implementation of the Members Scheme and the Disposal but does not purport to be comprehensive. Except where noted, it relates only to the position of persons who are the absolute beneficial owners of the British Energy Shares. The statements below may not apply to special situations, such as those of dealers in securities, authorised unit trusts, open-ended investment companies or persons connected with the Company, New British Energy or Holdings plc. Furthermore, the discussion below is generally based upon the provisions of UK tax law and UK Inland Revenue practice as of the date hereof, and such provisions may be repealed, revoked or modified (possibly with retrospective effect) so as to result in UK tax consequences different from those discussed below.

Shareholders considering the proposals set out in this document should consult their own tax advisers concerning UK tax consequences in light of their particular circumstances as well as any consequences arising under the law of any other relevant jurisdiction. No representations are made with respect to the tax consequences to any particular holder of British Energy Shares. Specifically, the comments below do not address: (i) tax other than UK income tax, capital gains tax, corporation tax, stamp duty and SDRT which are discussed below; (ii) any tax consequences for any persons other than Shareholders; (iii) any tax consequences other than in relation to the implementation of the Members Scheme or the Disposal; (iv) any tax consequences in a jurisdiction other than the UK; or (v) any tax consequences of any subsequent holding or disposal of New Share or Warrants. Shareholders who are resident in a jurisdiction other than the UK are strongly urged to consult their professional advisers to determine their own tax position.

Members Scheme

If the Members Scheme is approved and becomes Effective then Scheme Shareholders will receive New Shares and Warrants. The Inland Revenue has agreed that, on the Members Scheme becoming Effective, there will be a chargeable gains disposal on the cancellation of the Scheme Shares in relation to each Scheme Shareholder.

This will crystallise a capital gain or loss for capital gains tax or corporation tax on chargeable gains purposes calculated as the market value of the New Shares and the Warrants (which the Inland Revenue have agreed will be the lower of: (i) the lower of the two prices shown in the quotations for shares or securities on the London Stock Exchange on the first day of trading plus one quarter of the difference between those two figures; and (ii) the halfway price between the highest and lowest prices recorded on that day) less the base cost of the Scheme Shares, which may, depending on the Scheme Shareholder's circumstances (including the availability of exemptions and allowable losses and whether the Scheme Shareholder is a corporate or an individual), give rise to a liability to capital gains tax or corporation tax in respect of chargeable gains. An allowable loss may arise if the proceeds received by the Scheme Shareholder are less than the base cost of their Scheme Shares.

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The Inland Revenue has agreed that those Scheme Shareholders who do not elect to receive New Shares and Warrants or whose Shareholder Elections are invalid and who therefore receive cash will be treated as disposing of their Scheme Shares for an amount equal to the consideration received for the New Shares and Warrants sold.

Disposal

If the Members Scheme is not approved, or otherwise Lapses, but the Disposal is approved by Ordinary Shareholders then Shareholders will receive Warrants only. The receipt of the Warrants will give rise to a part disposal for capital gains purposes. The Inland Revenue have agreed that the residual value of the British Energy Shares will be nil so that the full base cost in the British Energy Shares will be deductible from the market value of the Warrants (as determined above) in determining the capital gain or loss. As discussed above, this may give rise to a liability to capital gains tax or corporation tax or an allowable loss in respect of chargeable gains, depending on the circumstances of the relevant Shareholder.

In the event that the Disposal is not approved by Ordinary Shareholders, the Inland Revenue have agreed that the British Energy Shares in the Company will be of negligible value after the Disposal is effected. Where a Shareholder makes a claim for the British Energy Shares to be of negligible value, the British Energy Shares will be treated as having been sold and immediately reacquired so that the Shareholder may realise, depending on its circumstances, a capital loss for the purposes of capital gains tax or corporation tax on capital gains equal to the Shareholder's base cost in the British Energy Shares.

Claiming an Allowable Loss

A Shareholder who realises a loss for the purposes of capital gains tax must give notice to an officer of the Board of the Inland Revenue quantifying the amount of that loss before it will be treated as an allowable loss. The notice must be given within 5 years of 31 January following the year of assessment in which the Restructuring becomes effective.

Stamp Duty and SDRT on issue of New Shares and Warrants under the Members Scheme

In relation to the New Shares being issued by New British Energy and subject to the comments below, no liability to stamp duty or SDRT will arise on the issue of, or on the issue of definitive share certificates in respect of, such shares by New British Energy and no liability to SDRT will arise on the issue of the Warrants. Where a Scheme Shareholder is entitled to receive New Shares or Warrants under the Members Scheme, there will be no charge to stamp duty or SDRT on the issue/transfer of New Shares and no charge to SDRT on the issue/transfer of Warrants pursuant to the Members Scheme to that Shareholder, or to a person holding the New Shares or Warrants on his behalf (assuming such person is neither: (i) a person whose business is or includes the provision of clearance services (or a nominee for such a person); or (ii) a person whose business is or includes issuing depository receipts (or a nominee or agent for such a person)).

Subject to the above, no stamp duty or SDRT should be payable by a Scheme Shareholder in respect of the arrangements for the distribution of the New Shares under the Members Scheme and no SDRT should be payable by a Scheme Shareholder in respect of the arrangements for the distribution of the Warrants under the Members Scheme. See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document in relation to the position of holders of British Energy ADRs if New ADRs in respect of the New

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Shares are issued and listed on the NYSE upon Admission.

If any stamp duty is payable upon the Warrant Instrument being produced in evidence in any proceedings in connection with the enforcement of the Warrant Instrument, the Warrants or the Subscription Rights (as such term is defined in condition 1 of the Warrants), under condition 8.1 of the Warrants, New British Energy has agreed to pay it.

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The conditions of the Warrants are set out in Part VIII of the Prospectus: Conditions of the Warrants .

US federal income taxation

The following is a summary of the principal US federal income tax considerations for Shareholders that are US Holders regarding the implementation of the Members Scheme and the Disposal. This summary does not purport to discuss all aspects of US federal income tax that may be important to US Holders subject to special tax rules, such as banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, grantor trusts, tax-exempt organizations, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect mark-to-market tax accounting, persons that own or will own, directly or by attribution, 10 per cent. or more of the Company s or New British Energy s outstanding voting share capital for US federal income tax purposes, persons that own both claims that are the subject of the Creditors Scheme and British Energy Shares, persons subject to alternative minimum tax, certain US expatriates, person that have not held the British Energy Shares as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the US Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code) (generally, property held for investment), persons whose functional currency is not the US dollar and persons that have held the British Energy Shares as part of a hedging, integrated, conversion or constructive sale transaction or straddle. Moreover, this summary does not address the US federal estate and gift tax consequences of the implementation of the Members Scheme and the Disposal and does not address the foreign personal holding company rules. The summary does not include any description of any US state or local tax that may be applicable to the implementation of the Members Scheme and Disposal. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers with respect to the US federal income, state, local and foreign tax consequences of the implementation of the Members Scheme and the Disposal.

This summary is based upon the Code, its legislative history, existing and proposed US Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, published rulings by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and court decisions, all in effect as of the date hereof, all of which authorities are subject to change or differing interpretations, which changes or differing interpretations could apply retroactively.

As used herein, the term **US Holder** means a beneficial owner of British Energy Shares that, for US federal income tax purposes, is: (i) a citizen or individual resident of the United States; (ii) a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for US federal income tax purposes) created or organised in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof (including the District of Columbia); (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to US federal income taxation regardless of its source; or (iv) a trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons (as defined in the Code) have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or a trust that has made valid election under US Treasury regulations to be treated as a domestic trust.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for US federal income tax purposes) holds British Energy Shares, the US federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A partner of a partnership holding British Energy Shares, should consult its own tax advisers regarding the US federal income tax consequences of the implementation of the Members Scheme and the Disposal.

Members Scheme

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If the Members' Scheme becomes Effective, then a US Holder will receive New Shares and Warrants in exchange for the US Holder's Scheme Shares. Although the US federal

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income tax treatment of this exchange is not entirely clear, it appears that a US Holder should generally recognise gain or loss on this exchange in an amount equal to the difference between the US Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Scheme Shares and the fair market value (as of the Restructuring Effective Date) of the New Shares and Warrants. Subject to the PFIC discussion below, this gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss, if the US Holder held the Scheme Shares as a capital asset, and will be treated as US-source gain or loss. US Holders should consult their own tax advisers as to the consequences to them of such capital gains (which may be taxed at rates lower than ordinary income in the case of US Holders that are individuals, trusts or estates and that have held their British Energy Shares for more than one year) and capital losses (the deductibility of which is subject to limitations). Assuming gain or loss is recognised in the manner just described, a US Holder's basis in the New Shares and Warrants will equal the fair market value of the New Shares and Warrants as of the date on which the Members' Scheme becomes Effective.

It should be noted that, although the exchange by US Holders of Scheme Shares for New Shares and Warrants is best viewed as a fully taxable transaction for US federal income tax purposes (as described in the preceding paragraph), it nonetheless is possible that the IRS will attempt to treat such exchange as a tax-free transaction pursuant to Section 351 of the Code and that a court will uphold such treatment by the IRS. In general, if a US Holder's exchange of Scheme Shares for New Shares and Warrants is treated as tax-free under Section 351, then any loss realised by the US Holder on the exchange will not be recognised. In addition, the US Holder generally will recognise the gain (if any) realized by it on the exchange only to the extent of the fair market value (as of the Restructuring Effective Date) of the Warrants received in the exchange. US Holders are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding whether their exchange qualifies as a tax-free transaction under Section 351 and what the specific consequences to them are if the exchange does so qualify.

As discussed in paragraphs 8 and 13 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document, in certain circumstances, New British Energy will allot and issue New Shares and Warrants to a person who will sell such New Shares and Warrants for cash. If New Shares or Warrants of a US Holder are sold by such person for cash, then the US Holder generally will recognise US source capital gain or loss at the time of that sale, in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the US Holder's basis in the New Shares or Warrants and the amount of cash received as consideration. Since the holding period for New Shares and Warrants is likely to be less than one year when sold by such person, such capital gain or loss generally will be short-term capital gain or loss, and thus any such gain will be subject to the maximum marginal US federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income.

As described above in paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document, if a US Holder owns Scheme Shares evidenced by ADRs, and such US Holder receives New ADRs in exchange for such ADRs pursuant to the Members' Scheme, then New British Energy will pay any SDRT imposed with respect to the issuance of such New ADRs. A US Holder generally will not be entitled to a foreign tax credit in respect of such SDRT, and the payment of such SDRT by New British Energy may be treated as an additional amount realised upon the exchange of the US Holder's Scheme Shares evidenced by ADRs pursuant to the Members' Scheme. US Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the US federal income tax treatment of any SDRT paid by New British Energy in respect of an issuance of New ADRs.

Disposal with Ordinary Shareholder approval

If the Members' Scheme is not approved, or otherwise Lapses, but the Disposal is approved by the Ordinary Shareholders, then US Holders will receive Warrants. A US Holder generally will recognise gain or loss on the Restructuring Effective Date in an amount equal to the difference between the US Holder's adjusted tax basis in the British

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Energy Shares and the fair market value (as of the Restructuring Effective Date) of the Warrants received. Subject to the PFIC discussion below, this gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss, if the US Holder held the British Energy Shares as a capital asset, and will be treated as US-source gain or loss. US Holders should consult their own tax advisers as to the consequences to them of such capital gains (which may be taxed at rates lower than ordinary income in the case of US Holders that are individuals, trusts or estates and that have held their British Energy Shares for more than one year) and capital losses (the deductibility of which is subject to limitations). A US Holder's basis in the Warrants will equal the fair market value of the Warrants as of the Restructuring Effective Date.

As discussed in paragraphs 8 and 13 of the Explanatory Statement in Part II of this document, in certain circumstances, New British Energy will issue Warrants to a person who will sell such Warrants (or New Shares received upon such person's exercise of Warrants) for cash. If Warrants (or New Shares received upon exercise of Warrants) are sold, then the US Holder generally will recognise US source capital gain or loss at the time of that sale, in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the US Holder's basis in the Warrants (or New Shares) and the amount of cash received as consideration. Since the holding period for the Warrants is likely to be less than one year when sold by such person, such capital gain or loss generally will be short-term capital gain or loss, and thus any such gain will be subject to the maximum marginal US federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Considerations

Generally, for US federal income tax purposes, a foreign corporation will be a passive foreign investment company, or a PFIC, for any taxable year if either: (i) 75 per cent. or more of its gross income is passive income; or (ii) 50 per cent. or more of the value of its assets, determined on the basis of a quarterly average, is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income. Passive income generally includes dividends, interest, royalties and rents not arising from the active conduct of a trade or business, and gains from the sale of assets that produce such income. If a foreign corporation is a PFIC in any taxable year that a US person owns shares, the US person may be subject to tax at ordinary income rates on: (a) a portion of any gain recognised on the sale of shares; and (b) any excess distribution paid on shares (generally, a distribution in excess of 125 per cent. of the average annual distributions paid by the foreign corporation in the three preceding taxable years).

If the Company were a PFIC for one or more taxable years during the period that a US Holder has owned British Energy Shares, then the US Holder may be subject to the consequences described above on the exchange of such British Energy Shares for New Shares and Warrants (pursuant to the Members Scheme) or on the receipt of Warrants (pursuant to the Disposal if approval of the Ordinary Shareholders is obtained). US Holders should consult their tax advisers to confirm whether they have treated the Company as a PFIC in any taxable year during the period they have held their British Energy Shares. Based on the Company's current activities and assets, although the matter is not free from doubt, the Company does not believe that it currently is a PFIC. No assurance, however, can be given as to its status in past years.

Disposal without Ordinary Shareholder approval

If the Disposal is effected without the approval of the Ordinary Shareholders, then a US Holder generally will recognise a capital loss on the Restructuring Effective Date in an amount equal to the US Holder's adjusted tax basis in the British Energy Shares. If the US Holder's holding period for the British Energy Shares exceeds one year, such loss generally will be long-term capital loss, and, if the US Holder's holding period for the British Energy Shares is one year or less, such loss generally will be short-term capital loss. Any loss realized with respect to the British Energy Shares on the Restructuring Effective Date generally will be treated as a US-source loss.

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US Backup Withholding Tax and Information Reporting

Backup withholding tax and information reporting requirements may apply to payments to certain non-corporate US Holders of the proceeds from an exchange of a British Energy Share pursuant to the Members Scheme or the Disposal. The Company or its agent may be required to withhold backup withholding tax on a payment of proceeds to a US Holder (other than an exempt recipient, such as a corporation) if such US Holder fails to furnish its correct taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with, or establish an exemption from, such backup withholding requirements. Backup withholding tax is not an additional tax and may be credited against the beneficial owner's US federal income tax liability if the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner.

8. Material Contracts, Obligations and Entitlements

Continuing Group

The following is a summary of the principal contents of each material contract (not being a contract entered into in the ordinary course of business) entered into by any member of the Continuing Group within the two years immediately preceding the date of this document and those contracts entered into by any member of the Continuing Group (not in the ordinary course of business) which contain any provision under which any member of the Continuing Group has any obligation or entitlement which is material to the Continuing Group at the date of this document:

- (a) the Business Transfer Agreement to effect the Disposal dated 8 October 2004 and made between British Energy and Holdings plc. Under the Business Transfer Agreement, British Energy will sell its entire business and assets (including all its shares in its subsidiaries other than the non-voting shares held by it in each of New British Energy and Holdings plc) to Holdings plc as a going concern. In consideration for such sale, Holdings plc will agree to perform the outstanding obligations under all of British Energy's contracts and to satisfy or discharge all of British Energy's liabilities and obligations. Furthermore, Holdings plc will indemnify British Energy against each loss, liability, cost and expense which British Energy may suffer in connection with: (i) all liabilities and obligations of British Energy assumed by Holdings plc under the Business Transfer Agreement; and (ii) British Energy's ownership or operation of its business and assets before or after completion of the Business Transfer Agreement. If the benefit of any of British Energy's contracts can be assigned without a person's consent, then the Business Transfer Agreement will constitute an assignment of the relevant contract to Holdings plc. If a contract cannot be assigned until consent is obtained or a novation is achieved, British Energy will hold the relevant contract and all benefits thereunder as trustee for Holdings plc and will upon receipt of any monies, goods, services or benefits account for and pay or deliver the same to Holdings plc.

Holdings plc is also required under the terms of the Business Transfer Agreement to: (i) take over the contracts of employment for British Energy's employees, together with all losses, liabilities and costs relating to those contracts of employment or the transfer thereof; and (ii) implement such arrangements as are required to effect the transition of the existing pension arrangements of British Energy and any Group undertaking to Holdings plc or such person as Holdings plc may nominate.

The Business Transfer Agreement will become effective only if the Members Scheme is not approved by the relevant shareholders (or otherwise lapses) and either: (a) the resolution to approve the Disposal is passed by the holders of Ordinary Shares at the extraordinary general meeting convened for that purpose; and/or (b) the listing of British Energy's A Shares and Ordinary Shares on the Official List has been cancelled pursuant to the Listing Rules. Completion of the Business Transfer Agreement shall take place immediately after the later of: (i) either of the foregoing conditions having been satisfied; and (ii)

satisfaction of the Restructuring Condition. The Business

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Transfer Agreement will automatically terminate if it has not been completed by the Restructuring Long Stop Date; and

- (b) the contracts described in paragraphs 17.1(c)-(o), (r), (s), (v), (z)-(gg), (tt), (uu), (ww) and (xx) of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information . Under the Business Transfer Agreement referred to in (a) above, Holdings plc will perform all the outstanding obligations under these contracts and will satisfy or discharge all of British Energy's existing and future liabilities and obligations thereunder. Furthermore, Holdings plc will indemnify British Energy against each loss, liability, cost and expense which British Energy may suffer in connection with all liabilities and obligations of British Energy arising under these contracts.

Disposed Group

Paragraphs 17.1 and 17.2 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information contain summaries of the principal contents of each material contract (not being a contract entered into in the ordinary course of business) entered into, or expected to be entered into upon or subsequent to the implementation of the Restructuring, by members of the Disposed Group.

Save as stated above, no member of the Disposed Group has entered into any contract which is or may be material (not being a contract entered into in the ordinary course of business) within the two years immediately preceding the date of this document or any other contract (not being a contract entered into in the ordinary course of business) which contains any provision under which any member of the Disposed Group has any obligation or entitlement which is or may be material to the Disposed Group at the date of this document.

9. Litigation

Continuing Group

Save as disclosed in paragraphs 16.2, 16.3, 16.8 and 16.9 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information , the Continuing Group has not been engaged in any legal or arbitration proceedings by or against the Continuing Group (including any such proceedings which are pending or threatened by or against the Continuing Group of which the Continuing Group is aware) which may have, or have had during the 12 months preceding the date of this document, a significant effect on the Continuing Group's financial position.

The Disposed Group

Save as disclosed in paragraphs 16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 and 16.7 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information , none of the undertakings in the Disposed Group has been engaged in any legal or arbitration proceedings by or against the Disposed Group (including any such proceedings which are pending or threatened by or against any of the undertakings in the Disposed Group of which the Directors are aware) which may have, or have had during the 12 months preceding the date of this document, a significant effect on the Disposed Group's financial position.

10. **Working Capital**

In the opinion of the Company, having regard to the indemnity from Holdings plc referred to in paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Statement relating to all losses, liabilities, costs and expenses of the Continuing Group assumed by Holdings plc in connection with the Disposal, the working capital available to the Continuing Group is sufficient for the Continuing Group's present requirements, that is for at least the next 12 months following the date of this document.

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11. Significant Change

Continuing Group

Save for:

- (i) the announcements by British Energy:
 - (a) on 30 July 2004 that: (1) further work was necessary on one unit at each of the Heysham 1 and Hartlepool power stations to demonstrate the integrity of certain boilers which, at the date of this document, remain shut down (as discussed more fully in the risk factor on this subject appearing on page 103 of the Prospectus); and (2) it was revising its target of annual nuclear output from 64.5 TWh to around 61.5 TWh for the 2004/2005 financial year (as discussed more fully on page 32 of the Prospectus), which would have the effect of significantly reducing the Group's projected output for the year;
 - (b) on 22 October 2004 that, in light of further work required at Heysham 1 and Hartlepool before the units can be returned to service (as discussed more fully in the risk factor on this subject appearing on page 103 of the Prospectus), the nuclear output target for 2004/2005 of 61.5 TWh was vulnerable and may have had the effect of reducing the Group's projected output for the year and therefore the Group's profitability; and
 - (c) on 18 November 2004 that it had reduced its target of annual nuclear output to 59.5 TWh for the 2004/2005 financial year (as discussed more fully on page 32 of the Prospectus), which would have the effect of significantly reducing the Group's projected output for the year;
- (ii) the continuing increase in the market price of electricity from around £24.5 per MWh at the end of March 2004 to over £30.0 per MWh by 22 November 2004 (as discussed more fully on page 33 of the Prospectus in the paragraph headed: Sales) which required the Group to deposit additional collateral in support of British Energy's trading activities (as discussed more fully on page 34 of the Prospectus in the paragraph headed: Cash and liquidity);
- (iii) the deferral of certain payments to suppliers of up to £81.2m in aggregate as at 23 November 2004 (being the latest practicable date for obtaining this information prior to publication of this document) which may adversely affect the Group's relationship with suppliers (as discussed more fully on page 34 of the Prospectus in the paragraph headed: Cash and liquidity); and
- (iv) the litigation matters relating to Polygon and Brandes described in paragraph 16.9 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information which have involved the Company becoming a defendant in litigation proceedings,

there has been no significant change in the financial or trading position of the Continuing Group since 30 June 2004, the date to which the last published interim results were prepared, as set out in Part IV of the Prospectus, Section 2: Results for British Energy plc for the three months ended 30 June 2004 .

Disposed Group

Save for:

- (i) the announcements by British Energy:
 - (a) on 30 July 2004 that: (1) further work was necessary on one unit at each of the Heysham 1 and Hartlepool power stations to demonstrate the integrity of certain boilers which, at the date of this document, remain shut down (as discussed more fully in the risk factor on this subject appearing on page 103 of the Prospectus); and (2) it was revising its target of annual nuclear output from 64.5 TWh to around 61.5 TWh for the 2004/2005 financial year (as discussed more fully on page 32 of the Prospectus), which would have the effect of significantly reducing the Group's projected output for the year;

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- (b) on 22 October 2004 that, in light of further work required at Heysham 1 and Hartlepool before the units can be returned to service (as discussed more fully in the risk factor on this subject appearing on page 103 of the Prospectus), the nuclear output target for 2004/2005 of 61.5 TWh was vulnerable and may have had the effect of reducing the Group's projected output for the year and therefore the Group's profitability; and
- (c) on 18 November 2004 that it had reduced its target of annual nuclear output to 59.5 TWh for the 2004/2005 financial year (as discussed more fully on page 32 of the Prospectus), which would have the effect of significantly reducing the Group's projected output for the year;
- (ii) the continuing increase in the market price of electricity from around £24.5 per MWh at the end of March 2004 to over £30.0 per MWh by 22 November 2004 (as discussed more fully on page 33 of the Prospectus in the paragraph headed: Sales) which required the Group to deposit additional collateral in support of British Energy's trading activities (as discussed more fully on page 34 of the Prospectus in the paragraph headed: Cash and liquidity);
- (iii) the deferral of certain payments to suppliers of up to £81.2m in aggregate as at 23 November 2004 (being the latest practicable date for obtaining this information prior to publication of this document) which may adversely affect the Group's relationship with suppliers (as discussed more fully on page 34 of the Prospectus in the paragraph headed: Cash and liquidity); and
- (iv) the litigation matters relating to Polygon and Brandes described in paragraph 16.9 of Part X of the Prospectus: Additional information which have involved the Company becoming a defendant in litigation proceedings,

there has been no significant change in the financial or trading position of the Disposed Group since 30 June 2004, the date to which the last published interim results were prepared, as set out in Part IV of the Prospectus, Section 2: Results for British Energy plc for the three months ended 30 June 2004 .

12. General

Citigroup Global Markets Limited has given and has not withdrawn its written consent to the inclusion of the reference to its name in the form and context in which it is included.

13. Documents for Inspection

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the offices of Clifford Chance Limited Liability Partnership, 10 Upper Bank Street, London, E14 5JJ during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this document up to and including 22 December 2004:

- (i) the memorandum and articles of association of the Company and the memorandum and articles of association of New British Energy;
- (ii) the service agreements and letters of appointment referred to in paragraph 5 above;

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- (iii) the material contracts referred to in paragraph 8 above;
- (iv) the written consent referred to in paragraph 12 above;
- (v) the audited consolidated accounts of the Group for the two financial years ended 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2004;
and
- (vi) this document.

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THE MEMBERS SCHEME

IN THE COURT OF SESSION

SCOTLAND

IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT

(under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985)

- between -

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

- and -

THE HOLDERS OF SCHEME SHARES

(as hereinafter defined)

PRELIMINARY

(A) In this scheme of arrangement, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall bear the following meanings:

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A Shares	the A Shares of 60p each in the capital of the Company
A Share Court Meeting	the meeting of holders of A Shares convened by order of the Court pursuant to section 425 of the Act to consider and, if thought fit, approve the Scheme, and any adjournment thereof
Act	the Companies Act 1985 (as amended)
Amended Credit Agreement	the credit agreement originally dated 13 July 2000 as amended and/or restated on 8 September 2000, 24 October 2000, 12 December 2000, 5 February 2001 and on or about the Scheme Effective Date between, amongst others, EPL, Barclays Bank PLC as agent and security trustee and certain financial institutions
BEG	British Energy Generation Limited
BEG UK	British Energy Generation (UK) Limited
British Energy Shareholder	a holder of any British Energy Share
British Energy Shares	the Ordinary Shares and the A Shares
BNFL	British Nuclear Fuels plc
Board	the board of directors of the Company or a duly appointed committee thereof
Bondholder	the holder of the ultimate beneficial interest in a Bond

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Bonds	all or any of the outstanding £109,861,000 5.949 per cent. guaranteed bonds of the Company due 2003 (the 2003 Bonds); the £163,444,000 6.077 per cent. guaranteed bonds of the Company due 2006 (the 2006 Bonds); and the £134,586,000 6.202 per cent. guaranteed bonds of the Company due 2016 (the 2016 Bonds)
Bond Trustees	in relation to the 2003 Bonds, the Law Debenture Trust Corporation p.l.c., in relation to the 2006 Bonds, the Law Debenture Intermediary Corporation plc and in relation to the 2016 Bonds, Law Debenture Trustees Limited
Company	British Energy plc incorporated in Scotland with registered number 162273
Court	the Court of Session, Parliament House, Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RF
Creditor Restructuring Agreement	the agreement dated as of 30 September 2003 entered into by, amongst others, the Company, BEG, BEG UK and the Creditors (as amended or extended from time to time)
Creditors	the Significant Creditors, RBS, Bondholders, the Eggborough Banks and BNFL
Creditors Scheme	the scheme of arrangement to be proposed by the Company to the Bond Trustees and RBS pursuant to section 425 of the Act
CREST	the relevant system (as defined in the CREST Regulations) in respect of which CRESTCo is the operator (as defined in the CREST Regulations)
CRESTCo	CRESTCo Limited
CREST Regulations	the Uncertified Securities Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/3755) including any modifications thereof or any regulations in substitution therefor
Election Return Time	the latest time by which a form of election needs to be returned to the Registrars (being 6.00 p.m. on the business day immediately prior to Scheme Effective Date or such later date as the Company may agree)
Eggborough Banks	the lenders and swap providers in the syndicate of banks under the Amended Credit Agreement
EPL	Eggborough Power Limited
Initial Shareholder	Robert Armour (Company Secretary of the Company and New British Energy) and his nominee
New British Energy	British Energy Group plc incorporated in Scotland with registered number 270184
New Shares	the ordinary shares of 10p each in the capital of New British Energy
New Special Share	the special rights redeemable preference share of £1 in the capital of New British Energy

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Non-voting Deferred Shares	the non-voting deferred shares of 60p each in the capital of the Company
Ordinary Share Court Meeting	the meeting of holders of Ordinary Shares convened by order of the Court pursuant to section 425 of the Act to consider and, if thought fit, approve the Scheme, and any adjournment thereof
Ordinary Shares	the ordinary shares of 44 ²⁸ /43p each in the capital of the Company
RBS	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
RBS Letter of Credit	the letter of credit issued on 1 December 2000 by RBS in favour of Barclays Bank Plc (as facility agent) relating to the debt service reserve obligations of EPL under the Amended Credit Agreement
Registrars	the registrars of the Company, being Lloyds TSB Registrars
Restructuring Long Stop Date	12 noon on 31 January 2005 (or such later date as may be agreed in accordance with the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement)
Scheme or Scheme of Arrangement	this scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Act in its present form or with or subject to any modification, addition, term or condition approved or imposed by the Court
Scheme A Shareholder	each person who appears as a holder of one or more Scheme A Shares in the relevant register of members of the Company at the Scheme Record Time
Scheme A Shares	all the A Shares:
	(a) in issue at the date of this Scheme;
	(b) (if any) issued thereafter and prior to the Voting Record Time; and
	(c) (if any) issued at or after the Voting Record Time and before the making of the order by the Court for the reduction of capital which forms part of the Scheme in respect of which the original or any subsequent holder shall be bound by this Scheme or shall have agreed in writing to be bound by this Scheme
Scheme Effective Date	the date on which the Scheme becomes effective in accordance with its terms
Scheme Ordinary Shareholder	each person who appears as a holder of one or more Scheme Ordinary Shares in the relevant register of members of the Company at the Scheme Record Time

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Scheme Ordinary Shares	all the Ordinary Shares: (a) in issue at the date of this Scheme; (b) (if any) issued thereafter and prior to the Voting Record Time; and (c) (if any) issued at or after the Voting Record Time and before the making of the order by the Court for the reduction of capital which forms part of the Scheme in respect of which the original or any subsequent holder shall be bound by this Scheme or shall have agreed in writing to be bound by this Scheme
Scheme Record Time	6.00 p.m. on the business day immediately prior to the Scheme Effective Date
Scheme Shareholder	a Scheme A Shareholder or a Scheme Ordinary Shareholder
Scheme Shares	the Scheme A Shares and the Scheme Ordinary Shares
Share Price	the average price reasonably expected by the person determined pursuant to clause 2(H) of this Scheme to be obtained for the New Shares required to be sold pursuant to such clause
Significant Creditors	Enron Capital & Trade Europe Finance L.L.C., Teesside Power Limited and Total Gas & Power Limited, and their respective successors in title
Special Share	the special rights redeemable preference share of £1 in the capital of the Company
Subscription Price	the amount payable in respect of a New Share for which a holder of a Warrant is entitled upon exercise of a Warrant to require subscription, such amount being 98p or such other amount as may from time to time be applicable in accordance with the conditions of the Warrants
Uncertificated or in Uncertificated form	recorded on the relevant register of the share, loan note or security concerned as being held in Uncertificated form in CREST and title to which, by virtue of the CREST Regulations, may be transferred by means of CREST
Voting Record Time	6.00 p.m. on the second day before the date of the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and the A Share Court Meeting or, if either the Ordinary Share Court Meeting or the A Share Court Meeting are adjourned, 48 hours before the time appointed for the relevant adjourned meeting
Warrants	the warrants to be issued by New British Energy to Scheme Shareholders entitling the holder to subscribe for New Shares

(B) At the date hereof, the authorised share capital of the Company is £874,999,632 divided into 991,679,020 Ordinary Shares, of which 620,362,444 are issued and are fully paid and the remainder are unissued, 645,586,678 A Shares, of which 80,908,247 are issued and are fully paid and the remainder are unissued, 74,752,351 Non-voting Deferred Shares, of

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which all are issued and are fully paid and one Special Share which is issued and fully paid and held jointly by The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and The Secretary of State for Scotland.

- (C) New British Energy was incorporated in Scotland as a public limited company on 2 July 2004 under the name British Energy Group plc with registered number 270184.
- (D) The authorised share capital of New British Energy at the date of this Scheme is £50,000.20 divided into 2 New Shares of 10p each and 50,000 non-voting ordinary shares of £1 each of which 2 New Shares and 50,000 non-voting ordinary shares are in issue and fully paid. Prior to the Scheme Effective Date, the Initial Shareholder will approve an increase of New British Energy's authorised share capital to £480,050,001, comprising the creation of a further 2,799,999,998 New Shares, 2,000,000,000 convertible ordinary shares of 10p each and the New Special Share.
- (E) The Initial Shareholder holds 9,660 British Energy Shares and two New Shares. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and The Secretary of State for Scotland will jointly hold the New Special Share and the Company holds the 50,000 non-voting ordinary shares in the capital of New British Energy which New British Energy intends to repurchase following the Scheme becoming effective.
- (F) The purpose of this Scheme is to effect a transfer of ownership of the Company from the Scheme Shareholders to New British Energy by the cancellation of the Scheme Shares and the issue of a new share in the Company to New British Energy in consideration of New British Energy issuing New Shares (paid up in consideration of the compromise of part of the liabilities owed by New British Energy to the Creditors (other than BNFL) pursuant to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Creditors' Scheme respectively) and Warrants to or for the benefit of the Scheme Shareholders. The Company also proposes to apply the balance of the reserve arising from the cancellation of the Scheme Shares not applied in paying up the new share to reduce the deficit in the profit and loss account of the Company brought about by a permanent loss of capital by the Company. New British Energy has agreed to transfer the new Ordinary Share in the Company acquired pursuant to this Scheme to British Energy Holdings plc, a subsidiary of New British Energy.
- (G) New British Energy and the Initial Shareholder have agreed to consent to the sanction of this Scheme by the Court and to undertake to be bound unconditionally thereby and to execute and do or procure to be executed and done all such documents, acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to be executed or done by it or them for the purpose of giving effect to this Scheme.
- (H) The Company also proposes to reduce its share capital by the cancellation and extinguishment of all the Non-voting Deferred Shares in issue outwith this Scheme.

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THE SCHEME

1. Cancellation of the Scheme Shares

- (A) The share capital of the Company shall be reduced by cancelling and extinguishing the Scheme Shares.
- (B) Forthwith and contingently upon the said reduction of capital referred to in clause 1(A) of this Scheme taking effect:
- (i) the authorised share capital of the Company shall be increased by 44 ²⁸/₄₃p by the creation of one new Ordinary Share of 44 ²⁸/₄₃p in the Company;
 - (ii) the Company shall apply 44 ²⁸/₄₃p of the reserve arising in its books on such reduction of capital in paying up, in full at par, the new Ordinary Share created pursuant to clause 1(B)(i) of this Scheme and shall allot and issue the same credited as fully paid up at par to New British Energy; and
 - (iii) the amount by which the reserve arising in the books of the Company on the reduction of capital pursuant to clause 1(A) of this Scheme exceeds the reserve applied to pay up, in full at par, the new Ordinary Share created pursuant to clause 1(B)(i) of this Scheme will be credited to the profit and loss account of the Company.

2. Consideration for the cancellation of the Scheme Shares

- (A) Immediately after the fulfilment of the steps in clause 2.5.1(a)(iv) of the Creditors Scheme, in consideration of the cancellation of the Scheme Shares and the compromise, full and final discharge, satisfaction and cancellation of part of the liabilities owed by New British Energy to the Creditors (other than BNFL) under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Creditors Scheme respectively, New British Energy shall:

- (i) if a valid election is made pursuant to clause 2(E) of this Scheme or is deemed to have been made pursuant to clause 2(F) of this Scheme (subject to the provisions of clauses 2(B) and (C) of this Scheme) allot (credited as fully paid up) New Shares and issue Warrants to each Scheme Ordinary Shareholder on the following basis:

for every 50 Scheme Ordinary Shares cancelled	1.0 New Share and 2.1 Warrants
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and so in proportion for any other number of Scheme Ordinary Shares held. If the resulting number is not a whole number, the number of New Shares and/or Warrants receivable by a Scheme Ordinary Shareholder or on his behalf will be rounded down to the nearest whole number. Fractional entitlements to New Shares and/or Warrants shall not be allotted and/or issued (as appropriate) to Scheme Ordinary Shareholders or on their behalf; and

- (ii) if a valid election is made pursuant to clause 2(E) of this Scheme or is deemed to have been made pursuant to clause 2(F) of this Scheme (subject to the provisions of clauses 2(B) and (C) of this Scheme) allot (credited as fully paid up) New Shares and issue Warrants to each Scheme A Shareholder on the following basis:

for every 50 Scheme A Shares cancelled	1.0 New Share and 2.1 Warrants
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and so in proportion for any other number of Scheme A Shares held. If the resulting number is not a whole number, the number of New Shares and/or Warrants receivable by a Scheme A Shareholder or on his behalf will be rounded down to the nearest whole number. Fractional entitlements to New Shares and/or Warrants shall not be allotted and/or issued (as appropriate) to Scheme A Shareholders or on their behalf.

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- (B) Fractional entitlements to New Shares arising as a result of clause 2(A) will be aggregated and allotted and/or issued (as appropriate) to a person determined by New British Energy on terms that such person shall sell such New Shares, as soon as possible after the Scheme Effective Date, at the best price which can reasonably be obtained in the market at the time of sale, and distribute *pro rata* to each Scheme Shareholder entitled thereto the net proceeds of such sale, after the deduction of all expenses and commission, including any value added tax payable thereon by sending a cheque to such Scheme Shareholder or as he or she may direct by post within 14 days following completion of such sale and otherwise in accordance with clause 3 of this Scheme. In the absence of bad faith or wilful default, neither New British Energy, its directors and officers nor the person selling the New Shares shall have any liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of the timing or terms of such sale.
- (C) The Initial Shareholder who holds two New Shares shall be treated as having received such shares as part of his entitlement to receive New Shares under this Scheme and his entitlement to receive New Shares shall be reduced accordingly.
- (D) The New Shares to be issued pursuant to clause 2 of this Scheme shall rank in full for all dividends or other distributions made, paid or declared after the Scheme Effective Date on the ordinary share capital of New British Energy.
- (E) Each Scheme Shareholder may at the time and in the manner specified in this paragraph elect to have all (but not some only) of the New Shares and Warrants to which he or she is entitled pursuant to clause 2(A) of this Scheme registered in his or her name or in the name of a person nominated by him or her. An election under this paragraph shall be made by completing a form of election in such form as may be prescribed by the Board and delivering the same to the Registrars at any time prior to the Election Return Time with such evidence as the Board may require to prove the title of the person exercising such right and the capacity, power and due authority of the signatory. A form of election completed and delivered by a Scheme Shareholder shall only be valid if and to the extent such person holds Scheme Shares at the Scheme Record Time.
- (F) Subject to clause 2(G) of this Scheme every Scheme Shareholder shall be deemed to have elected to have the warrants issued to him or her pursuant to clause 2(A) of this Scheme registered in his or her name if the Company is advised by the person determined by New British Energy pursuant to clause 2(H) of this Scheme that the Share Price is less than the Subscription Price.
- (G) An election made under clause 2(E) of this Scheme or deemed to have been made under clause 2(F) of this Scheme shall be deemed to be invalid and of no effect insofar as it relates to New Shares and/or Warrants if in respect of the Scheme Shareholder making the election or the person nominated by him or her New British Energy is advised that the allotment or issue of New Shares and/or Warrants pursuant to this Scheme would or might infringe the laws of any jurisdiction outside the United Kingdom or would or might require compliance with any governmental or other consent or any registration, filing or other formality, which the Company or New British Energy (as the case may be) is unable to comply with or regards as unduly onerous to comply with.
- (H) New British Energy shall allot and/or issue the New Shares and/or Warrants (as appropriate) to which Scheme Shareholders are entitled and for which valid elections have not been made under clause 2(E) of this Scheme and have not been deemed to be made under clause 2(F) of this Scheme or have been deemed to be invalid pursuant to clause 2(G) of this Scheme to a person determined by New British Energy on terms that such person shall sell such New Shares and/or Warrants (or exercise such Warrants and sell the resulting New Shares) as soon as possible after the Scheme Effective Date at the best price which can reasonably be obtained in the market at the time of sale, and account for the net proceeds of such sale (if any), after the deduction of all expenses and commission, including any value added tax payable thereon (and, if any Warrants are exercised, after

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deduction of the aggregate Subscription Price for such Warrants), by sending a cheque to such Scheme Shareholder or as he or she may direct by post within 14 days following completion of such sale and otherwise in accordance with clause 3 of this Scheme. In the absence of bad faith or wilful default, neither New British Energy, its directors and officers nor the person selling the New Shares and/or Warrants shall have any liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of the timing or terms of such sale or exercise.

3. Allotment and issue of New Shares and Warrants

- (A) New British Energy shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after the Scheme Effective Date, allot and/or issue all New Shares and Warrants (as appropriate) which it is required to allot and issue to Scheme Shareholders or persons nominated by them pursuant to clause 2 of this Scheme and shall send by post to the allottees, or as they may direct, certificates for such New Shares and Warrants (as applicable). Where the Scheme Shares are held in Uncertificated form, New British Energy will procure that CRESTCo is instructed to cancel the entitlement to Scheme Shares of the Scheme Shareholder concerned and credit the appropriate stock account in CREST of the Scheme Shareholder concerned with such shareholder's entitlement to New Shares and Warrants provided that New British Energy may (if, for any reason, it wishes to do so) determine that all or part of such consideration shall be settled in the manner referred to in the first sentence of this clause 3(A).
- (B) All deliveries of certificates and all cheques required to be sent shall be sent through the post in prepaid envelopes addressed to the persons respectively entitled thereto, or as they may direct, at their respective addresses appearing in the register of members of the Company at the Scheme Record Time (or, in the case of joint holders, to the address of that one of the joint holders whose name stands first in the register in respect of such joint holding) or in accordance with any special instructions regarding communications.
- (C) None of the Company, New British Energy or the person referred to in clauses 2(B) and (H) of this Scheme shall be responsible for any loss or delay in transmission of certificates or cheques sent in accordance with this clause 3 which shall be sent at the risk of the persons entitled thereto.
- (D) All cheques shall be made payable to the holder or, in the case of joint holders, to the first-named of such holders of the Scheme Shares concerned and the encashment of any such cheque shall be a complete discharge to New British Energy for the money represented thereby.
- (E) With effect from and including the Scheme Effective Date, all certificates for Scheme Shares shall cease to be valid in respect of such holding and will cease to be of value. All certificates representing the Scheme Shares shall at the request of New British Energy or the Company be delivered for cancellation to New British Energy or to any person appointed by New British Energy to receive the same.
- (F) The preceding provisions of this clause shall take effect subject to any prohibition or condition imposed by law.

4. Mandated payments and other instructions

Each mandate in force at the Scheme Record Time relating to the payment of dividends on the British Energy Shares and each instruction then in force as to notices and other communications shall, unless and until varied or revoked, be deemed as from the Scheme Effective Date to be a valid and effective mandate or instruction to New British Energy in relation to the corresponding New Shares and Warrants to be allotted and issued pursuant to this Scheme.

5. **Costs**

The Company will pay all the costs and expenses relating to the negotiation, preparation and implementation of the Scheme.

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6. Operation of this Scheme

This Scheme shall become effective as soon as a certified copy of the Order of the Court sanctioning this Scheme under section 425 of the Act and confirming under section 137 of the Act the reduction of the capital of the Company provided for by clause 1 of this Scheme shall have been duly delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration and, in the case of the confirmation of the reduction of capital, registered by him.

7. Expiry date

Unless this Scheme has become effective on or before the Restructuring Long Stop Date, it shall never become effective.

8. Modification

The Company and New British Energy may jointly consent on behalf of all persons concerned to any modification of or addition to this Scheme or to any condition which the Court may think fit to approve or impose.

Dated: 29 November 2004

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**NOTICE OF COURT MEETING OF ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS
OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC
UNDER SECTION 425 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985**

In a Petition presented to the Court of Session at the instance of British Energy plc, a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and having its registered office at 3 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, Lanarkshire (the **Company**) for sanction of a scheme of arrangement with members under Section 425 of the Companies Act 1985, confirmation of reductions of capital and re-registration as a private limited company, by virtue of an order made by Lord Eassie dated 9 November 2004 the Court has ordered that a meeting (the **Ordinary Share Court Meeting**) be summoned of the holders of Ordinary Shares (as defined in the members' scheme of arrangement hereinafter referred to) for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, approving (with or without modification) a members' scheme of arrangement (the **Members Scheme**) proposed to be made between the Company and the holders of Ordinary Shares and the holders of A Shares (as defined in the Members' Scheme) and notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Share Court Meeting will be held at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ on 22 December 2004 at 10.30 a.m. at which place and time all holders of Ordinary Shares are requested to attend.

A copy of the said Members' Scheme and a copy of the statement explaining the effect of the Members' Scheme are included in the document of which this Notice forms part.

The holders of Ordinary Shares in the Company may vote in person at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting or they may appoint another person, whether a member of the Company or not, as their proxy to attend and vote in their stead. A green form of proxy for use at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting is enclosed herewith.

In the case of joint holders, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders and for this purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register of members of the Company in respect of the joint holding.

It is requested that forms appointing proxies be lodged with the registrars of the Company, Lloyds TSB Registrars, SEA 9441, The Causeway, Worthing BN99 6ED not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the Ordinary Share Court Meeting or any adjourned relevant Court meeting, but if forms are not so lodged they may be handed to the Chairman at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting.

Only those shareholders registered in the register of members of the Company as at 6.00 p.m. on 20 December 2004 or, in the event that the Ordinary Share Court Meeting is adjourned, in the register of members 48 hours before the time appointed for the adjourned meeting shall be entitled to attend or vote in respect of the number of Ordinary Shares registered in their name at the relevant time. Changes to entries in the relevant register of members after 6.00 p.m. on 20 December 2004 or, in the event that the Ordinary Share Court Meeting is adjourned, in the register of members less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the adjourned meeting shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the Ordinary Share Court Meeting.

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By said Order dated 9 November 2004, the Court has authorised the Ordinary Share Court Meeting to appoint Adrian Montague (the Chairman of the Company) or, failing him, Clare Spottiswoode (a director of the Company), to act as Chairman of the Ordinary Share Court Meeting and has directed the Chairman to report the result thereof to the Court.

Dated: 29 November 2004

MacRoberts

Excel House, 30 Sempie Street

Edinburgh EH3 8BL

Solicitors for the Company

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**NOTICE OF COURT MEETING OF A SHAREHOLDERS
OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC
UNDER SECTION 425 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985**

In a Petition presented to the Court of Session at the instance of British Energy plc, a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and having its registered office at 3 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, Lanarkshire (the **Company**) for sanction of a scheme of arrangement with members under Section 425 of the Companies Act 1985, confirmation of reductions of capital and re-registration as a private limited company by virtue of an order made by Lord Eassie dated 9 November 2004 the Court has ordered that a meeting (the **A Share Court Meeting**) be summoned of the holders of A Shares (as defined in the members' scheme of arrangement hereinafter referred to) for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, approving (with or without modification) a members' scheme of arrangement (the **Members Scheme**) proposed to be made between the Company and the holders of Ordinary Shares and the holders of A Shares (as defined in the Members' Scheme) and notice is hereby given that the A Share Court Meeting will be held at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ on 22 December 2004 at 11.30 a.m. (or as soon thereafter as the Ordinary Share Court Meeting (as defined in the Members Scheme) shall have been concluded or adjourned) at which place and time all holders of A Shares are requested to attend.

A copy of the said Members' Scheme and a copy of the statement explaining the effect of the Members' Scheme are included in the document of which this Notice forms part.

The holders of A Shares in the Company may vote in person at the A Share Court Meeting or they may appoint another person, whether a member of the Company or not, as their proxy to attend and vote in their stead. A blue form of proxy for use at the A Share Court Meeting is enclosed herewith.

In the case of joint holders, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders and for this purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register of members of the Company in respect of the joint holding.

It is requested that forms appointing proxies be lodged with the registrars of the Company, Lloyds TSB Registrars, SEA 9441, The Causeway, Worthing BN99 6ED not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the A Share Court Meeting or any adjourned relevant Court meeting, but if forms are not so lodged they may be handed to the Chairman at the A Share Court Meeting.

Only those shareholders registered in the register of members of the Company as at 6.00 p.m. on 20 December 2004 or, in the event that the A Share Court Meeting is adjourned, in the register of members 48 hours before the time appointed for the adjourned meeting shall be entitled to attend or vote in respect of the number of A Shares registered in their name at the relevant time. Changes to entries in the relevant register of members after 6.00 p.m. on 20 December 2004 or, in the event that the A Share Court Meeting is adjourned, in the register of members less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the adjourned meeting shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the A Share Court Meeting.

By said Order dated 9 November 2004, the Court has authorised the A Share Court Meeting to appoint Adrian Montague (the Chairman of the Company) or, failing him, Clare Spottiswoode (a director of the Company), to act as Chairman of the A Share

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Court Meeting and has directed the Chairman to report the result thereof to the Court.

Dated: 29 November 2004

MacRoberts

Excel House, 30 Semple Street

Edinburgh EH3 8BL

Solicitors for the Company

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NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

BRITISH ENERGY PLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an extraordinary general meeting of the above named company (the **Company**) will be held at the Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ, on 22 December 2004 at 12 noon (or as soon thereafter as the separate meetings of the holders of A Shares and Ordinary Shares in the Company summoned by order of the Court for the same day and place shall have been concluded or adjourned) for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolutions of which resolution 1 will be proposed as a special resolution and resolution 2 will be proposed as an ordinary resolution:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

1. THAT:

- (A) The scheme of arrangement dated 29 November 2004 (the **Members Scheme**) between the Company and the holders of its A Shares of 60p each and Ordinary Shares of 44²⁸/43p each a print of which has been produced to this meeting and for the purpose of identification signed by the chairman hereof, be approved;
- (B) for the purpose of giving effect to the Members Scheme:
- (i) the capital of the Company be reduced by cancelling and extinguishing the Scheme Shares (as defined in the Members Scheme);
 - (ii) forthwith and contingently upon the reduction of capital referred to in paragraph (i) above taking effect the authorised capital of the Company be increased by 44²⁸/43p by the creation of one new Ordinary Share of 44²⁸/43p in the capital of the Company, such new Ordinary Share to carry the rights and be subject to the restrictions set out in the articles of association of the Company;
 - (iii) the directors of the Company be unconditionally authorised for the purposes of section 80 of the Companies Act 1985 to allot the new Ordinary Share created pursuant to paragraph (B)(ii) of this resolution provided that:
 - (a) the maximum aggregate nominal amount of shares which may be allotted is 44²⁸/43p;
 - (b) this authority shall expire on 31 October 2009; and
 - (c) this authority shall supersede and revoke any other authority under section 80 of the Companies Act 1985 previously granted and in force on the date on which this resolution is passed;

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- (iv) 44²⁸/43p of the credit arising in the books of account of the Company as a result of the cancellation of the Scheme Shares be capitalised and applied in paying up in full at par the new Ordinary Share created pursuant to paragraph (B)(ii) of this resolution which shall be allotted, credited as fully paid, to British Energy Group plc or its nominee in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Scheme and the balance of the credit arising in the books of account of the Company as a result of the cancellation of the Scheme Shares be credited to the profit and loss account of the Company; and
- (v) the directors be empowered in substitution to all previous such authorities pursuant to section 95 of the Act to allot equity securities (as defined in section 94(2) of the Act) for cash pursuant to the authority conferred in paragraph (iii) above as if section 89(1) of the Act did not apply to any such allotments provided that this authority shall expire on 31 October 2009;
- (C) the capital of the Company be further reduced by cancelling and extinguishing the 74,752,351 issued Non-voting Deferred Shares of 60p each and the credit arising in the books of account of the Company as a result of the cancellation of the Non-voting Deferred Shares be credited to the profit and loss account of the Company; and
- (D) with effect from the passing of this resolution, the articles of association of the Company be amended by the adoption and inclusion of the following new article 138:

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SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT

- (i) For the purpose of this article 138, references to the **Scheme** are to the scheme of arrangement between the Company and the Scheme Shareholders (as defined in the Scheme) dated 29 November 2004 under section 425 of the Act.
- (ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, any shares issued by the Company after the adoption of this article and before the making of the order by the Court for the reduction of capital which forms part of the Scheme shall be allotted and issued subject to the terms of the Scheme and the holder or holders of such shares shall be bound by the Scheme accordingly.
- (iii) If any Ordinary Shares or A Shares are allotted or issued to any person (a **new member**) (other than to or to anyone acting on behalf of British Energy Group plc or any subsidiary undertaking of British Energy Group plc) after the making of the order by the Court for the reduction of capital which forms part of the Scheme they shall be immediately transferred to British Energy Holdings plc in consideration of and conditionally on the allotment and issue by British Energy Holdings plc to the new member of such number of shares in the capital of British Energy Holdings plc and having such rights and subject to such restrictions as the board of British Energy Holdings plc may decide in its absolute discretion.
- (iv) In order to give effect to any such transfer required by this article 138, the Company may appoint any person to execute and deliver a form of transfer on behalf of the new member in favour of British Energy Holdings plc and/or its nominees and to agree for and on behalf of the new member to become a member of British Energy Holdings plc. Pending the registration of British Energy Holdings plc as a holder of any share to be transferred pursuant to this article 138, British Energy Holdings plc shall be empowered to appoint a person nominated by the directors of the Company to act as attorney on behalf of any holder of such share in accordance with such directions as British Energy Holdings plc may give in relation to any dealings with or disposal of such share (or any interest therein), exercising any rights attached thereto or receiving any distribution or other benefit accruing to or payable in respect thereof and any holder of such share shall exercise all rights attached thereto in accordance with the directions of British Energy Holdings plc but not otherwise.

ORDINARY RESOLUTION

- 2. THAT the disposal of all of the Company's assets to British Energy Holdings plc (the **Disposal**) pursuant to the agreement dated 8 October 2004 (the **Business Transfer Agreement**) described in the circular to shareholders of which this notice forms part (the **Circular**) be and is hereby approved and that the directors be and are hereby authorised to agree any adjustments required in accordance with the Business Transfer Agreement as they think fit, to exercise the rights of the Company and its subsidiaries under the Business Transfer Agreement as they think fit and to vary, amend or extend any of the terms of the Business Transfer Agreement as they think fit (provided any such variation, amendment or extension is anticipated in the Circular or is not of a material nature in the context of the Disposal as a whole) and to take such steps on behalf of the Company and its subsidiaries as they may consider necessary or desirable to meet the conditions of the Business Transfer Agreement and complete and carry the proposed Disposal into effect.

Registered office By order of the board

Robert Armour

3 Redwood Crescent *Secretary*

Peel Park

East Kilbride

G74 5PR 29 November 2004

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Notes:

- 1 A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him/her. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. A white Form of Proxy is enclosed. To be effective, the white Form of Proxy together with the power of attorney or authority, if any, under which it is signed (or a duly certified copy of any such power or authority) must be lodged with the Company's Registrars not less than 48 hours before the time of the meeting. Return of a completed Form of Proxy will not preclude a member from attending and voting personally at the meeting.

- 2 In accordance with Regulation 41 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 and the articles of association of the Company, only those Ordinary Shareholders entered on the relevant register of members of the Company as at 6.00 p.m. on 20 December 2004 shall be entitled to attend or vote at the meeting in respect of the number of shares registered in their name at that time. Changes to entries on the relevant register of members after 6.00 p.m. on 20 December 2004 shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the meeting.

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EXHIBIT 20.2

This document comprises: (i) listing particulars in relation to the issue of the New Shares and Warrants of British Energy Group plc pursuant to the Schemes and other arrangements with certain of the Creditors; (ii) a prospectus in relation to the issue of the Warrants of British Energy Group plc pursuant to the Disposal; and (iii) listing particulars in relation to the issue of the New Bonds of British Energy Holdings plc. Application has been made to the UK Listing Authority and to the London Stock Exchange respectively, for admission to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and for trading on the London Stock Exchange's market for listed securities of the New Shares and Warrants of British Energy Group plc and the New Bonds of British Energy Holdings plc. It is expected that Admission will become effective and that dealings in the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds will commence on the London Stock Exchange on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date.

This document has been prepared in connection with Admission, which is conditional upon the Restructuring being implemented. The implementation of the Restructuring remains subject to the satisfaction of a number of important conditions. A summary of the conditions and of the Restructuring is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring. Unless the context otherwise requires, this document assumes that the Restructuring has been implemented in accordance with its terms.

Copies of this document, as required by the Listing Rules made under section 74 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies in Scotland for registration as required by section 83 of that Act.

The Directors of British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc, whose names appear on page 4 of this document, accept responsibility for the information contained in this document. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this document is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. Your attention is drawn to the Risk factors set out in Part II of this document.

Any reference to this document means this document excluding all information incorporated by reference. British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc have each confirmed that any information incorporated by reference, including any such information to which readers of this document are expressly referred, has not been and does not need to be included in the document to satisfy the requirements of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or the Listing Rules. British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc each believe that none of the information incorporated therein by reference conflicts in any material respect with the information included in the document.

BRITISH ENERGY GROUP PLC

(Incorporated and registered in Scotland under

the Companies Act 1985 with registered no. 270184)

and

BRITISH ENERGY HOLDINGS PLC

(Incorporated and registered in Scotland under

the Companies Act 1985 with registered no. 270186)

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Introduction to the Official List of

561,016,553 British Energy Group plc shares

29,527,187 Warrants to subscribe for up to 29,527,187 British Energy Group plc shares

and

£550,000,000 British Energy Holdings plc Bonds

Guaranteed by British Energy Group plc companies

Sponsored by Citigroup Global Markets Limited

No New Shares or Warrants and no New Bonds have been marketed to, nor are any available for purchase, in whole or in part, by the public in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in connection with Admission. This document does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any securities of British Energy Group plc or British Energy Holdings plc or any other entity.

Citigroup Global Markets Limited is advising British Energy plc, British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc and no one else in connection with Admission and the Restructuring described in this document and will not be responsible to anyone other than British Energy plc, British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc for providing protections afforded to their clients nor for providing any advice in relation to Admission or the Restructuring.

HSBC Bank plc is advising British Energy plc, British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc and no one else in connection with Admission and the Restructuring described in this document and will not be responsible to anyone other than British Energy plc, British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc for providing protections afforded to their clients nor for providing any advice in relation to Admission or the Restructuring.

The distribution of this document in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law and therefore persons into whose possession this document comes should inform themselves about and observe any such restriction. Any failure to comply with these restrictions may constitute a violation of the securities law of any such jurisdictions.

The New Shares, the New Bonds and the Warrants to be issued pursuant to the Restructuring have not been and will not be registered under the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act) or any state securities laws and are being issued in connection with the Restructuring pursuant to exemptions from the registration requirements under the Securities Act, including, with respect to the New Shares and Warrants issued in connection with the Members Scheme and the New Shares issued in connection with the Creditors Scheme, the exemption provided by Section 3(a)(10) of the Securities Act, and with respect to the New Bonds and the Warrants (if issued in connection with the Disposal) only (a) in the United States pursuant to the exemption provided by section 4(2) of the Securities Act, and (b) outside the US in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act.

Neither the US Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission in the US, nor any other US regulatory authority has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this document is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offence.

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This document contains certain statements, statistics and projections that are or may be forward-looking. These statements typically contain words such as intends , expects , anticipates , estimates and words of similar import. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to events and depend on circumstances which may occur in the future. There are a number of factors that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, factors identified elsewhere in this document, other risks described in Part II: Risk factors, as well as: future revenues being lower than expected; increasing competitive pressures within the industry; general economic conditions or conditions affecting our industry, both domestically and internationally, being less favourable than expected; and/or conditions in the securities market being less favourable than expected.

Copies of this document are available for inspection (only during normal business hours) at the Document Viewing Facility of the Financial Services Authority at 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS up to and including the date of Admission and copies are available for collection on request, free of charge, up to and including the date of Admission from the Company s registered office at 3 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride G74 5PR.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE SECURITIES LAW

Neither the fact that a registration statement or an application for a licence has been filed under Chapter 421-B of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (Chapter 421-B) with the State of New Hampshire nor the fact that a security is effectively registered or a person is licensed in the State of New Hampshire constitutes a finding by the Secretary of State of New Hampshire that any document filed under Chapter 421-B is true, complete and not misleading. Neither any such fact nor the fact that an exemption or exception is available for a security or a transaction means that the Secretary of State of New Hampshire has passed in any way upon the merits or qualifications of or recommended or given approval to, any person, security or transaction. It is unlawful to make, or cause to be made, to any prospective purchaser, customer, or client any representation inconsistent with the provisions of this paragraph.

SHAREHOLDERS IN AUSTRALIA, CANADA OR GERMANY

No steps have been taken, nor will any be taken, to enable the New Shares or Warrants to be offered in compliance with the applicable securities laws of Australia, Canada or Germany and any offer or invitation in relation to the New Shares and Warrants is not available, directly or indirectly, to persons in, or with their registered address in, Australia, Canada or Germany. This document is being sent to British Energy Shareholders with registered addresses in Australia, Canada or Germany solely for information purposes in connection with the Court Meetings and the Extraordinary General Meeting. British Energy Shareholders in, or with their registered address in, Australia, Canada or Germany will not receive any New Shares and/or Warrants under, or in connection with, the Restructuring and instead may only receive cash if the Members Scheme or the Disposal is approved by Ordinary Shareholders.

SHAREHOLDERS IN IRELAND

This document shall be first published or issued in the UK. Neither this document nor the information contained herein constitutes an offer to the public of the New Shares or Warrants and, accordingly, this document is not a prospectus within the meaning of the Irish Companies Act, 1963 (as amended) or the Irish European Communities (Transferable Securities and Stock Exchange) Regulations, 1992.

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The times and dates given below and mentioned throughout this document are based on current best case expectations and are subject to change as a result of, amongst other things, the factors noted below.¹

	2004
Meetings of Bondholders (2003 Bonds)	
(2006 Bonds)	9.20am on 22 December 2004
(2016 Bonds)	9.40am on 22 December 2004 10.00am on 22 December 2004
Court meeting of Ordinary Shareholders of British Energy	10.30am on 22 December 2004
Court meeting of A Shareholders of British Energy	11.30am on 22 December 2004
Extraordinary General Meeting of Ordinary Shareholders of British Energy ²	12.00 noon on 22 December 2004
Court meeting of certain Creditors of British Energy	12.30pm on 22 December 2004
Court hearing of petition to sanction Creditors' Scheme	14 January 2005
Court hearing of petition to sanction Members' Scheme	14 January 2005
Last day of dealings in the Existing Bonds	14 January 2005
Restructuring Effective Date ³	14 January 2005
Admission of the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds	8.00am on the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date
Listing of New ADRs on the NYSE, if possible ⁴	9.30am (New York Time) on the trading day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date
Crediting of the New Shares and Warrants to CREST accounts and of the New Bonds to the common depositary's Euroclear and Clearstream accounts ⁵	the dealing day immediately following the Restructuring Effective Date
Despatch of definitive New Share certificates and/or Warrant certificates to British Energy Shareholders where valid Forms of Election have been received	within 14 days of the Restructuring Effective Date
Despatch of cheques in respect of proceeds of sale of New Shares and/or Warrants to British Energy Shareholders where valid Forms of Election have not been received	within 14 days of the sale of the New Shares and/or Warrants

¹ These times and dates (including those in relation to the Restructuring Effective Date and Admission) are indicative only and are based on the Company's current best case expectation and will depend, amongst other things, on the timetable fixed by the Court, whether any objections are lodged in respect of the Members' Scheme or the Creditors' Scheme, the date upon which the Court sanctions the Creditors' Scheme and Members' Scheme (if relevant) and the date on which steps are taken to make the relevant Scheme Effective. Unless otherwise stated, all times stated in this document are London times and assume that Scheme Creditors have approved the Creditors' Scheme and that British Energy Shareholders have approved the Members' Scheme.

² To commence at the time fixed or, if later, immediately following the conclusion or adjournment of the relevant Court meeting.

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3. This date is indicative only and is based on the Company's current best case expectation and may change as a result of, amongst other things, any of the factors outlined in note 1 above.
4. On 28 September 2004, the NYSE suspended trading in British Energy ADRs and commenced proceedings to permanently delist British Energy ADRs from the NYSE. British Energy has appealed the NYSE's decision. If the Members' Scheme does not become Effective, or if British Energy or the Company fail to meet the NYSE's relevant listing criteria on or prior to Admission, New ADRs will not be issued or listed on the NYSE on Admission. In that event, we have agreed to take all reasonable steps to apply for a listing of New ADRs on the NYSE at such time following Admission as we are able to satisfy the NYSE listing criteria. In such circumstances, however, we will be required to satisfy the NYSE's listing criteria for new securities, including minimum public float and minimum shareholder eligibility requirements that we may not be able to satisfy immediately after Admission.
5. Crediting of the New Bonds and New Shares to which Creditors are entitled will commence on this date and will be made in accordance with the arrangements set out in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement (in respect of the Eggborough Banks and Significant Creditors) and the Creditors' Scheme Circular (in respect of RBS and the Bondholders). Crediting of the New Shares and/or Warrants to which British Energy Shareholders would be entitled if the Members' Scheme becomes Effective or if the Members' Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal is approved will occur on this date if valid Forms of Election have been returned in accordance with the Members' Scheme Circular.

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DIRECTORS, SECRETARY AND ADVISERS

Directors of British Energy Group plc and of British Energy Holdings plc	Adrian Montague	(Chairman)
	Mike Alexander	(Chief Executive)
	Roy Anderson	(Chief Nuclear Officer) (Finance Director)
	Stephen Billingham William A Coley	(Non-executive Director)
	Pascal Colombani	(Non-executive Director)
	John Delucca	(Non-executive Director)
	Ian Harley	(Non-executive Director)
	David Pryde	(Non-executive Director)
	Clare Spottiswoode	(Deputy Chairman)
	Sir Robert Walmsley	(Non-executive Director)
Company secretary of British Energy Group plc and of British Energy Holdings plc	Robert Armour	
Registered office of British Energy Group plc and of British Energy Holdings plc	3 Redwood Crescent	
	Peel Park	
	East Kilbride	
	Scotland G74 5PR	
	Citigroup Global Markets Limited	
Sponsor and financial adviser	Citigroup Centre	
	33 Canada Square	
	London E14 5LB	
	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	
Auditors to British Energy Group plc and to British Energy Holdings plc and reporting accountants	Erskine House	
	68-73 Queen Street	
	Edinburgh EH2 4NH	
	<i>As to English law:</i>	<i>As to Scottish law:</i>
Solicitors to British Energy Group plc and to British Energy Holdings plc	Clifford Chance LLP	MacRoberts

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	10 Upper Bank Street	152 Bath Street
	London E14 5JJ	Glasgow G2 4TB
Solicitors to the Sponsor	Linklaters	
	One Silk Street	
	London EC2Y 8HQ	
Joint Stockbrokers	HSBC Bank plc	
	8 Canada Square	
	London E14 5HQ	
	Citigroup Global Markets Limited	
	Citigroup Centre	
	33 Canada Square	
	London E14 5LB	
Principal Paying Agent	HSBC Bank plc	
	Corporate Trust & Loan Agency	
	8 Canada Square	
	London E14 5HQ	
Registrar for New Shares and Warrants	Lloyds TSB Registrars	
	The Causeway	
	Worthing	
	West Sussex BN99 6DA	

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Registrar for New Bonds	HSBC Private Bank (Jersey) Limited PO Box 88, 1 Grenville Street St Helier Jersey JE4 9PF Channel Islands
Distribution agent	Law Debenture Trust Company of New York 767 Third Avenue New York, New York 10017
Bankers	Clydesdale Bank plc 12 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G1 2HL
Bond Trustee	The Law Debenture Trust Corporation p.l.c. Fifth Floor 100 Wood Street London EC2V 7EX
ADR Depository	JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. 4 New York Plaza New York, New York 10004
Transfer Agents for New Bonds	HSBC Bank plc Level 24 8 Canada Square London E14 5HQ Dexia Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, société anonyme 69, route d Esch L-2953 Luxembourg

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KEY INFORMATION

The following summary information is extracted from the full text of this document. It does not purport to be complete and should be read in conjunction with the document as a whole and, in particular, the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this document including the risk factors set out in Part II: Risk factors. You should not rely on this summary information only.

The summary financial information contained in this section is extracted without material adjustment from Part IV: Financial information and the summary unaudited pro forma financial information is extracted without material adjustment from Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information. This financial information should be read in conjunction with the document as a whole and, in particular, the more detailed financial information set out in Parts IV and V. Our sales figures have been extracted from our underlying accounting records used in the preparation of Part IV: Financial information. Our capacity and output figures have been sourced from our own operational records. The term capacity is explained in detail in the Glossary at the end of this document.

Any reference to this document means this document excluding all information incorporated by reference. New British Energy and Holdings plc have each confirmed that any information incorporated by reference, including any such information to which readers of this document are expressly referred, has not been and does not need to be included in the document to satisfy the requirements of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or the Listing Rules. New British Energy and Holdings plc believe that none of the information incorporated herein by reference conflicts in any material respect with the information included in this document.

Unless the context otherwise requires, this document assumes that the Restructuring has been implemented.

In this document, except as otherwise specified, we , us or our refer to New British Energy and/or Holdings plc together with, in each case, its subsidiaries as they will be from Admission or to British Energy and/or its subsidiaries and any of their respective predecessors in business, as the context may require.

Overview of the New British Energy Group

We own and operate eight nuclear power stations in the UK, with a combined capacity of approximately 9,600 MW, and the Eggborough power station, a coal-fired power station in North Yorkshire, England, with a capacity of 1,960 MW. British Energy plc (British Energy) is the ultimate holding company of British Energy Generation Limited (BEG) which operates our six nuclear power stations in England, British Energy Generation (UK) Limited (BEG UK) which operates our two nuclear power stations in Scotland, Eggborough Power Limited (EPL) which operates the Eggborough power station and British Energy Power and Energy Trading Limited (BEPET) and British Energy Trading Services Limited (BETS) which are responsible for the sale of our electricity output.

Our nuclear power stations

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We own and operate two types of nuclear reactors, namely the advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) and the pressurised water reactor (PWR).

Seven of our nuclear power stations (Dungeness B, Hartlepool, Heysham 1, Heysham 2, Hinkley Point B, Hunterston B and Torness), are each powered by two AGRs. The eighth nuclear power station (Sizewell B), is powered by a single PWR.

High degree of regulation

Our business is subject to a high degree of regulation in a number of areas, including nuclear safety and security, electricity generation, trading and supply and environmental. As safe generation of nuclear power is critical, the activities of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), the key regulatory body in this area, have a significant impact on our business and operations. NII is part of the Nuclear Safety Division Directorate at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and acts in the HSE's name.

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

Factors affecting electricity output

The amount of electricity output from our nuclear power stations (assuming the overall generating capacity and output level at which we run our nuclear power stations is broadly constant) is principally affected by the number and duration of planned and unplanned outages. Planned outages are scheduled outages to allow for regulatory inspection, routine maintenance and, in some cases, refuelling.

Our reactors have experienced unplanned outages, caused by a variety of technical issues, which have resulted in losses of output of between 9.1 TWh and 12.8 TWh per year over the last five financial years. When output is lost as a result of an unplanned outage, we are often required to purchase electricity at unfavourable prices to meet our contractual obligations and this significantly affects the financial results of our operations. During the year ended 31 March 2004, we launched a Performance Improvement Programme (PIP) to enhance our operational performance and the reliability of our nuclear plants. Taking into consideration the impact of statutory outages and refuelling (but excluding planned repair outages and any unplanned outages), the notional maximum annual load factor which could theoretically be achieved across our portfolio of nuclear power stations is between 88 and 90 per cent., albeit that the maximum achieved in the last five years has been 81 per cent. for the year ended 31 March 2002.

Nuclear station lifetimes and ability to extend

Our nuclear power stations have a finite operating life. The assessment of the potential operating lifetime of each of our nuclear power stations when used in our financial statements is known as the accounting life. The primary factor in determining the operating life of a nuclear power station is the technical and economic practicability of supporting an agreed safety case for that particular nuclear power station. The adequacy of the safety case for each nuclear power station is confirmed at each statutory outage by us undertaking a review of operating performance and by an inspection of the plant and passing the findings of such review and inspection to the NII, who must then give its consent to a reactor being restarted. As such, a reactor may only be operated for the interval determined by the safety case, which, in respect of our AGR power stations, is currently 3 years. The NII's consent to a restart is a matter determined by the NII in its sole discretion. Its decisions are made by reference to its satisfaction with the safety case of the reactor in question. From time to time such consent to restart is not received from the NII when expected, resulting in delays to the restart dates of our reactors.

In addition, every ten years we have to undertake a periodic safety review (PSR) for each nuclear power station. The results of the PSR require the approval of the NII in order to secure continued operation.

The current potential operating lifetimes (and thus accounting lifetimes) of our AGR power stations, which were in most cases connected to the National Grid during the 1970s and 1980s, range from 25 to 35 years and is 40 years for our PWR power station. The current accounting lifetime used in our financial statements for each AGR power station, other than Dungeness B, is at least 5 years greater than its initial operating design life. Any decision to extend the operating life of an AGR power station used in our financial statements would be based, in large measure, on a combination of economic factors and the engineering judgements reached in respect of technical issues, details of which are set out in Part I, paragraph headed: Nuclear power station lifetimes.

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Our technical evaluation of the ability to extend the operating lifetime used in our financial statements for Dungeness B is well advanced but no financial assessment of this work has been undertaken to date. However, when we make decisions regarding significant expenditure and staffing levels at Dungeness B, we do so on the basis that Dungeness B's operating lifetime (and thus its accounting lifetime) may be capable of being extended to 2013. These decisions have been undertaken to preserve the possibility that such an extension may be achieved in the event that our financial assessment of the work and investment required to make a secure safety case

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

for the period up to 2013 transpires to be in favour of such an extension. In relation to our ability to extend the operating lifetime used in our financial statements for our other AGR power stations, our technical evaluations are currently at a less advanced stage. There can be no assurance that lifetime extensions will be attainable at any of our AGR power stations nor that the existing operating lifetimes used in our financial statements will be capable of being achieved. For further information on these issues see Part II: Risk factors.

Sizewell B currently has an operating lifetime of 40 years and an assumed closure date of 2035. Based on recent experience in the US (where the regulatory regime is different), regulatory approval has been given to some PWRs to extend their lifetimes so that they have a total lifetime of 60 years. Therefore, an extension to the current Sizewell B operating lifetime may be achievable. However, no evaluation has been undertaken to date in relation to extending Sizewell B's operating lifetime and there can be no assurance that such a lifetime extension will be achieved.

We recognise that extending the operating lifetimes of our nuclear power stations would enhance the value of our asset base and we plan to carry out evaluations to see if our nuclear power station operating lifetimes can be extended, subject to certain consents which would be required. Further information on the extension of nuclear power station lifetimes is set out below in Part I, paragraph headed: Extension of operating lifetimes.

Trading

We sell our generation through diverse routes to market. These include bespoke contracts for supply over periods of varying durations, some of which are for the supply of electricity in excess of a year, over-the-counter transactions in the wholesale traded market, electronic power exchange trading, direct supply to industrial and commercial customers, and sales of balancing and ancillary services to the National Grid. We also sell forward (i.e. sell output we have not yet generated) in order to manage the risks of short to medium term price volatility in wholesale electricity market prices and because there is insufficient liquidity in the short term markets alone for us to be sure that we would be able to sell our generation at an acceptable price.

We use these different routes to market with a view to reducing exposure to volatility in short and medium term wholesale electricity market prices whilst seeking to reduce the amount of credit support required.

We propose to enhance the use of financial products (such as options) to better hedge against the impact of increased levels of collateral being required by counterparties to our energy sales contracts as a result of sudden increases in price and/or decreases in output due to unplanned outages at our nuclear power stations.

For a description of our business see below Part I: Description of the New British Energy Group. For further information on our sales activities see Part III: Operating and financial review and prospects.

Role of the Eggborough power station

We acquired the Eggborough power station in March 2000 with a view to it providing:

- reserve capacity to mitigate the financial impact of having to buy power in the market in the event of an unplanned outage at one of our nuclear power stations;
- profiling or shaping to enable us to sell to a customer who requires flexible output in addition to the baseload generation that our nuclear power stations offer. Without access to the Eggborough power station's output, we would need to acquire this power from other generators to do this; and
- the ability for us to respond to (and take advantage of) short term changes in demand. Eggborough, like other fossil fuel power stations, can generally increase its output levels to meet such demand unlike our nuclear power stations which are baseload producers and which produce power regardless of demand (and thus realised price).

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

Financial and operating results

For the year ended 31 March 2004, British Energy's group turnover (excluding turnover from discontinued operations) was £1,516m, resulting in an operating profit of £57m (before exceptional operating credits of £283m). Our operating profit from continuing activities (after exceptional operating credits) was £340m. Output from our eight nuclear power stations for the year ended 31 March 2004 was, in aggregate, 65.0 TWh, up from the prior year's output of 63.8 TWh. Output from the Eggborough power station was 7.6 TWh for the year ended 31 March 2004 compared with 5.7 TWh for the prior year. For further information regarding our financial results for the year ended 31 March 2004, see Part III: Operating and financial review and prospects and Part IV: Financial information.

Background to Restructuring and recent developments

On 5 September 2002, we announced that we had initiated discussions with the Government with a view to seeking immediate financial support and to implement a longer term financial restructuring in the face of:

- the failure of our negotiations with British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL) which had been initiated by us to link prices paid under our fuel contracts with BNFL to wholesale electricity prices, with the aim of reducing the proportion of our costs which were fixed; and
- the board's review of the longer term prospects of the Group.

On 28 November 2002, when we announced the outline terms of our proposed restructuring, we highlighted some of the commercial and structural factors which had caused or compounded our financial difficulties, some of which the Restructuring seeks to address. These are set out below:

- our nuclear fleet in the UK had high fixed costs of production when compared with other generators of electricity (including the costs of supplies and services under our contracts with BNFL); as a merchant generator with no retail supply business we were (and will remain following Admission) heavily exposed to declines in wholesale electricity prices. Significant contracts for direct sales to industrial and commercial customers were closely linked to the wholesale electricity price which meant the business was unable to withstand the significant reduction in wholesale electricity prices which fell by over 35 per cent. over the two years to September 2002. Currently, subject to and following Admission, the exposure to declines in electricity prices is partially hedged within certain parameters by the contracts described below under the paragraph headed: New BNFL Contracts (although at current wholesale electricity price levels we are now making additional payments to BNFL as provided for in the New BNFL Contracts);
- our wholesale electricity price exposure at the time was exacerbated by a power purchase agreement and two contracts for differences which magnified our exposure to baseload electricity prices. The claims of the counterparties to these arrangements are being compromised pursuant to the Restructuring in exchange for shares to be issued by New British Energy (New Shares) and bonds to be issued by Holdings plc (New Bonds);

- we have an obligation under our nuclear site licences to decommission our nuclear power stations at the end of their useful lives. These liabilities were estimated to have a net present value (NPV) of £1.1 billion as at 31 March 2004. Certain of the decommissioning liabilities were covered by the Nuclear Generation Decommissioning Fund Limited (NDF) to which we contributed. However, there was no certainty that this fund, at the level of contributions we were making, would be sufficient to cover all of the liabilities to which it related. This uncertainty will, on Admission, be substantially mitigated by the new arrangements with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (the Secretary of State) described below under the paragraph headed: The Nuclear Liabilities Fund;

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

- our operations generate liabilities in respect of nuclear fuel and waste estimated at £3.5 billion for discounted contracted liabilities and £1.1 billion for discounted uncontracted liabilities (in each case as at 31 March 2004). Some of these liabilities are currently covered by long term contracts with BNFL, with the balance remaining uncontracted. These uncontracted liabilities are long term in nature and therefore subject to uncertainty. There is no guarantee that our business would generate sufficient funds to cover these contracted and uncontracted liabilities. This uncertainty will be substantially mitigated on Admission by the New BNFL Contracts and the new arrangements with the Secretary of State described below in the paragraphs headed: New BNFL Contracts and The Nuclear Liabilities Fund;
- our coal plant in Eggborough, which we acquired out of Group funds, also suffered from the reduction in wholesale electricity prices through 2001 and 2002 and the narrowing differential between winter and summer prices. The acquisition was refinanced with a project finance loan on 13 July 2000 and it was difficult for us to fund the repayments required. The debt owed to the providers of the project finance loan will be compromised under the terms of the Restructuring in exchange for, amongst other things: (i) New Shares; (ii) New Bonds; (iii) payments under an amended and restated version of the project finance loan made on substantially the same terms as the New Bonds (such that the proportion of our debt secured on the Eggborough power station will represent a significantly smaller part of our overall indebtedness); and (iv) options to purchase the shares in, or assets of, EPL on 31 March 2010 or, prior to 31 August 2009, at any time on or after the occurrence of an event of default under the amended and restated project finance loan that is continuing (the lenders have the right to assign and/or transfer all (but not part) of their rights under those options, subject to a pre-emption right in favour of the Group);
- we had investments in the US and Canada but these had not yet generated dividends and, in the case of Canada, required significant investment. As a result, they had stretched our financial resources. These assets have now been disposed of; and
- as at 30 September 2002, the Group had indebtedness of £1,050m (including £490m in connection with the Eggborough power station and approximately £408m of unsecured Existing Bonds) with significant debt repayment obligations to be made in cash and as a result of the loss of our investment grade rating in September 2002 our cash requirements increased significantly to meet the collateral requirements of trading counterparties.

On 1 October 2003, we announced that we had entered into binding agreements setting out the terms of the proposed restructuring of the British Energy Group (the Restructuring) with certain key creditors (the Creditor Restructuring Agreement) and the Secretary of State (the Government Restructuring Agreement). These agreements set out the principal terms of the Restructuring of the Group and the circumstances in which the Secretary of State would support the Restructuring. A summary of these agreements is set out below in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.

The implementation of the Restructuring is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions and termination events which are described below in the paragraph headed: Conditions to the implementation of the Restructuring, and in further detail in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.

Principal terms of the Restructuring

The Creditor Restructuring Agreement dated as of 30 September 2003 was entered into by British Energy, certain other British Energy Group companies, Enron Capital & Trade Europe Finance LLC (ECTEF), Teesside Power Limited (TPL), Total Gas

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& Power Limited (Total), (Total, TPL and ECTEF collectively, the Significant Creditors), The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (RBS), the

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

members of the ad hoc committee of Bondholders (the ad hoc committee) and BNFL. By 31 October 2003, Bondholders, representing in aggregate with RBS 88.8 per cent. of the combined amount owing to Bondholders and RBS, had also entered into the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, along with all the lenders and swap providers in the syndicate of Eggborough banks (each an Eggborough Bank).

The Government Restructuring Agreement was entered into by British Energy, certain other British Energy Group companies, the Secretary of State, the NDF (to be enlarged into and renamed the Nuclear Liabilities Fund Limited or NLF) and the Trustees of the Nuclear Trust on 1 October 2003. This Agreement sets out the circumstances in which the Secretary of State will support the Restructuring and the agreements to be entered into with the New British Energy Group and, in certain cases, the NLF, which give effect to the proposals for the funding of certain of the New British Energy Group's qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs and certain contracted liabilities for historic spent fuel (namely, spent fuel arising from fuel loaded into our AGRs prior to the Effective Date (being the date immediately following the day on which the conditions to the effectiveness of the New BNFL Contracts are satisfied or waived)) described under the paragraph headed: The Nuclear Liabilities Fund. Until these agreements are entered into and become effective, certain members of the New British Energy Group are obliged to comply with certain of the provisions of those agreements as if they were in force. For further details, see Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements. (Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under the paragraph headed: State Aid.)

The Restructuring involves the Bondholders, the Eggborough Banks, RBS and the Significant Creditors compromising their claims against the British Energy Group in exchange for, amongst other things, the issue to those creditors of New Bonds of our subsidiary Holdings plc and New Shares of the Company. The Restructuring contemplates that the Bondholders and RBS will compromise their claims through a Court-approved scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985 (the Act) (the Creditors' Scheme). The Significant Creditors will extinguish all, and the Eggborough Banks will extinguish part, of their existing claims against the British Energy Group pursuant to the various arrangements under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and related documents.

In order to implement the Restructuring, it is proposed that British Energy will cancel its Ordinary Shares and A Shares, and will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Holdings plc by means of a Court-approved scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Act (the Members' Scheme) which will require the approval of British Energy Shareholders. If the Members' Scheme is not approved, then it is intended that the Restructuring will be implemented by the disposal of British Energy's assets (including its subsidiaries) to our subsidiary Holdings plc in exchange for it agreeing to assume all of British Energy's liabilities, including to Bondholders and RBS (the Disposal). In view of its size, the Disposal would, if the British Energy Shares were listed, constitute a Class 1 transaction by British Energy for the purposes of the Listing Rules requiring the approval of British Energy Shareholders. The British Energy Shares are no longer listed on the Official List and such approval is, therefore, no longer required but British Energy is, nonetheless, seeking the approval of the relevant British Energy Shareholders (that is, Ordinary Shareholders) at an extraordinary general meeting of British Energy to be held on 22 December 2004. If British Energy Shareholders do not approve the Members' Scheme (or if it otherwise Lapses) and Ordinary Shareholders do not approve the Disposal, British Energy is required, under the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, to proceed with the Disposal without such approval.

The Creditors' Scheme Circular was made available to RBS and Bondholders and the Members' Scheme Circular was posted to British Energy Shareholders on the same date as this document.

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This document contains information relating to the securities to be issued pursuant to the Creditors Scheme, the Members Scheme and the Disposal (if it is approved).

For the purposes of the allocation of the New Bonds and New Shares among Creditors pursuant to the terms of the Restructuring, it was agreed that Creditor claims, or, in the case of the Eggborough Banks, their unsecured claims, would be treated as having the following values:

Creditors as at 1 October 2003	Claim amount (approx.)
	(£ in m)
Bondholders	£ 407.9
RBS	£ 37.5
Eggborough Banks	£ 210.0
TPL	£ 159.0
Total	£ 85.0
ECTEF	£ 72.0

British Energy and the other parties to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement agreed the allocation of the New Bonds and New Shares to be issued pursuant to the Restructuring in respect of unsecured claims based upon the claim amounts set out above, and taking into account a number of factors, including the identity of the relevant debtor and the amounts owed between British Energy and its principal subsidiaries. The allocation of: (i) New Bonds and New Shares to Creditors and British Energy Shareholders if the Members Scheme becomes Effective; and (ii) New Shares to Creditors if the Members Scheme does not become Effective, is as follows:

Name of Shareholder in New British Energy (including Creditors and their respective allocations as at 1 October 2003)⁽¹⁾	New Shares if Members Scheme becomes Effective		New Shares if Members Scheme does not become Effective		New Bonds (to Creditors only)⁽²⁾ (£ in m, approx.)
	No. of New Shares (in m, approx.)	% of issued share capital⁽⁴⁾	No. of New Shares (in m, approx.)	% of issued share capital⁽⁴⁾	
Bondholders	286.1	51.0	293.4	52.3	154.0
RBS	26.2	4.7	26.9	4.8	14.2
TPL	78.8	14.0	80.8	14.4	43.5
Total	42.1	7.5	43.2	7.7	23.3
ECTEF	37.2	6.6	38.1	6.8	20.0
Eggborough Banks	76.6	13.7	78.5	14.0	20.0 ⁽³⁾
British Energy Shareholders	14.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0

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TOTAL	561.0	100.0	561.0	100.0	275.0
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Notes:

- (1) TPL, Total and ECTEF have since assigned certain of their respective interests under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and their respective claims against the British Energy Group to Deutsche Bank AG London (Deutsche Bank) which is, consequently, a Significant Creditor. We are aware that a proportion of these interests may have been sub-participated to third parties. The interest of Deutsche Bank in the Ordinary Shares at the date of this document and as expected immediately following Admission, in so far as is known to us, is disclosed in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 6.3.
- (2) In addition, the NLF will receive £275m of New Bonds and a right to receive the NLF Cash Sweep Payment together with further amounts payable under the Contribution Agreement (see below Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Contribution Agreement).
- (3) Excludes £150m bond-equivalent payments through the Amended Credit Agreement (see below and in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Eggborough arrangements).
- (4) Percentage of issued share capital immediately following Admission excluding the impact of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment, the Warrants and Employee Options.

Source: British Energy

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

Further principal elements of the Restructuring are as follows:

- ***Eggborough arrangements.*** The Eggborough Banks, as creditors with the benefit of the RBS Letter of Credit and security over, amongst other things, the shares in, and assets of, EPL (our subsidiary that owns the Eggborough power station), will be repaid approximately £37.5m pursuant to the RBS Letter of Credit and have agreed to replace the balance of their existing secured claims with a right to receive £150m under an amended and restated credit agreement (the Amended Credit Agreement) on substantially the same payment terms as the New Bonds, together with £20m of New Bonds issued by our subsidiary, Holdings plc, and 13.7 per cent. of the New Shares in the Company.

- In addition, the Eggborough Banks will be granted: (i) options exercisable at any time prior to 31 August 2009 under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL on 31 March 2010 in consideration for, amongst other things, £104m (subject to certain adjustments depending on the condition of the Eggborough power station on 31 March 2010) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under the Amended Credit Agreement at such time; and (ii) options under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL at any time prior to 31 August 2009, on or after the occurrence of an event of default under the Amended Credit Agreement that is continuing in consideration for a fee (which varies depending on the type of event of default) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under the Amended Credit Agreement at such time (each an Eggborough Option). The Eggborough Banks will be entitled to assign and/or transfer all (but not part only) of their rights under the Eggborough Options to a third party, subject to a pre-emption right in favour of the New British Energy Group under which a member of the New British Energy Group may purchase such rights at 105 per cent. of the price offered by the relevant third party. The Eggborough Banks shall continue to benefit from their existing security and certain new security which will secure, amongst other things, the Eggborough Banks' rights under the Amended Credit Agreement and the Eggborough Options. As a result, on and at any time after the occurrence of an event of default under the Amended Credit Agreement that is continuing, the Eggborough Banks shall have the right to:
 - (i) prior to 31 August 2009, exercise an Eggborough Option or enforce their security referred to above; or

 - (ii) on or post 31 August 2009, enforce their security.

EPL's payments under the Amended Credit Agreement will be funded by the New British Energy Group and consequently the recovery of the Eggborough Banks on enforcement of their security should effectively equal the outstandings under the Amended Credit Agreement at the relevant time even in circumstances where the shares in, or assets of, EPL are worth less than such outstandings.

If the Eggborough Banks were to give notice of their intention to exercise an Eggborough Option, we would seek alternative ways of performing the services that the Eggborough power station provides, either through entering into contracts with third parties or by purchasing an equivalent power station. We would also seek to mitigate our trading risks by adopting a revised trading strategy.

A more detailed summary of the Eggborough arrangements is set out below in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Eggborough arrangements;

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- ***The Nuclear Liabilities Fund.*** Under new arrangements with the Secretary of State, the existing NDF will be enlarged into and renamed the NLF which will fund, subject to certain exceptions, the New British Energy Group's qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs. The Secretary of State has agreed to fund: (i) qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs to the extent they exceed the assets of the NLF; and (ii) subject to certain exceptions, contracted liabilities for historic spent fuel. As at 31 March 2004, the market value of the NDF was

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

£440m. To the extent there is any surplus in the NLF, this amount will be paid to the Secretary of State. The New British Energy Group will be responsible for funding certain excluded or disqualified liabilities and will, in certain circumstances, be required to compensate or indemnify the NLF and the Secretary of State in relation to such liabilities. Our obligations under these arrangements with the Secretary of State will be guaranteed by each Material New British Energy Group Company. These excluded and disqualified liabilities are described in greater detail in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements and in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.2 (c) and (d). (Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under the paragraph headed: State Aid.)

In consideration for the assumption of these liabilities by the Secretary of State and the NLF, Holdings plc will issue £275m in New Bonds to the NLF. The New British Energy Group will make various ongoing payments to the NLF including an annual contribution initially equal to 65 per cent. of the New British Energy Group's adjusted net cash flow (calculated on the basis set out in the summary of the Contribution Agreement in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e)) (the NLF Cash Sweep Payment). This percentage may be adjusted for certain corporate actions but may never exceed 65 per cent. The New British Energy Group will also make the following payments to the NLF: (i) fixed decommissioning contributions equal to £20m per annum (stated in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) but tapering off as the nuclear power stations are currently scheduled to close; and (ii) £150,000 (stated in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) for every tonne of uranium in PWR fuel loaded into the Sizewell B reactor after the Restructuring Effective Date. The payments to be made to the NLF are described in greater detail below in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e).

The NLF will have the right from time to time to convert all or part of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment into Convertible Shares (the NLF Conversion Right). On a full conversion, the NLF would hold up to 65 per cent. of the thereby enlarged equity share capital of the Company. However, the terms of the Convertible Shares include a limit on the voting rights attaching to such shares equal to the maximum amount which can be held by the NLF without triggering a mandatory offer under the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers (Takeover Code), being currently 29.9 per cent. of the voting rights of the Company (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other ordinary shares of the Company held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF). This voting restriction applies for so long as the Convertible Shares are held by the NLF. The Convertible Shares will convert automatically into ordinary shares in the Company on transfer to a third party but are not convertible at the election of the NLF prior to such transfer.

There are restrictions under the terms of the Contribution Agreement on the manner in which the NLF may exercise the NLF Conversion Right or dispose of any of the shares arising on such exercise. In addition, the Secretary of State has confirmed to the Company that she will not, during the six month period immediately following the implementation of the Restructuring, direct the NLF to exercise the NLF Conversion Right or dispose of any shares in the Company unless certain exceptional circumstances arise (which are set out in the summary of the Contribution Agreement in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e)) including, amongst other things, actions taken or proposed by any person in respect of a member of the Group (and not expressly contemplated by any of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements) which will or may, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, have an adverse effect on the interests of the Secretary of State or the NLF.

The Secretary of State has also confirmed that she has no current intention to direct the NLF to exercise the NLF Conversion Right following the expiry of the six month period referred to above but reserves the right to do so. The Secretary of State intends to

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ensure that prior to the giving of any direction to the NLF to exercise the NLF Conversion Right or to dispose of the shares issued pursuant to such exercise, the Secretary of State (and/or the NLF at her direction) would take financial advice and would take such advice as to the market impact of the conversion or disposal (including the desirability of avoiding multiple sales of small amounts of shares). Finally, the Secretary of State has confirmed to the Company that she does not currently intend to change the investment policy as regards the matters described above.

The Secretary of State will have an option to acquire for £1 each nuclear power station and related station assets (subject to certain exclusions) for the purpose of decommissioning or continuing the operation of those nuclear power stations beyond the date of closure of those stations assumed by the Group (which date will include any changes to such dates in our financial statements following the extension of current station lifetimes). An option to continue to operate a nuclear power station may (unless the New British Energy Group has given notice that it will close the station early) only be exercised at any time up to and including the date which is two years before the scheduled closure date of the station but transfer of the station pursuant to the exercise of the option cannot complete until the scheduled closure date of the station, at the earliest. The Secretary of State also has an option to acquire the Group's interests in United Kingdom Nirex Limited (Nirex).

A more detailed summary of the new nuclear liability arrangements described above is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements and Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.2 (c) to (n);

- **New BNFL Contracts.** On 31 March 2003 and 16 May 2003 respectively, we exchanged contracts with BNFL covering front-end (i.e. fuel preparation before it enters the reactor) and back-end (i.e. handling, storage and ultimate disposal of spent fuel) AGR fuel services required to give effect to the Restructuring. The amendments (set out in the March 2003 Deeds of Amendment) to the existing front-end contracts (the Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreements) became effective on 1 April 2003 but, with the exception of the new arrangements for the supply of uranics to BEG, may be terminated if the Restructuring is not completed. The new front-end post 2006 contracts (the Post 2006 AGR Fuel Supply Agreements) are conditional upon completion of the Restructuring. The amendments to the existing back-end fuel services arrangements (which will become the BNFL Historic Contracts) and the New Spent Fuel Agreements are also conditional upon completion of the Restructuring. If the Restructuring does not complete, the Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreements (as amended by the March 2003 Deeds of Amendment) will revert to the previous arrangements and the agreements comprising the BNFL Historic Contracts will remain as they are at the date of the posting of this document.

The principal payment terms of the Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreements (as amended by the March 2003 Deeds of Amendment) and the Post 2006 AGR Fuel Supply Agreements are as follows:

- a payment of £28.5m fixed per annum until 31 March 2006, but discounted on a linear basis in accordance with the market baseload price of electricity to a minimum payment of £13.5m per annum at a market price of £15.0 per MWh. The fixed starting price falls to £25.5m thereafter and is also subject to the discounting mechanism; and
- a payment of £191,000 per tonne of uranium in AGR fuel delivered.

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With respect to the New Spent Fuel Agreements (i.e. in respect of fuel loaded into our AGRs after the Effective Date (new spent fuel), we will be required to pay:

- (i) a payment of £150,000 per tonne of uranium in AGR fuel, payable on loading of such new spent fuel into one of our AGRs;
- (ii) a rebate/surcharge against the payment mentioned in (i) above equivalent to 50 per cent. of the difference between the market baseload price of electricity in a year and

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

£16.0 per MWh multiplied by the MWh produced by the AGR fleet in that year. The market baseload price of electricity used in the calculation will not be less than £14.8 and not more than £19.0 per MWh; and

- (iii) if the market baseload price of electricity exceeds £19.0 per MWh, a surcharge against that payment equivalent to 25 per cent. of the difference between the market baseload price of electricity in a year and £19.0 per MWh multiplied by the MWh produced by the AGR fleet in that year. The market baseload price of electricity used in that calculation will not be less than £19.0 and not more than £21.0 per MWh.

Unlike under our existing arrangements with BNFL, whereby we retain title to and therefore remain responsible for the ultimate disposal of our spent fuel, and which will still apply to the Historic Fuel Agreements (although the costs of disposal will be covered under the provisions of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements), BNFL will assume title to new spent fuel on delivery to BNFL from our AGR power stations.

All of the above monetary amounts (for fuel supply and the New Spent Fuel Agreements) are stated in July 2002 and 2002/2003 values and are indexed to RPI.

As a result of the standstill arrangements with BNFL (described below in the paragraph: Standstill arrangements), since 1 April 2003 we have been making payments under our existing back-end agreements with BNFL, (which, on Restructuring, will become the BNFL Historic Contracts) as if the pricing provisions of the New Spent Fuel Agreements (as described above) applied.

The pricing provisions in the New BNFL Contracts highlighted above are intended to enable us to reduce a proportion of our fuel costs which are fixed by providing for a discount when the market baseload price of electricity is below a specified amount and a surcharge when above this amount. As electricity prices have risen substantially since October 2003, we are now making additional payments to BNFL under the new arrangements for spent fuel management in the form of the surcharge referred to above. This will continue for so long as electricity prices remain above £16.0 per MWh (in 2002/2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI).

A more detailed summary of the New BNFL Contracts is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: The New BNFL Contracts and Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.1 (z) to (ss);

- **Standstill arrangements.** The standstill agreement entered into by us with certain of our creditors (the Consenting Creditors) on 14 February 2003 (the Old Standstill Agreement) has been extended to include all Bondholders and will continue whilst the Restructuring is being implemented. The standstill arrangements restrict the Consenting Creditors from taking any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable to them by members of the British Energy Group during the Standstill Period. The Standstill Period will terminate on the occurrence of a termination event, which includes, amongst other things, implementation of the Restructuring. During the continuation of the standstill arrangements, certain of the Consenting Creditors will be paid interest but not principal in respect of their claims against members of the British Energy Group. A more detailed summary of the standstill arrangements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Continuation of the Standstill Arrangements; and

- ***Sale of our interests in Bruce Power and AmerGen.*** On 14 February 2003 we announced that we had completed the disposal of our 82.4 per cent. interest in Bruce Power LP to a consortium for C\$627m, subject to a possible additional sum contingent on the restart of two of the reactor units sold. In this regard we have received a payment of C\$30m and may be entitled to additional sums. On 12 February 2004, we received a

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

notice of claim under the master purchase agreement alleging breach of certain warranties and representations relating to tax and the condition of plant. Further information on this claim is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 16.2 and 16.3.

On 23 December 2003 we completed the disposal of our 50 per cent. interest in AmerGen Energy Company, LLC to Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) for US\$277m, subject to adjustment. These adjustments are still outstanding and we are in dispute with Exelon regarding certain of these adjustments. Further information on this dispute is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 16.5.

Conditions to the implementation of the Restructuring

The implementation of the Restructuring is subject to three stages of conditionality, namely:

- conditions which need to be satisfied prior to the proposal of the Creditors Scheme and the Members Scheme to the trustees of the Existing Bonds (the Existing Trustees) and RBS and British Energy Shareholders, respectively (the Initial Conditions);
- subsequent to the satisfaction of the Initial Conditions, conditions which need to be satisfied before the Creditors Order and, if the Members Scheme is approved, the Members Order, is filed with the Scottish Registrar for registration (the Filing Conditions); and
- finally, the Creditors Scheme becoming Effective and, unless the Members Scheme has Lapsed, the Members Scheme becoming Effective (the Restructuring Condition).

On 24 September 2004, the Secretary of State received notification from the European Commission (State Aid Approval) that in so far as the Restructuring involves the grant of State Aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the common market established through the Economic Community Treaty (Common Market) subject to certain conditions set out therein and described below in the paragraph headed: Restrictions on our ability to operate. On 12 October 2004, we announced that the other Initial Conditions to the implementation of the Restructuring had been satisfied. In relation to the Filing Conditions, the Restructuring is conditional on, amongst other things, the Secretary of State not having determined and notified British Energy in writing that, in her opinion, the British Energy Group (including for this purpose New British Energy and Holdings plc) will not be viable in all reasonably foreseeable conditions without access to additional financing (other than financing which the Secretary of State is satisfied has been committed and will continue to be available when required).

In addition to the above conditions, the Restructuring will not be implemented if either of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or the Government Restructuring Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms (the Termination Rights). In such circumstances, the standstill arrangements, which restrict Consenting Creditors (including Bondholders) from taking any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable to them by any member of the British Energy Group, would also terminate. Both the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and the Government Restructuring Agreement will automatically terminate if British Energy receives a valid notice from the relevant parties prior to the Creditors Scheme (and if

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relevant, the Members Scheme) becoming Effective terminating the Creditor Restructuring Agreement on the basis that there is a continuing Material Adverse Change. The Filing Conditions, the Restructuring Condition and the Termination Rights are described in greater detail in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.

Also, unless otherwise agreed by requisite majorities of the Creditors, BNFL, the Secretary of State and British Energy, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, the Government Restructuring Agreement and the standstill under the amended terms and conditions of the Existing Bonds will automatically terminate (and consequently the Restructuring will not be implemented) if the Creditors Scheme has not become Effective by 12 noon on the earlier of: (i) 120 days after the last of the Initial Conditions has been satisfied; and (ii) 31 January 2005 (Restructuring Long Stop Date) which date may be extended subject to the agreement of British Energy, BNFL, the

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

Secretary of State, certain majorities of relevant Creditors and a written resolution of a simple majority of holders of each series of the Existing Bonds as described in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.

Our indicative timetable for the Restructuring anticipates the Creditors Scheme becoming Effective and Admission occurring in mid-January. However, the indicative timetable is our best case expectation and subject to change and delay (see note 1 to the Indicative Timetable of Principal Events on page 3 of this document). We have, therefore, decided that it is prudent to seek an extension to the present long stop dates of 31 January 2005 and have proposed terms for an extension to at least 31 March 2005 to Creditors, BNFL and the Secretary of State.

The proposed extension to the Restructuring Long Stop Date under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement requires the agreement of British Energy, the holders of a majority of the claims of Bondholders and RBS, the Significant Creditors, BNFL and the holders of two-thirds of the Eggborough Banks debt and swap claims (including Barclays). In addition the provision of an extended RBS Letter of Credit is a condition of the proposed extension. The extension of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement also requires written resolutions of Bondholders to extend the standstill period under the terms of the Existing Bonds to be signed by a simple majority of the holders of each series of the Existing Bonds.

The Secretary of State is not a party to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement but, for technical reasons, her consent is required to enable that agreement to be extended in the manner contemplated. The Secretary of State's agreement is also required and is being sought to extend the long stop date for completion of the Government Restructuring Agreement.

The proposed extension will (if it becomes effective) also preserve the possibility of extension of the Restructuring Long Stop Date under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement beyond 31 March 2005 and up to 31 October 2005. However, each of those parties and majorities who are required to agree the proposed extension would have absolute discretion as to whether to object to or confirm the continuation of the extension period beyond 31 March 2005 and may require amendments to the standstill and restructuring arrangements in connection with the Restructuring being completed after 31 March 2005. Furthermore the agreement of the Secretary of State would be required to extend the Government Restructuring Agreement.

In any event, if it were to become reasonably apparent that the Restructuring would not be completed by 31 March 2005, British Energy would be required to renegotiate the payments payable to BNFL with effect from completion of the Restructuring after 31 March 2005 under the BNFL Agreements for historic spent fuel services which have been agreed on the assumption that the Restructuring would complete and these payments would commence before 31 March 2005. Subject as further discussed in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, these payments are expected to be funded by the Government under the HLFA and consequently any new schedule would require agreement between British Energy, BNFL and the Government. As such even if the proposed extension becomes effective there can be no assurance that any extension beyond 31 March 2005 will be available on the present terms of the Restructuring or any other terms.

If such an extension is obtained and/or it becomes apparent that the Restructuring Effective Date will be delayed beyond 31 January 2005, we will inform shareholders by making the appropriate announcement to a Regulatory information service and the press. For the avoidance of doubt, in such circumstances, Admission may not occur prior to 31 January 2005 and will remain conditional on the Restructuring being implemented.

Restrictions on our ability to operate

The Commission has confirmed that the giving of State Aid in connection with the Restructuring is compatible with the Common Market. As part of the State Aid Approval, we have been required to agree to certain measures and conditions with the Government which will govern our business (compensatory measures).

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The key compensatory measures are:

- not, until 23 September 2010, to own or acquire any rights of control over:
 - (i) additional operational nuclear generating capacity in the EEA, (which would not include contracts to operate and maintain nuclear plants where we have no interest in the electricity output), without the prior approval of the Commission; or
 - (ii) registered, operational, fossil-fuelled generating capacity in the EEA or large hydro-electric generating capacity in the UK, which in aggregate exceeds a capacity of 2,020 MW (although some relaxation of this restriction has been agreed to provide for a transitional period in cases where the Eggborough power station ceases to be available to us);
- to establish and maintain our existing nuclear generation activities, electricity direct supply sales business (DSB) and electricity trading business in separate subsidiaries by 1 April 2005;
- not to allow our existing nuclear generation business to provide a cross-subsidy to our non-nuclear generation activities or any other business of the Group; and
- not, for a period of six years, to price the energy element of our DSB contracts below the prevailing wholesale price, save for in exceptional market circumstances (to be determined by an Independent Expert, to be appointed within four months from the date of the State Aid Approval).

The State Aid Approval requires the Government to ensure that the restructuring plan as communicated to the Commission is fully implemented.

The Directors expect, on the basis of how we currently conduct our operations and discussions with relevant authorities and regulatory bodies, that the obligations: (i) to establish and maintain our existing nuclear generation activities, our DSB and electricity trading business in separate subsidiaries by 1 April 2005; and (ii) not to allow our nuclear generation business to cross-subsidise our non-nuclear or other businesses, will not have a material adverse effect on the financial results of our business. However, arrangements and restrictions designed to secure compliance with these obligations are still in the process of being precisely defined (further information on the steps we have taken in this respect are set out in a Deed of Undertaking, a summary of which is contained in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1(o)), and will be untested on Admission and no assurance can be given that events will not differ materially from the Directors' expectations in this area. We have no current intention to sell any of our output at below the wholesale price and therefore do not consider that the requirement that we do not price the energy element of our DSB contracts below the prevailing market price will have any effect on our business. For further detail on the impact of the other restrictions referred to above, see Part II: Risk factors, the paragraph headed: Our business is affected by a number of restrictions which restrict our ability to develop new sources of income.

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The State Aid Approval provides that the Government is permitted to fund the payment of: (a) liabilities related to the cost of management of spent fuel loaded into our AGR power stations prior to the Effective Date (historic spent fuel) up to a specified level; (b) the costs of certain other liabilities set out in the Historic Liabilities Funding Agreement (the HLFA) (these costs, however, are not taken into account in calculating the above specified level); and (c) any shortfall of the NLF as regards the payment of liabilities related to our nuclear assets decommissioning and its uncontracted liabilities. The State Aid Approval states that as soon as expenditure corresponding to (i) the nuclear decommissioning and uncontracted liabilities referred to above and (ii) the costs of the certain other liabilities set out in the HLFA referred to above exceed a specified threshold, the Government shall submit enhanced additional reports (on an annual basis) to the Commission demonstrating that the Government payments are restricted to meeting these liabilities, and that proper steps have been taken to limit expenditure

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

to the minimum necessary to meet those liabilities. Further details regarding the specified level and the specified threshold referred to above are set out in Part VI: Further information in relation to the Restructuring, under the paragraph headed: State Aid.

We have agreed with the Secretary of State to implement the above compensatory measures pursuant to the Deed of Undertaking. Further information on the compensatory measures is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: State Aid. In relation to the requirement to consolidate our nuclear generation activities in a single subsidiary by 1 April 2005, it is unlikely that we will be able to obtain all the necessary consents by that date. If that is the case, specific alternative arrangements which have a similar effect and which we have agreed with the Government under the Deed of Undertaking will be implemented. (Further information on this issue is set out in the summary of the Deed of Undertaking in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1(o)). Under the Deed of Undertaking, we have also undertaken not to dispose of all or part of our nuclear generation business or our DSB, or carry out any corporate restructuring of the New British Energy Group, without the Secretary of State's prior approval (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld), if such disposal or restructuring may cause the Secretary of State to be in breach of her obligations under the State Aid Approval.

Pursuant to the terms of our various agreements with the Secretary of State and Government controlled entities, we are, or will be, subject to the following key restrictions on our operations:

- not to announce or pay any dividend or distribution or make any acquisition unless our cash exceeds the amount specified in the Contribution Agreement at the end of the financial period preceding the dividend, distribution or acquisition and would or would be likely to exceed the specified amount at the end of the financial period in which such dividend, distribution or acquisition is to be made;
- not to incur any expenditure other than expenditure:
 - (i) in relation to Agreed Collateral Purposes (as defined in the summary of the Contribution Agreement in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2(e)), outage costs, working capital requirements, debt servicing and operating costs; or
 - (ii) the primary purpose of which is: the maintenance (including non-recurring maintenance) of, or capital repairs to, our nuclear power stations and/or the Eggborough power station, or is intended to enable aggregate annual output of our nuclear power stations at a level which is around the highest output of the nuclear power stations in any of the preceding five financial periods (subject to a minimum of 68.0 TWh) adjusted as nuclear power stations close (provided that the permission to incur expenditure to enable aggregate nuclear output at this level does not permit capital investment in excess of £20m per annum, without the approval of the Secretary of State, where the principal purpose of such expenditure is to enable the extension of scheduled closure dates of any of our nuclear power stations); and/or to enable output at the Eggborough power station at a level consistent with historical performance levels,

unless: (a) our cash exceeds the amount specified in the Contribution Agreement at the end of the financial period preceding the expenditure and would or would be likely to exceed the same at the end of the financial period in which such expenditure is to be made; or (b) it consists of specified expenditure for which the required funds have previously been allocated to a notional reserve in accordance with the terms of the Contribution Agreement;

- if we achieve an investment grade rating, although we may reduce the Target Amount of the Cash Reserves (that is, initially, £490m plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200m), we may not pay any distribution or make any acquisition of any undertaking if we know or have reasonable grounds to believe that doing so would or would be likely to result in the loss of such investment grade rating, save to the extent

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that such distribution or acquisition would not reduce the aggregate amount of our cash and any committed facilities (which are available for, and intended and expected by the Board to be used for the same purposes for which our cash may be applied) below the amount specified in the Contribution Agreement;

- at an operational level, not to make any operational change at our nuclear power stations which might increase the NPV of the Costs of Discharging Liabilities (as defined in the NLFA) by in excess of £1m (in March 2003 values and indexed to RPI) without notifying the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) under the NLFA;
- we are required in certain circumstances to obtain the approval of the NDA under the NLFA before implementing certain operational changes at any of our nuclear power stations, for example those which might increase the NPV of the Costs of Discharging Liabilities by in excess of £10m (in March 2003 values and indexed to RPI);
- we are required, in certain circumstances (details of which are set out in the summary of the NLFA set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2(c)), to obtain the approval of the NDA under the NLFA to, amongst other things, extensions to the scheduled closure dates of our nuclear power stations (and consent must be given where the economic benefits accruing to the NLF or the Secretary of State are reasonably likely to exceed the incremental nuclear liabilities arising as a consequence), our decommissioning plans, our contracting strategy (and certain large contracts) for decommissioning our nuclear power stations and discharging uncontracted liabilities;
- we are required to seek the prior approval of the Secretary of State to exercise certain strategic rights under the BNFL Historic Contracts or to making amendments to any of our agreements with BNFL if these impact on the level of historic liabilities;
- we may not enter into material transactions with affiliates unless on arm's length terms (subject to similar exceptions as are contained in the terms and conditions of the New Bonds) and we will be (until a certain date but no later than 31 March 2014) subject to a negative pledge not to create security interests (subject to similar exceptions as are contained in the negative pledge covenant of the New Bonds) without the prior written consent of the NLF and the Secretary of State unless at the same time equal security is granted to the NLF and the Secretary of State to secure amounts that are or may become payable under the NLFA, HLFA, Contribution Agreement, Government Option Agreement, Nirex Option Agreement and Guarantee and Indemnity, summaries of which are set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.2(c), (d), (e), (i), (j) and (k)); and
- we must comply with certain conduct of business obligations during the periods in which the options can be exercised under the Government Option Agreement (a summary of which is contained in paragraph 17.2 (i) of Part X: Additional information), including, amongst others: (i) operating our nuclear power stations in the ordinary and usual course and, in the period immediately prior to the scheduled closure date of those nuclear power stations, restricting certain actions which may affect the Secretary of State's ability to exercise the options to decommission or continue operation of those stations; (ii) not to enter into certain contracts or commitments for capital expenditure (except where approved under the Contribution Agreement or the NLFA); or (iii) not to grant security over our nuclear power stations without the consent of the Secretary of State.

In addition, the terms of the Special Share held by each of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Scotland restrict us from disposing of our shares in BEG and BEG UK, and restrict BEG and BEG UK from disposing of any of their respective nuclear power stations, without the prior consent of the holder of the relevant Special Share (such consent only to be withheld, if, in the holder's opinion, the disposal would be contrary to the interests of national security).

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

Further, we will be subject to restrictive covenants as set out in the terms and conditions of the New Bonds, including, amongst others, the following:

- we are prohibited from incurring financial indebtedness (other than certain permitted financial indebtedness) and from issuing guarantees of financial indebtedness unless the consolidated fixed charge coverage ratio (as defined in the New Bonds) is in accordance with the ratio set out therein. Permitted financial indebtedness includes up to £75m of additional debt, of which £60m may be secured;
- we may not pay dividends unless the Target Amount is met and no event of default or potential event has occurred and is continuing. In addition, we may not make certain other restricted payments unless the consolidated fixed charge coverage ratio referred to above is met and the amount of the payment does not exceed 50 per cent. of consolidated net income for the relevant period;
- there are limitations on the ability to repurchase our own shares and on investments, asset sales and sale and leaseback transactions;
- there are also restrictions on transactions with affiliates, but transactions with BNFL, EPL and the NLF are permitted provided that they comply with certain requirements as set out in the terms and conditions of the New Bonds;
- we are subject to a negative pledge, subject to customary exceptions;
- there are also certain restrictions on the conduct of our business, which are set in paragraph 8.14 of Part VII: Terms and conditions of the New Bonds. The intention is to allow us the flexibility to continue our existing business of generating and selling electricity and we are also permitted to trade electricity within Europe and to decommission our nuclear power stations (or those previously owned by us); and
- if the Target Amount is reduced as permitted by the Contribution Agreement, or if we otherwise have surplus cash as a result of asset sales or if the Eggborough Break Option (as defined in the terms and conditions of the New Bonds) is exercised, then we are obliged to apply this excess cash (once the surplus exceeds £10m) in redeeming the New Bonds.

If the New Bonds attain an investment-grade rating from at least two rating agencies (one of which must be Moody's) and provided that no event of default or potential event of default is subsisting, then most of the restrictive covenants described above will be suspended, although they will be reinstated if the investment-grade rating from such agencies is withdrawn.

A summary of the terms of the New Bonds including the covenants referred to above is contained in Part VII: Terms and conditions of the New Bonds.

Finally, the Receivables Facility Agreement contains detailed covenants for the benefit of the facility provider, which mirror those under the New Bonds. In addition to these, the Receivables Facility Agreement also contains a financial interest coverage covenant

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(assessed on a consolidated group-wide basis) and covenants relating to the conduct of the electricity supply business customary for a receivables facility. A summary of the Receivables Facility Agreement is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1 (q).

We do not believe that the restrictions on our expenditure under our existing agreements, or those agreed to, in particular the restrictions in the Contribution Agreement, prohibit spending on PIP (as currently envisaged) at the levels previously announced.

Business strategy

Our business strategy is constrained by, amongst other things, the terms of the Contribution Agreement, the New Bonds, the Receivables Facility Agreement and the compensatory

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

measures we have agreed to in connection with the State Aid Approval. Therefore, we expect to execute the following strategy:

- **Improving reliability** Our principal business objective is to improve operational reliability through: investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares; improving the way our plant is maintained and operated; and reducing human errors that have led to unplanned outages. In short, we aim to produce more electricity more reliably from our nuclear power stations and this will be the most significant element of our strategy by a considerable margin;
- **Seek life extensions** Progress on improving the material condition of our nuclear power stations may allow us to demonstrate safety cases that support the extension of their operating lives; and
- **Input into wider UK energy debate** In the longer term, we will seek to apply our skills, expertise and assets in playing a part in the evolution of the power market and in any future debate commenced by the Government regarding the UK's energy strategy.

Overall we are aiming to raise our standing in the worldwide nuclear community by demonstrating increasing capability to the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) as a basis of establishing our credentials as an operator and manager of choice.

As our nuclear power stations close, our ability to invest in new business development opportunities may be further restricted due to a lack of sufficient cash resources and this issue may be exacerbated should some of our nuclear power stations be required to close earlier than the estimated closure date used in our financial statements.

Table of Contents**KEY INFORMATION (Continued)****Summary financial information of the British Energy Group**

The financial information in the table below for the three years ended 31 March 2004 has been extracted without material adjustment from Part IV: Financial information. It should be read in conjunction with all other information relating to New British Energy and Holdings plc contained in this document. You should not rely on the summarised information in this section of the document only. The financial information for the financial years ended 31 March 2000 and 31 March 2001 has been extracted, without material adjustment, from our audited statutory accounts for those periods and has then been restated as per note 1.

	Year ended 31 March				
	(1) 2000	(1) 2001	(5) 2002	(5) 2003	(5) 2004
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Profit and Loss Account Information:					
UK GAAP					
Turnover	2,058	2,124	2,049	1,903	1,516
Turnover continuing operations	1,989	1,954	1,701	1,528	1,516
Turnover discontinued operation ⁽⁴⁾	69	170	348	375	
Operating profit/(loss) ⁽⁵⁾	412	280	(271)	(3,702)	340
Operating profit/(loss) continuing operation ⁽⁵⁾	414	284	(323)	(3,799)	340
Operating (loss)/profit discontinued operations	(2)	(4)	52	97	
Profit/(loss) before taxation ⁽⁵⁾	225	57	(483)	(4,192)	232
Taxation	(118)	(48)	(25)	368	2
Profit/(loss) after taxation ⁽⁵⁾	107	9	(508)	(3,824)	234
Ordinary dividends ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	(48)	(48)	(48)		
Other dividends	(47)	(2)	(2)		
Basic earnings/(loss) per ordinary share(s) ⁽⁵⁾	16.4p	1.2p	(86.8)p	(638)p	38.9p
Diluted earnings/(loss) per ordinary share(s) ⁽⁵⁾	16.4p	1.2p	(86.8)p	(638)p	38.9p
Dividends per ordinary share, net ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	8.0p	8.0p	8.0p		

	As at 31 March				
	(1) 2000	(1) 2001	(5) 2002	(5) 2003	(5) 2004
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance Sheet Information:					
UK GAAP					
Fixed assets ⁽⁵⁾	5,620	5,245	4,805	761	935
Total assets ⁽⁵⁾	7,051	6,784	6,671	2,175	2,672
Net current assets	73	854	891	229	290
Provisions and long term liabilities	(4,490)	(4,931)	(5,173)	(4,375)	(4,391)
Equity shareholders funds/(deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	1,110	1,075	386	(3,478)	(3,259)
Net assets/(liabilities) ⁽⁵⁾	1,203	1,168	523	(3,385)	(3,166)

	Year ended 31 March				
	(1)	(1)	(5)	(5)	(5)
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cash Flow Information:					
UK GAAP					
Operating profit/(loss) including exceptional items ⁽⁵⁾	412	280	(271)	(3,702)	340
Cash generated by operations:					
Depreciation charges	260	277	585	4,025	(245)
Nuclear liabilities charged to operating costs	141	132	156	105	130
Nuclear liabilities and other provisions discharged:					
Nuclear liabilities	(310)	(319)	(332)	(115)	(59)
Other provisions discharged	(34)	(39)	(43)	(45)	(3)
Onerous trading contract provisions			209		
Regular contributions to UK decommissioning fund	(17)	(17)	(18)	(18)	(19)
Operating exceptional UK decommissioning fund movement				13	(13)
Working capital:					
Decrease in stocks	4	27	66	60	10
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(54)	97	(117)	(18)	4
Increase/(decrease) in creditors ⁽⁵⁾	48	(161)	145	31	11
Net cash inflow from operating activities	450	277	380	336	156
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(137)	(133)	(225)	(282)	
Net cash inflow from operating activities net of capital expenditure	313	144	155	54	156

Table of Contents**KEY INFORMATION (Continued)**

- (1) Our consolidated financial statements were restated in 2002 to reflect the retroactive application of the UK Accounting Standards Board's Financial Reporting Standard No. 19 – Deferred Tax, FRS 19. FRS 19 came into effect with respect to all accounting periods ending after 31 January 2002 and requires that, when calculating the amount of taxation, full provisions be made for all timing differences for deferred taxes. The financial information for 2000 and 2001 has been restated to comply with the requirements of FRS 19.
- (2) Dividends per share exclude any associated UK tax credit available to certain holders of Ordinary Shares.
- (3) In July 1999, British Energy Shareholders approved a return of value of approximately £432m.
- (4) The turnover for discontinued operations which related to Bruce Power (our interest in which was sold on 14 February 2003) are set out on a 100 per cent. holding basis. British Energy's share in Bruce Power was 82.4 per cent. prior to the disposal. Discontinued activity turnover prior to 31 March 2001 comprises electricity and gas supply sales made by Swalec (now part of the Scottish & Southern Energy Group) prior to its disposal on 7 August 2000.
- (5) From 1 April 2004, the British Energy Group has adopted the UK Accounting Standards Board's Urgent Issues Task Force Abstract No. 17 (revised 2003) – Employee Share Schemes (UITF 17) and Urgent Issues Task Force Abstract No. 38 – Accounting for ESOP Trusts (UITF 38). UITF 17 and UITF 38 relate to the measurement of the Employee Share Scheme charge and the presentation and disclosure of own shares held. The adoption of these new accounting guidelines has resulted in a restatement of the results for the year ended 31 March 2004. Additionally, the financial information for the financial statements for 2002 and 2003 has been restated on the same basis. The financial information for the year ended 31 March 2000 and 2001 has not been restated for these new requirements.

Summary unaudited pro forma financial information of the New British Energy Group

The unaudited pro forma financial information in the table below has been extracted without adjustment from Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information and should be read in conjunction with that Part, particularly the notes set out therein. This information is for illustrative purposes only and may not, because of its nature, give a true picture of the financial position of the New British Energy Group. This section includes summarised information only and reference should be made to Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information to obtain further details. The pro forma information has been prepared to provide information about how the proposed listing of New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds, as well as the terms of the Restructuring, might have affected the consolidated income statement for the year ended 31 March 2004 and the net asset statement as at 31 March 2004.

Unaudited pro forma consolidated income statement for the year ended 31 March 2004

	Pre-exceptional	Exceptional	
	Items	Items	Total
	31 March	31 March	
	2004	2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m	£m
Group turnover excluding discontinued joint venture	1,516		1,516

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Operating costs before exceptional items	(1,503)		(1,503)
Operating profit before exceptional operating items	13		13
Exceptional operating items		270	270
Revalorisation charges	(5)		(5)
Net interest	(38)		(38)
Exceptional financing credits		5	5
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities			
(Loss)/profit attributable to shareholders	(30)	275	245

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

Unaudited pro forma consolidated net asset statement as at 31 March 2004

	31 March 2004
	£m
Tangible fixed assets	590
Investments	4
Goodwill	1,372
Fixed assets	1,966
Current assets	
NLF receivable and HMG indemnity	4,278
Other current assets	1,297
	5,575
Creditors falling due in less than 1 year	(605)
Net current assets	4,970
Total assets less current liabilities	6,936
Nuclear liabilities falling due in greater than 1 year	(2,268)
Bonds and loans	(676)
Creditors due to NLF	(212)
Provision for the NLF Cash Sweep Payment	(287)
Provisions	(1,865)
Net assets	1,628

The unaudited pro forma financial information set out above is based on the consolidated profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2004 and the balance sheet at that date of the British Energy Group, aggregated with the financial position of New British Energy Group. It is intended to provide illustrative information on how the Restructuring and the proposed listing of New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds might have affected the financial position of the New British Energy Group as at that date.

The accounting for the Restructuring of the New British Energy Group is expected to follow the principles of acquisition accounting, owing to the significant change in ownership of the Group. It should be noted that the unaudited pro forma financial information does not include any fair value adjustments that may be required to reflect the acquisition accounting applied upon completion of the Restructuring. These may have a significant impact on the results and financial position of the New British Energy Group once the Restructuring becomes Effective, but the magnitude of those adjustments will only be determinable at or after the Restructuring Effective Date.

The Company will include a table detailing the assets and liabilities acquired pursuant to the Restructuring, as well as the fair value adjustments made, in the next set of annual accounts to be published following the Restructuring Effective Date. The narrative attached to the table will set out the basis for the fair value adjustments and will also explain the reason for any significant differences from the values or approach included in the proforma consolidated net asset statement set out in Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information. Should a material adjustment to the value of our assets arise as a result of a fair value adjustment exercise undertaken prior to our next set of annual accounts, we would announce the results of such an exercise in accordance with our continuing obligations as a listed company.

Goodwill recorded in the balance sheet will be dependent upon these fair values and therefore may be different from the goodwill set out in the unaudited pro forma financial information above. Goodwill will also be subject to an immediate review for impairment and may be required to be written down. The pro forma financial information does not reflect any potential write down of any goodwill. The unaudited pro forma financial information does not include the results and cash flows for the period from 1 April 2004 to the Restructuring Effective Date.

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

The main adjustments made in preparing the unaudited pro forma financial information are summarised as follows:

- removal of the results of discontinued businesses;
- recognition of the impact of the New Spent Fuel Agreements with BNFL which are conditional on the Restructuring becoming Effective;
- recognition of the new capital structure, including New Bonds and Eggborough loan, together with the impact on interest expense;
- recognition in the net asset statement and impact on the income statement of the Secretary of State undertaking which will be provided to fund back-end fuel services for spent AGR fuel loaded prior to the Effective Date and any future shortfall in NLF funding of qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities (including PWR back-end fuel services) and qualifying decommissioning costs;
- recording of £275m of New Bonds issued to the NLF;
- recognition of commitments to fund the NLF through the NLF Cash Sweep Payment and an annual £20m contribution (in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) and tapering off as AGR nuclear power stations are currently scheduled to close. The provision for the NLF Cash Sweep Payment includes amounts to reflect the Company's commitment to pay to the NLF 65 per cent. of cash balances and 65 per cent. of the net financial working capital balances once they have converted to cash;
- updating the carrying value of fixed assets to reflect the impact of the Restructuring on the discounted future cash flows of the business; and
- recognition of goodwill (the value of which has been determined based on recent prices of the Company's bonds which will, upon completion of the Restructuring, be converted into a significant proportion of the Group's equity). The unaudited pro forma financial information does not reflect the impact of the fair value exercise on the carrying value of net assets which will be performed on Restructuring or any potential write down of goodwill or subsequent amortisation.

Relationship with Government

The Secretary of State's statement to Parliament on 28 November 2002 set out the limits of the support which the Government was prepared to provide to the Restructuring in order to support its overriding objectives of securing the safety of British Energy's nuclear power stations and the security of electricity supply to the Grid and customers. For further details of the Government support to be provided, see the summaries of the NLFA, the HLFA and the Contribution Agreement set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.2 (c), (d) and (e).

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As a result of these objectives, the Government, both directly and through the NLF, has availed itself of a number of rights granted to it under the Government Restructuring Agreement (pursuant to the immediately operative provisions of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements) to protect its significant financial interest in the Group. However, the Restructuring has been implemented on the basis that the Board will manage the business of the Group going forward, albeit within these constraints.

During the period prior to the signing of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, we kept and since then, have continued to keep the Secretary of State closely informed of, amongst other things, our financial and trading prospects. We also provide the Secretary of State with reports and other information as required under the Government Restructuring Agreement and the Creditor Restructuring Agreement. Post-Restructuring, New British Energy will be required to supply information to the Secretary of State and the NLF (see Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements). We are also

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

required under the terms of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements, amongst other things, to provide the Secretary of State with all the information she would reasonably need to monitor the financial health of the Group (including monthly cashflow information covering the period 18 months ahead) and to only adopt trading policies which are prudent in light of the Group's on-going financial resources and obligations and to comply with such trading policies. As a result of these requirements, the Company has agreed to provide the Secretary of State and Shareholder Executive with, amongst other things, periodic reports on its business performance and strategic and business plans and for there to be regular meetings and communication between the Secretary of State and senior executives and the Board on a range of topics. Over time, the frequency and content of the reporting may be reviewed.

ONS classification and the NAO conclusion

On 24 September 2004, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) announced that, for the purposes of production of the United Kingdom National Accounts (National Accounts), British Energy had been classified as in the public sector. As explained in the announcement, the National Accounts are produced to describe activities in a national economy, including transactions taking place between sectors of that economy. The ONS is responsible for the National Accounts which are compiled in accordance with international standards. In assessing the status of British Energy as a public sector body, the ONS stated that it took into account the powers conferred on the Government under the terms of the Government Facility and to be conferred on the Government as a result of the Restructuring.

The National Audit Office (NAO) has independently concluded, on the basis of the circumstances extant as at 21 September 2004, that British Energy should be accounted for post- Restructuring as a quasi-subsiidiary of the DTI.

This classification of British Energy as a public sector body is relevant for the purposes of compiling the National Accounts but does not prevent the implementation of the Restructuring. Similarly, the NAO's opinion that the DTI should account for British Energy as a quasi-subsiidiary does not impact on the implementation of the Restructuring. The Company is a public limited company owned by its shareholders and managed independently by its Board who will be subject to the normal private sector disciplines, fiduciary duties and Companies Act requirements. The Company is an independent entity and has control over a majority of its assets.

In the light of the level and type of interaction we will have with the Government post-Restructuring, the Company will need to conclude whether, for the purposes of FRS8, the Government constitutes a related party and if so, what level of disclosure will be required with regard to transactions with the Government, including transactions of a routine nature with parties such as the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise and local authorities, amongst others.

The NAO's conclusion does not change the position that the Group has adopted in relation to the application to it of the Utilities Public Procurement Rules.

Dividend and financial policy

The Board intends to distribute to Shareholders as much of the Company's available cash flow as prudently possible, but not until operational requirements of the business permit. In addition, under the terms of the Restructuring, there are certain restrictions on, or factors affecting, the Board's ability to pay dividends including:

- we are required to fund cash reserves out of our net cash flow in order to support the New British Energy Group's collateral and liquidity requirements post-Restructuring (the Cash Reserves). The initial target amount for the Cash Reserves is £490m plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200m (the Target Amount). Prior to paying any dividends, our cash must equal or exceed the Target Amount and certain

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

other amounts specified in the Contribution Agreement, a summary of which is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e);

- the terms of the Contribution Agreement also require that once the Cash Reserves are funded to the Target Amount, we must make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment. Initially this is 65 per cent. (the Payment Percentage) of the New British Energy Group's adjusted net cash flow (calculated on the basis set out in the summary of the Contribution Agreement). The Payment Percentage may be adjusted for certain corporate actions but may never exceed 65 per cent. The requirement to make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment will greatly reduce the amount of cash that would otherwise be available for distribution to Shareholders. In addition, we may not pay any dividends without making an additional payment to the NLF if the result of paying such dividends would be that the aggregate amount of dividends paid to Shareholders in the period following the Restructuring would exceed the aggregate of our annual adjusted net cash flow in such period less the aggregate NLF Cash Sweep Payments payable in such period;
- the terms of the New Bonds contain certain covenants (which are described in detail in Part VII: Terms and conditions of the New Bonds), including a restriction that allows us to pay a dividend only if the Target Amount is met and no event of default has occurred; and
- we must have distributable reserves.

As a result of these restrictions and after making a prudent allowance for collateral requirements, the Directors consider that the earliest period for which a dividend may be declared is the financial year ending 31 March 2007.

Subject to these restrictions, the Board intends to distribute to shareholders as much of the Company's available cash flow as prudently possible. Any such decision to make such a distribution will be made in the circumstances of the time. In relation to any financial year in respect of which the Company might otherwise be permitted to pay a dividend, the Directors might, for example, consider during the course of that year (or subsequent to it) whether it would be prudent to redeem or repurchase New Bonds (which in turn would require an Accelerated Decommissioning Payment to be made to the NLF), make additional contributions to the Group's pension schemes, allocate cash to the Forecast Expenditure Reserve in accordance with the Contribution Agreement (for instance, to meet certain qualifying expenditure on PIP which is due in the following financial period, to acquire or fund a specific fixed asset or undertaking (expected to be from cash and not from borrowings)) or retain Cash Reserves in excess of the Target Amount.

Movements in the operational cash flow of the Group (prior to debt service and the adjustments referred to above) from one financial year to another are likely to be volatile, for example because of movements in the wholesale price of electricity and variability in our output.

Taking account of the constraints set out above, consideration of prudence and the likely volatility of operating cash flows, the Directors believe that any dividends paid by the Company may vary in size and frequency.

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Under the terms of the Contribution Agreement, the Company may reduce the Target Amount if the New Bonds are rated investment grade by Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch. The Directors believe that even with the achievement of a low investment grade rating, the financial position of the Group would not likely allow any reduction of the Target Amount to enable any release of Cash Reserves.

Under the terms of the New Bonds, certain covenants, including in relation to dividends and debt incurrence, will be suspended if Moody's and one other rating agency rate the New Bonds as investment grade. However, in view of the feedback received from the ratings agencies which resulted in the announcement on 23 September 2004 of indicative non-investment grade ratings the Directors consider that it will be difficult to meet this condition.

Table of Contents**KEY INFORMATION (Continued)****Management and share incentive plans**

The executive members of the Board have changed significantly since the announcement of the Restructuring with the departure of David Gilchrist in August 2004, Keith Lough in December 2003 and Dr Robin Jeffrey in February 2003 and through the appointments of Mike Alexander in March 2003 and more recently Roy Anderson as Chief Nuclear Officer and Stephen Billingham as Finance Director. Roy Anderson brings relevant experience having worked previously for a number of years in the industry. Stephen Billingham has a track record with major international companies and experience in corporate recovery. Neil O Hara also joins the Executive Committee after his appointment as Trading Director in May 2004.

Our non-executive Board membership has been strengthened by recent appointments. The appointments of William Coley, Pascal Colombani and Sir Robert Walmsley have greatly enhanced the Board's nuclear expertise. The appointment of John Delucca in February 2004 has brought significant experience of financial restructurings to the Board. Most recently, the appointment of David Pryde has brought in depth knowledge of trading and risk management.

The Company has adopted a number of employee share incentive plans (which are described in detail in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 8) including an Interim Deferred Bonus Plan (Interim Bonus Plan) and a Long Term Deferred Bonus Plan (the LT Plan) for senior executives of the Company and its subsidiaries. Under the Interim Bonus Plan, the Remuneration Committee may grant a deferred bonus to senior executives of the Company and its subsidiaries to reward performance over the financial year ending 31 March 2005. The performance targets for this year have yet to be determined by the Remuneration Committee. The Interim Bonus Plan is intended to reward performance for that financial year only, and rewards for performance in subsequent financial years will be provided through the LT Plan. The Interim Bonus Plan is described in detail in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 8.2. The LT Plan provides for the establishment of targets by the Remuneration Committee in relation to safety and environment, EBITDA (Pre-Capex) (as defined in the LT Plan), nuclear output, non-outage backlog, trading measure, free cash flow and equity market capitalisation for each financial year. For executive Directors and other members of the executive team, the targets consist entirely of these targets. EBITDA (Pre-Capex) (as defined in the LT Plan) and nuclear output targets have already been set for the financial years ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 and these are set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 8.3.

Under his letter of appointment (see paragraph 7.3.1 of Part X: Additional information), Adrian Montague is entitled to a fee of £100,000 contingent upon Restructuring becoming Effective and binding on all interested parties, payable on Admission. It is intended that following Admission, Mr Montague's letter of appointment will be amended to provide for 30 per cent. of his post-Admission base fee of £150,000 to be settled in shares under arrangements which remain to be agreed in detail.

With effect from 1 September 2004, British Energy modified its fee structure for all non-executive Directors except Adrian Montague. In addition to the fees set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 7.3, non-executive Directors are entitled to receive the following:

Membership of board committee	£1,500 per committee
Travel to/from US	£1,000 per occasion
Travel to/from Continental Europe	£500 per occasion

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Attendance at Board meeting or committee meeting	£500 per occasion
Telephone attendance at Board meeting or committee meeting	£250 per occasion

The Deputy Chairman of the audit committee (currently John Delucca) is also entitled to receive additional fees of £10,000 per annum. Each non-executive Director will also receive £13,000 per annum payable in New Shares, such shares to be allocated quarterly in arrears. Current non-executive Directors will each receive a single payment of £10,000 payable in New Shares as soon as possible after Admission. Any new non-executive Directors joining the Board after this time will also receive a similar payment.

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

Current trading and prospects

Trading at the time of the announcement of the Restructuring

At the time of the announcement of the outline terms of our Restructuring on 28 November 2002, the wholesale market price for electricity had been around £17.0 per MWh for delivery in 2003/2004 whilst average unit operating costs (including those in relation to the Eggborough power station) for the six months ended 30 September 2002 were approximately £19.9 per MWh. In short, as a result of our high fixed cost base (particularly the costs associated with our fuel) on a per MWh basis, our costs of producing electricity were exceeding our achieved selling price. We entered into the agreements with Creditors, BNFL and the Secretary of State in October 2003 in order to avoid administration in circumstances where no other viable option was available to the Group. The agreements provide the best that we could negotiate for shareholders at the time. We believe the only alternative would have been for us to take appropriate insolvency proceedings under which any distribution to shareholders would have been highly unlikely.

At the time of the announcement of the formal terms of the Restructuring on 1 October 2003, we had contracted to sell our electricity for the remainder of that financial year at what we estimated at that time would be an average price of £17.1 per MWh. At that time, we had entered into fixed price contracts for summer 2004 and winter 2004/2005 in relation to approximately 50 per cent. of our output for 2004/2005 at an average price of £18.3 per MWh and altogether had contracts to sell approximately 90 per cent. of our output for that period. Taken together with the partial hedge provided by the New BNFL Contracts (assuming the market price could fall below £21.0 per MWh), this meant we would only be 8 per cent. exposed to fluctuations in the wholesale electricity price. The prevailing market price at the time had been £21.6 per MWh for 2004/2005.

The wholesale market price for electricity has increased significantly compared to the price at the time that the Restructuring was announced. This increase in the wholesale price for electricity, together with key elements of the Restructuring, details of which are set out in summary in the bullet points on the second half of page 9 and on page 10 (and which are dealt with more fully in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring) mean that the outlook for the Group has improved since the announcement made on 28 November 2002, although this has been offset by declines in output.

Current, financial and trading prospects

Nuclear output was 15.0 TWh (a 72 per cent. load factor) for the three month period ended 30 June 2004, 28.7 TWh (a 68 per cent. load factor) for the six month period ended 30 September 2004 and 33.1 TWh (a 67 per cent. load factor) for the seven month period ended 31 October 2004. The UK nuclear output for the equivalent periods in 2003 was 17.0 TWh (a 82 per cent. load factor), 33.3 TWh (a 79 per cent. load factor) and 37.9 TWh (a 77 per cent. load factor). The reduction on the previous year, and in the second quarter of this year compared to the first quarter, has been primarily due to unplanned outages.

During the three-month period ended 30 June 2004 and six-month period ended 30 September 2004, investment expenditure on plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole Group, including incremental costs associated with PIP, totalled £32m and £64m respectively of which we estimate that £17m and £32m respectively may have been capitalised, with the main projects in the period including replacement of cast iron pipework, fuel route improvements and the implementation of the work

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management programme. As a result of the FRS 11 impairment review in the financial year ended 31 March 2003, all expenditure of a capital nature has been expensed and will continue to be expensed until such time as it is possible to demonstrate that it results in an enhancement to the carrying value of fixed assets.

As previously indicated, the Company had already contracted to sell much of its planned nuclear output for the current year during the previous financial year and has had to buy back

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

power. Therefore it has not seen the full benefit of the recent rises in electricity prices. These factors, as well as increased pension costs and an increased depreciation charge related to the impairment reversal made in March 2004 have had a significant adverse impact on our profitability and cash flow. In view of the recent unplanned outages and the delayed return to service of Hartlepool and Heysham 1, the Directors consider that the outlook for the Company's financial and trading prospects for the remainder of the financial year will be challenging.

The principal factors affecting the financial and trading prospects of the Group for the current financial year are: nuclear output, nuclear unit cash costs, sales, PIP and cash and liquidity:

Nuclear output

Following the unplanned outage at Heysham 1, as a result of cast iron pipework failure, we reviewed the implications for further cast iron pipework replacement at our other nuclear power stations and, accordingly, on 19 March 2004 we announced that our indicative target for nuclear output for 2004/2005 was reduced from 67.0 TWh to 64.5 TWh. We have suffered a number of unplanned outages since that date and following the evaluation of structural inspections carried out during a statutory outage at our Hartlepool power station, we decided that further work was required to demonstrate the integrity of certain boilers. This work entailed intrusive visual inspections of a number of boiler closure units. This also involved certain inspections being undertaken at Heysham 1. In addition, we are making modifications to our safety cases for Hartlepool and Heysham 1 to address flooding and fire threats and also to address graphite core brick cracking.

On 30 July 2004, we announced that we had revised our target nuclear output for 2004/2005 from 64.5 TWh to around 61.5 TWh. However, following discussions with the NII concerning our programme of works at Hartlepool and Heysham 1, we currently expect that Hartlepool and Heysham 1 will not return to service until later this calendar year and consequently (as we announced on 18 November 2004) we expect nuclear output of 59.5 TWh in the financial year ending 31 March 2005. Based on the Company's business plans, we further expect the average annual nuclear output over the next three financial years (including this financial year) to be approximately 61.8 TWh.

Subject always to our continuing obligations as a listed company, we propose to publish information regarding our output on a quarterly basis at the same time as we publish the results for that quarter (rather than on a monthly basis) and we do not propose to make further forward-looking statements regarding our proposed annual output during a financial year.

Nuclear unit cash costs

Average unit costs for our nuclear power stations include maintenance, expenditure on nuclear plant and equipment and corporate overheads but exclude the impact of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment and working capital movements. In determining projected average nuclear unit cash costs, we make a number of assumptions relating to, amongst other things, output, fuel, operating costs (including staff and pension contributions), operational maintenance expenditure and capital expenditure, electricity prices and inflation. The resulting projections may change over time as a result of changes to one or more of these variables. Payments due to

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BNFL for fuel and ancillary services under the revised arrangements vary with electricity prices (as determined by the electricity reference price in the new arrangements) and movements in electricity prices may result in changes to our average nuclear unit cash costs.

In October 2003, we announced our projected three year average nuclear unit cash costs per MWh for our nuclear power stations. These were costs based on an assumed level of output of 67.0 TWh per annum, levels of capital expenditure in the range of £85m to £90m and electricity prices ranging from £14.0 per MWh to £22.0 per MWh.

In June 2004, we announced an increase in our estimate for average nuclear unit cash costs to take account of increased investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across

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the whole Group (which includes incremental PIP expenditure). Based on the financial resources we expect to have available to us, for the financial year ending 31 March 2005, this investment will be in the range of £140m to £170m including incremental PIP expenditure of approximately £20m. If our financial resources are otherwise required due to unforeseen outages or changes to electricity prices and collateral requirements, we may be required to adjust our investment plans accordingly. In addition electricity prices have risen substantially since October 2003 and as a result we are now making additional payments to BNFL as provided for under the new arrangements for back-end fuel services. This will continue for so long as electricity prices remain above £16.0 per MWh (in 2002/2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI). Taking both factors into account, average nuclear unit cash costs were estimated in June 2004 to be £18.1 per MWh at then current electricity prices and assuming average annual output of 67.0 TWh.

The Directors have conducted a review of the projections for the three year period ending 31 March 2007 and annual average nuclear output for the period is now expected to be on average around 61.8 TWh per annum. On this basis, our average nuclear unit cash costs are projected to be £19.1 per MWh at current price levels. The Directors expect that these average unit costs will remain unchanged whilst wholesale baseload electricity prices remain at or above £22.7 per MWh at 2003/2004 price levels (or £21.0 per MWh, at 2002/2003 price levels, indexed to RPI), and assuming we achieve our average annual nuclear output figure. However should wholesale baseload electricity prices fall below this figure, our fuel costs will decrease in accordance with the provisions of our revised arrangements with BNFL.

Since the October 2003 announcement, nuclear unit cash costs have increased due to the higher level of projected investment and the costs of PIP, the increase in electricity prices and the reduction in projected output and inflation. The original nuclear unit cash cost of £14.5 per MWh was quoted at a reference electricity price of £16.0 per MWh (at 2002/2003 price levels) and an annual output level of 67.0 TWh. Rebased to current electricity prices, the nuclear unit cash costs would have been £16.4 per MWh compared with the current projection of £19.1 per MWh. Of this £2.7 increase, £1.1 is due to PIP, £0.2 is due to other cost increases, £0.4 is due to inflation and £1.0 is due to the output reduction.

Sales

As of 22 November 2004, contracts were in place covering virtually all of the planned output for the financial year ending 31 March 2005, of which nearly all are at fixed prices. The average price for these fixed price contracts is £21.0 per MWh. For 2005/2006, contracts are in place for approximately two-thirds of planned generation, with approximately half of these being at fixed prices at an average price of approximately £25 per MWh. The market price for forward baseload contracts has continued to rise and the wholesale price for annual contracts with delivery in 2005/2006 has risen from around £24.5 per MWh at the end of March 2004 to over £30.0 per MWh by 22 November 2004, an increase of some 20 per cent. Whilst there is no guarantee that these prices will continue to prevail they are comfortably above our estimates of average unit costs.

PIP

As a result of PIP's wide ranging nature and the time and costs involved in implementing it, we do not expect to see the benefits of the hoped for improvement in operational reliability in the current or next financial year. The degree of improvement in operational reliability and the quantification of its impact on our financial results will depend on how the implementation of PIP progresses in the next 12 months but the Directors believe, on the basis of other improvement programmes implemented elsewhere in the world, that

enhancements in output reliability should be capable of being achieved.

However, AGR power stations are unique to the UK and were built in the 1970s and 1980s by different design consortia to different design specifications. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the improvement in reliability achieved in other nuclear power station improvement programmes, upon which PIP is based and which have been undertaken on newer

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

fleets of nuclear power stations based on non-AGR technology, will be capable of being achieved in respect of our AGR power stations.

Cash and liquidity

On 30 June 2004, net debt was £382m with gross debt standing at £883m. We had cash and liquid resources of £501m of which £321m was deposited as collateral in support of our trading activities. At 31 October 2004, the amounts were £450m and £332m respectively. We also entered into a Receivables Facility Agreement on 25 August 2004 to provide additional liquidity. We have agreed to defer amounts due to certain suppliers in order to better match the profile of monthly expenditure with the receipt of income from the sale of electricity.

In an attempt to align our nuclear fuel costs with receipts from sales of electricity in a year more closely, we have deferred an agreed sum of £20m in this financial year under certain of our contractual arrangements with BNFL which we intend to pay in respect of July invoiced payments, on 1 February 2005 and in respect of August and September invoiced payments, on 1 March 2005.

In addition, we have agreed a further side letter with BNFL dated 10 November 2004 under which it has been agreed that certain other payments under our existing fuel arrangements may be deferred. These payments were due in August, September and October 2004 and aggregate approximately £35m. We have agreed to pay approximately £10m of this amount on or before 31 December 2004, and the balance in two tranches in amounts to be agreed on or before 31 January 2005 and 28 February 2005, respectively. The contractual late payment interest at the rate of LIBOR plus 2 per cent. has started to accrue in relation to the amounts outstanding. BNFL has agreed that these late payments will not constitute non-compliance with our payment obligations for the purpose of our June 2004 deferral arrangements described above, provided the additional deferred amounts are paid in accordance with the proposal set out above.

Working capital statement

In the opinion of the Company and Holdings plc, having regard to the facilities available to the New British Energy Group, each has sufficient working capital to meet its present requirements, that is, for at least the next 12 months following the date of this document.

Admission and dealings of New Shares, New Bonds and Warrants and delisting of British Energy Shares

Application has been made to the UK Listing Authority for the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds to be admitted to the Official List and to the London Stock Exchange for the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds to be admitted to trading. It is expected that

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Admission of the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds to the Official List will become effective and that dealings in the New Shares, Warrants and New Bonds will commence on the dealing day following the Restructuring Effective Date.

On 23 September 2004, British Energy sent its shareholders a letter in accordance with the Listing Rules, notifying shareholders of its intention to apply to the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares. Following an application by British Energy for the UKLA to cancel the listings of the British Energy Shares from the Official List, the UKLA cancelled the listings with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and the last day for dealings in British Energy Shares on the main market of the London Stock Exchange was 20 October 2004. Although the British Energy Shares are no longer listed on the Official List, the London listings of the Existing Bonds have not been cancelled and British Energy, therefore, remains subject to the continuing obligations applying to issuers of specialist debt securities under the Listing Rules. British Energy is exempt from the other continuing obligation provisions of the Listing Rules which apply to issuers of equity securities but intends to comply with these obligations as if the listings of the British Energy Shares had not been cancelled. It will not, however, regard itself as

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being subject to the requirements of the Listing Rules to seek shareholder approval for significant transactions such as the Disposal or related party transactions. Application will be made for the listing of the Existing Bonds to be cancelled and the last day for dealings in the Existing Bonds will be the Restructuring Effective Date.

On 28 September 2004, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) suspended trading in the British Energy American Depositary Receipts (British Energy ADRs) and commenced proceedings to permanently delist British Energy ADRs from the NYSE. The NYSE announced it had taken this action in response to British Energy's announcement on 23 September 2004 of its intention to delist the Ordinary Shares and A Shares from the London Stock Exchange. British Energy has appealed the NYSE's decision to delist the British Energy ADRs. However, there can be no assurance that its appeal will be successful or that British Energy or the Company will meet the relevant listing criteria on the NYSE for the New British Energy American Depositary Receipts (New ADRs).

If the Members' Scheme becomes Effective and British Energy or the Company satisfies the relevant listing criteria for the NYSE, the New ADRs will be listed for trading on the NYSE on Admission. If the Members' Scheme does not become Effective but the Disposal is approved or if the Members' Scheme becomes Effective and neither British Energy nor the Company are able to satisfy the relevant listing criteria for the NYSE on or prior to Admission holders of British Energy ADRs who are eligible will receive the New Shares and/or Warrants, as the case may be, to which they are entitled, but no New ADRs will be issued on Admission. In that event, we have agreed to take all reasonable steps to apply to list our New ADRs on the NYSE at such time following Admission as we are able to satisfy the NYSE listing criteria. In such circumstances, however, we will be required to satisfy the NYSE's listing criteria for new securities, including minimum public float and minimum shareholder eligibility requirements that we may not be able to satisfy immediately after Admission. For additional information, see Part IX: Description of American Depositary Receipts.

Share capital and indebtedness

The authorised, issued and fully paid share capital of New British Energy and Holdings plc as at the date of publication of this document is as follows:

	Authorised		Issued	
	Amount(£)	Number	Amount(£)	Number
New British Energy				
ordinary shares of 10p each	0.20	2	0.20	2
non-voting ordinary shares of £1 each	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total	50,000.20		50,000.20	
		Authorised		Issued

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	<u>Amount(£)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount(£)</u>	<u>Number</u>
Holdings plc				
ordinary shares of £1 each	1	1	1	1
non-voting ordinary shares of £1 each	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Total	50,001		50,001	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	

New British Energy and Holdings plc have no indebtedness as at the date of this document. The terms of the Restructuring will result in a significant amount of the existing indebtedness of the British Energy Group being renegotiated, and will not be indebtedness of New British Energy or Holdings plc on Admission.

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The authorised, issued and fully paid share capital of New British Energy and Holdings plc as at the date of Admission will be as follows:

	Authorised		Issued	
	Amount(£)	Number	Amount(£)	Number
New British Energy				
ordinary shares of 10p each	280,000,000	2,800,000,000	56,101,655.30	561,016,553
non-voting ordinary shares of £1 each ¹	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
convertible ordinary shares of 10p each ²	200,000,000	2,000,000,000	Nil	Nil
special rights redeemable preference shares of £1 each	1	1	1	1
Total	480,050,001		56,151,656.30	

¹ These shares will not be listed and will be repurchased and cancelled following Admission. See Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 2.1.3 and 2.6.2 for further details.

² These shares will not be listed.

New British Energy will have 2,238,983,447 authorised but unissued ordinary shares of 10p each at Admission, of which 2,000,000,000 will be reserved for issue following conversion of the Convertible Shares in accordance with the rights attaching to the Convertible Shares (as described in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 4), and 29,527,187 will be reserved for issue pursuant to the Warrants (if the British Energy Shareholders approve the Members' Scheme or the Ordinary Shareholders approve the Disposal) as described in Part VIII: Conditions of the Warrants. Of the remaining 209,456,260 authorised but unissued ordinary shares of 10p each which are not reserved in this way: (i) up to 187,000,000 (being approximately one third of the aggregate number of the ordinary shares of 10p each expected to be in issue as at Admission) will be authorised for issue other than for cash or in connection with a rights or other similar issue in favour of the holders of relevant securities; and (ii) up to 28,050,000 (being approximately five per cent. of the aggregate number of the ordinary shares of 10p each expected to be in issue as at Admission) will be authorised for issue generally for cash. The authorised but unissued share capital will also be available for issue pursuant to the employee incentive arrangements in accordance with the relevant limits set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 8.

	Authorised		Issued	
	Amount(£)	Number	Amount(£)	Number
Holdings plc				
ordinary shares of £1 each	20,000,000	20,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
non-voting ordinary shares of £1 each ¹	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
special rights redeemable preference shares of £1 each	1	1	1	1
non-voting deferred share of £1 each	1	1	0	0
Total	20,050,002		10,050,001	

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- ¹ These shares will be repurchased and cancelled following Admission. See Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 2.1.3 and 2.6.2 for further details

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The following table of pro forma indebtedness of the New British Energy Group has been extracted from Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information which has been prepared as if the Restructuring had been completed on 31 March 2004:

	As of 31 March 2004
	Pro forma £m
Debt repayable within one year:	
New Bonds	19
CTA Global Bond	5
Amounts due to the NLF	20
	44
Debt repayable after more than one year:	
Amounts due to the NLF	212
New Bonds	531
CTA Global Bond	145
	888
Total indebtedness	932

Notes:

- (1) All debt will be guaranteed by all Material Subsidiaries of the New British Energy Group.
- (2) In relation to the CTA Global Bond, the payment terms of a term loan granted under the Amended Credit Agreement match those under the CTA Bonds. The liabilities under the Amended Credit Agreement are secured against, amongst other things, the shares and assets of EPL including the CTA Global Bond held by EPL.
- (3) These payments to the NLF are secured by the DDP Debenture under which the New British Energy Group has granted fixed and floating charges over substantially all of its assets and undertakings (subject to specific exclusions).
- (4) The analysis excludes the Receivables Facility which has been put in place subsequent to 31 March 2004. The British Energy Group is required to post collateral in the form of cash to meet its trading requirements. As at 31 October 2004, the British Energy Group had cash and cash equivalents amounting to £450m, of which £332m was posted as collateral to support its trading obligations.
- (5) New British Energy will also be required to make an annual payment of, initially, 65 per cent. of its adjusted net cash flow, measured at each financial year-end (the NLF Cash Sweep Payment). For further information in relation to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment, see Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2(e).

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- (6) The British Energy Group has a number of contingent liabilities, (as described in Note 17 of the unaudited quarterly financial statements in Section 2 of Part IV: Results for British Energy plc for the three months ended 30 June 2004), as follows:
- (i) On 12 February 2004 British Energy received a notice of warranty claims from the consortium which purchased the British Energy Group's 82.4 per cent. interest in Bruce Power alleging breach of certain warranties and representations relating to tax and to the condition of certain plant at the Bruce Power station.
 - (ii) The principal tax claim relates to the treatment of expenditure at the Bruce Power station during the period of British Energy's part ownership and is currently being considered by the Canadian tax authorities. The treatment proposed by British Energy could result in a rebate of a material amount of tax to the British Energy Group that has never been recognised in the financial statements. The consortium claims that allowance of the expenditure for that period would cause it to lose future deductions. British Energy has rejected the tax claim. British energy is confident that the amount of the tax claim should not, in any event, materially exceed the amount of the rebate, and that the tax claim should have no material cash flow impact on the British Energy Group.
 - (iii) The claim relating to the condition of the plant is based upon alleged erosion of certain parts of the steam generators, including the support plates, through which boiler tubes pass, which it is alleged resulted in an extended outage of one unit at the plant to carry out repair works and loss of revenues and costs of approximately C\$64.5m. The consortium also claims that the alleged erosion may reduce the operating life of the unit and/or result in further repairs involving further losses. British Energy has rejected the claim and expects to defend it if it is pursued further.
 - (iv) Under the agreement with the consortium C\$20m is retained in trust to meet any representation and warranty claims, and this may be retained pending agreement or determination of the claims.
 - (v) The British Energy Group has given certain indemnities and guarantees in respect of the disposal of its investment in AmerGen. As a result of an accounting adjustment made by Exelon to AmerGen's management accounts and closing accounts as at 21 December 2003, British Energy may be required to make a payment to Exelon of up to US\$13.7m. British Energy served a dispute notice on Exelon on 4 June 2004 to preserve its rights and the parties are endeavouring to resolve the matter amicably. The agreement with Exelon for the sale of AmerGen requires that, prior to instituting any litigation or other dispute resolution procedure, the companies will in good faith seek to resolve any dispute.

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KEY INFORMATION (Continued)

- (7) Save as disclosed above, there is no loan capital, borrowing, indebtedness, contingent liabilities or guarantees of the New British Energy Group. Save for the amounts due under the Amended Credit Agreement and the amounts due to the NLF, all other indebtedness is unsecured.
- (8) Save as disclosed above there has been no material change in the indebtedness or contingent liabilities or guarantees of the New British Energy Group that will impact on the New British Energy Group since 8 October 2004.
- (9) New British Energy has no indebtedness and as such, the consolidated indebtedness of Holdings plc is the same as the consolidated indebtedness of New British Energy.

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INTRODUCTION**Overview**

Our principal activities are the generation, sale and trading of electricity. We are the UK's largest generator of electricity, producing over one fifth of the UK's electricity and employing approximately 5,100 staff in the UK. Our registered office is located in Scotland.

The Group owns and operates eight nuclear power stations in the UK, with a combined capacity of approximately 9,600 MW, and the Eggborough power station, a coal-fired power station in North Yorkshire, England, with a capacity of 1,960 MW. British Energy is the ultimate holding company of British Energy Generation Limited (BEG) which operates our six nuclear power stations in England, British Energy Generation (UK) Limited (BEG UK) which operates our two nuclear power stations in Scotland, Eggborough Power Limited (EPL) which operates the Eggborough power station and British Energy Power and Energy Trading Limited (BEPET) and British Energy Trading Services Limited (BETS) which are responsible for the sale of our electricity output. Our power stations were connected to the National Grid between 1976 and 1995. The present structure of the Group is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Group structure. For a description of the electricity industry in the UK (except for Northern Ireland where we do not operate), see the paragraph below headed: The electricity industry.

For the year ended 31 March 2004, British Energy's group turnover (excluding turnover from discontinued operations) was £1,516m, resulting in an operating profit of £57m (before exceptional operating credits of £283m). Our operating profit from continuing activities (after exceptional operating credits) was £340m. Output from our eight nuclear power stations for the year ended 31 March 2004 was, in aggregate, 65.0 TWh, up from the prior year's output of 63.8 TWh but less than the targeted output of 67.0 TWh. Output from the Eggborough power station was 7.6 TWh for the year ended 31 March 2004 compared with 5.7 TWh for the prior year. For further information regarding our financial results for the year ended 31 March 2004, see Part III: Operating and financial review and prospects and Part IV: Financial information.

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Seven of our nuclear power stations, Dungeness B, Hartlepool, Heysham 1, Heysham 2, Hinkley Point B, Hunterston B and Torness, are each powered by two advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs). The eighth nuclear power station, Sizewell B, is powered by a single pressurised water reactor (PWR). For a description of the nuclear generation industry, see the paragraph below headed: The nuclear generation industry.

For a description of the legislative and regulatory environment affecting the operation of the Eggborough power station, see below the paragraph headed: Coal-fired generation.

We use various routes to market in the UK, including sales to the wholesale market, direct supply sales to industrial and commercial customers and sales via long term contracts. For a

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

description of our sales activities see below the paragraph headed: Electricity sales. For further information on our sales strategy see Part III: Operating and financial review and prospects.

Our business is subject to a high degree of regulation in a number of areas, including nuclear safety and security, electricity generation, trading and supply and environmental. For a description of our regulatory environment, see below the paragraph headed: Regulation.

History

We were originally state-owned and were privatised by the Government on 15 July 1996 through an international offering of shares in British Energy. At the time of privatisation, we were the holding company for Nuclear Electric Limited (now BEG) and Scottish Nuclear Limited (now BEG UK) which owned and operated the nuclear power stations which we continue to own and operate today. Following privatisation, we expanded the British Energy Group by acquiring, amongst other things, interests outside the UK.

In 1997, we formed AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen), a joint venture with PECO Energy of Philadelphia, now part of Exelon Corporation, to pursue acquisition opportunities in the US nuclear generation market. AmerGen purchased three nuclear power stations in the US during 1999 and 2000 for US\$130m.

In March 2000, we purchased the Eggborough power station for £646m. In May 2001, our Canadian subsidiary Bruce Power Limited Partnership (Bruce Power), formed specifically for the purpose, completed a transaction to lease the Bruce nuclear power plant in Ontario, consisting of eight reactors, from 12 May 2001 to 31 December 2018 with an option to renew the lease for up to a further 25 years. Bruce Power made an initial payment of C\$537m (subject to closing adjustments) and a further C\$225m was payable on a deferred basis. In addition, annual lease payments comprising fixed and variable elements were payable.

In February 2001, we formed Offshore Wind Power Limited, a 50:50 joint venture with Renewable Energy Systems Ltd, to develop offshore wind power around the UK mainland coast.

Our subsidiary, British Energy Retail Markets Limited, purchased South Wales Electricity plc's electricity and gas supply business in February 2000 and subsequently sold it to Scottish and Southern Energy in August 2000. At the same time, BEPET entered into a ten year energy sales agreement with Scottish and Southern Energy.

Reasons for the Restructuring and recent developments

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Due to, amongst other factors, difficult conditions in the UK electricity market, on 5 September 2002 the British Energy board announced that it had initiated discussions with the Government with a view to seeking immediate financial support and to implement a longer term financial restructuring. On 1 October 2003, the British Energy board announced that we had agreed the terms of the proposed restructuring (Restructuring) of the British Energy Group with certain of our creditors and the Secretary of State.

The Restructuring will, in broad terms, be implemented through a debt for equity and debt swap involving the creation of two new holding companies, New British Energy and our wholly-owned subsidiary Holdings plc. We will issue ordinary shares (New Shares) and Holdings plc will issue new bonds (New Bonds) to the Creditors in exchange for the Creditors agreeing to extinguish all or, in the case of the Eggborough Banks, part of their claims against members of the British Energy Group. Under new arrangements with the Secretary of State, the existing Nuclear Generation Decommissioning Fund (the NDF) will be enlarged into and renamed the Nuclear Liabilities Fund Limited (the NLF) which will fund the New British Energy Group's qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs. In addition, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (the Secretary of State) has agreed to fund:

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

(i) qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs to the extent they exceed the assets of the NLF; and (ii) subject to certain exceptions certain contracted liabilities for historic spent fuel (namely, spent fuel arising from fuel loaded into our AGRs prior to the Effective Date (being the date immediately following the day on which the conditions to the effectiveness of the New BNFL Contracts are satisfied or waived)). To the extent that there is any surplus in the NLF, this amount will be paid to the Secretary of State.

The New British Energy Group will be responsible for funding certain excluded or disqualified liabilities and will, in certain circumstances, be required to compensate or indemnify the NLF and the Secretary of State in relation to such liabilities. These excluded and disqualified liabilities are described in greater detail in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements.

We also have (or in some cases will, on completion of the Restructuring, have) new contracts in place with British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL) which are designed to reduce the proportion of fuel costs which are fixed by providing for a discount when the wholesale market price of electricity is below a specified amount and a surcharge when above this amount. As electricity prices have risen substantially since October 2003, we are now making additional payments to BNFL under the new back-end arrangements in the form of the surcharge referred to in the Key information section, paragraph headed: New BNFL Contracts. This will continue for so long as electricity prices remain above £16.00 per MWh (in 2002/2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI).

Further details of these arrangements are set out in Part X: Additional information. For a summary of the Restructuring see Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring. Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under paragraph headed: State Aid.

Under the terms of the Restructuring, we agreed to dispose of our North American assets, namely Bruce Power and AmerGen, a 50:50 joint venture which operated three nuclear power stations in the United States. These disposals were completed on 14 February 2003 and 22 December 2003 respectively. Separately, we also disposed of our interest in Offshore Wind Power Limited which was completed on 23 December 2003.

On 22 September 2004, the European Commission (Commission) issued the State Aid Approval, subject to certain compensatory measures and conditions, further details of which can be found in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.

THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

The structure of the electricity industry in the UK

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The electricity generated at power stations in the UK is delivered to consumers through integrated transmission and distribution systems. The electricity industry comprises the following segments:

- **Generation:** the production of electricity at power stations;
- **Transmission:** the bulk transfer of electricity across a system consisting of high voltage lines and electrical plant, also known as the Grid;
- **Distribution:** the transfer of electricity from the transmission system and its delivery across low voltage distribution systems to consumers;
- **Supply:** the arrangements covering the bulk purchase of electricity by suppliers and its sale to consumers. Competition was introduced into the supply market in April 1990 and since May 1999 all consumers have been able to select their electricity supplier. Any company holding an appropriate electricity supply licence can supply any customer nationwide by obtaining access to the transmission and/or distribution networks; and

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

- **Interconnectors:** the transmission systems in the UK are interconnected to allow the import and export of electricity between transmission systems. The England and Wales transmission system is connected to the Scottish transmission system via an interconnector jointly owned by the National Grid, Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy, and to the French transmission system via an interconnector owned by the National Grid and Réseau de Transport d'Electricité. In addition, the Scottish transmission system is also connected to the Northern Ireland transmission system via an interconnector owned by Moyle Interconnector Ltd.

We compete in the generation market and in certain parts of the supply market and may in the future compete in auctions for the right to access existing interconnector capacity.

Sources of generation in the UK

Most of the electricity produced in the UK is generated by power stations which produce heat by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil or natural gas. Nuclear power stations, by contrast, capture the heat released from splitting atoms. The heat is used to turn water into steam (in a boiler) which then turns a turbine which drives an electrical generator. Apart from nuclear and fossil fuel power generation, electricity can also be generated from renewable energy sources, such as water and wind, as well as from the incineration of household and industrial waste, biomass and burning gases emitted from landfill sites (together, Renewables). Key characteristics of the principal types of power stations in the UK are as follows:

- **Coal and oil fired power stations**

Until 1996, coal-fired power stations represented by far the largest proportion of electricity generation capacity in the UK. However, since this time the trend in generation has been the continuing growth of gas-fired generation and the displacement of coal and oil-fired generation. Coal and oil fired stations are generally capable of varying output as short term demand for electricity changes. Following the divestment by National Power (now RWE Innogy) and Powergen (now E.ON UK) of a number of coal-fired power stations for regulatory reasons, stations in England and Wales are now owned and operated by many different companies. In Scotland, all of the major coal-fired power stations are still owned by Scottish Power. In March 2000, we acquired the Eggborough power station from National Power.

- **Nuclear power stations**

Nuclear power stations were designed to operate for sustained periods of time at relatively constant output levels and are not well suited to varying output quickly. Their low variable (as opposed to fixed) costs also mean that they have a commercial incentive to generate as much electricity as possible and therefore continue to generate electricity during periods when market prices are low. We and Magnox Electric plc (Magnox) (a subsidiary of BNFL) are the only operators of generating nuclear power stations in the UK.

- **CCGT power stations**

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In a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station, the hot gases, created by natural gas combustion, are used first to drive the turbine generator and then used in a boiler to produce steam to drive a second turbine generator, producing additional power from the same fuel. CCGT stations are generally fuelled by gas alone, although some stations have the capability to burn gas-oil.

Since 1990, CCGT power stations have provided the majority of new generating capacity with nearly 10,000 MW of new capacity having been commissioned since 1996. In addition, there are open cycle gas turbine (OCGT) stations, whose hot exhaust gases, typically created by gas-oil combustion, are used to drive the turbine and then expelled into the atmosphere. OCGTs and CCGTs in the UK are generally capable of varying output.

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- **Hydro-electric (natural flow) power stations**

UK hydro-electric power stations, which account for the largest proportion of electricity from renewable sources, use water flows from reservoirs or rivers to turn turbines. These hydro-electric stations are mostly located in Scotland. Hydro-electric stations can vary output at short notice when water flows are sufficient.

- **Pumped storage power stations**

Pumped storage power stations are a type of hydro-electric station. During periods when electricity prices are relatively low they use electricity to pump water from a low reservoir to a higher holding reservoir. During periods when electricity prices are relatively high, the water is released through the turbines to produce electricity. Pumped storage power stations are net consumers of electricity but they are able to generate electricity at short notice to meet sudden increases in demand (when prices are high) or in the event of the sudden breakdown of another generating set or its disconnection from the Grid.

- **Renewables**

Apart from hydro-electric power, electricity is generated in Great Britain from other renewable energy sources including wind, incineration of household and industrial waste and burning gases emitted from landfill sites.

There have been a number of recent developments in the field of renewable energy schemes. For further details, see the paragraph below headed: Renewables obligation.

The figures in the table below show the capacity (in MW) of the major power producers in the UK by station type.

	31 December				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Major power producers in England and Wales					
Total declared net capability	58,485	60,585	61,850	59,333	60,299
Of which:					
Conventional steam stations:	28,713	28,128	28,128	25,634	26,211
Coal fired	21,954	21,240	21,240	18,971	19,068
Oil fired	2,649	2,753	2,753	2,528	2,750
Mixed or dual fired ⁽¹⁾	4,110	4,135	4,135	4,135	4,393
Combined cycle gas turbine stations	16,110	19,275	20,443	20,186	20,967
Nuclear stations	10,516	10,046	10,046	10,046	9,658
Gas turbines and oil engines	817	807	897	1,131	1,127
Hydro-electric stations:					
Natural flow	124	124	131	131	131
Pumped storage	2,088	2,088	2,088	2,088	2,088
Renewables other than hydro	117	117	117	117	117
Major power producers in Scotland					

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Total declared net capability	9,776	9,677	9,601	9,465	9,531
Of which:					
Conventional steam and combined cycle gas turbine stations	5,169	5,070	5,070	5,069	5,070
Nuclear stations	2,440	2,440	2,440	2,440	2,440
Gas turbines and oil engines	264	264	174	83	150
Hydro-electric stations:					
Natural flow	1,203	1,203	1,217	1,173	1,171
Pumped storage	700	700	700	700	700
Major power producers in Northern Ireland⁽¹⁾					
Total declared net capability	1,984	1,930	1,930	1,816	1,915
Total declared net capability in UK	70,245	72,192	73,381	70,614	71,745

(1) Includes gas fired stations that are not Combined Cycle Gas Turbines.

Source: DTI (dated 29 July 2004)

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Key differences between nuclear and fossil fuel generation in the UK

A nuclear power station produces power at a level which cannot be easily adjusted to reflect changes in demand for power and as such is a baseload producer. By contrast, a fossil fuel power station can start and stop electricity production and can vary its output level more rapidly in response to changes in demand in a way which allows it to better react to pricing pressures in the market.

A nuclear power station consumes considerably smaller amounts of fuel by volume per unit of electricity generated than a coal-fired power station. For example, our AGR power stations use approximately 4 tonnes of uranium in fuel to produce 1.0 TWh of electricity compared to our PWR power station which uses approximately 3 tonnes of uranium in fuel and our coal-fired power station which uses approximately 400,000 tonnes of coal per TWh. The fuel supply costs of a nuclear power station are relatively inexpensive per unit of electricity produced compared with fossil fuels. Nuclear power also has the advantage of producing negligible emissions of carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Whereas conventional power stations produce large volumes of exhaust gases which are discharged to the atmosphere, a nuclear power station has very little direct effect on the environment generally and as such is not significantly affected by environmental legislation seeking to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Nuclear power stations do, however, produce radioactive waste which requires careful handling, transport, storage and disposal arrangements. Nuclear fuel must also be handled, transported and stored safely. Nuclear power stations are also more complex and expensive to decommission than fossil fuel power stations. For more details on decommissioning, refer below to the paragraph headed: Nuclear decommissioning. These factors add to the costs of nuclear generation and create long term liabilities. Consequently, fuel supply represents a smaller proportion, and spent fuel and waste handling and station decommissioning a higher proportion, of the cost of the electricity produced from nuclear generation compared with fossil fuel generation.

The electricity market

Structure

The electricity market in the UK currently comprises three separate markets which can also supply to each other, namely: (i) England and Wales; (ii) Scotland; and (iii) Northern Ireland (where we do not operate). Each of these markets has a different commercial framework. Whilst in Scotland the market structure has remained substantially unchanged since privatisation of the electricity industry in 1991, in England and Wales the New Electricity Trading Arrangements (NETA) were introduced in March 2001 to replace the arrangements that had been in place since 1990.

The Government and the regulator, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (GEMA), are committed to a programme of reforms which will effectively extend NETA to cover the whole of Great Britain. This programme, known as the British Electricity Trading and Transmission Arrangements (BETTA), is currently scheduled for implementation in April 2005. BETTA will create a common set of trading rules so that electricity can be freely traded across Great Britain as well as a common set of rules for access to, and charging for, the transmission network. There will also be a single grid system operator in Great Britain which will be independent of

generation and supply interests.

England and Wales

A key feature of NETA is that electricity is traded at bilaterally negotiated prices rather than relying on a pool to match supply and demand and set a single market clearing price. The contracts by which these trades occur may be negotiated directly between the parties, arranged through third party brokers on standard terms or traded anonymously via electronic power exchanges.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

A balancing mechanism (which is given effect through the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC)), operated by the transmission system operator, National Grid, adjusts for the imbalance of demand and supply in real time. The BSC rules also provide for the settlement, in half-hourly blocks, of differences (imbalances) between the contractual and physical positions of parties to the BSC, who may be generators, suppliers or traders of wholesale power. If a supplier requires more power to meet its contractual obligations, or if a generator has contracted to sell more power than it is able to produce, the contract is fulfilled by the shortfall being provided by the balancing mechanism.

Market participants are required to notify the energy contract volume aggregation agent (which is appointed by the Balancing and Settlement Code Company, a subsidiary of National Grid) of the volumes of electricity that they have contracted for each half-hour period and National Grid of their intended level of generation or consumption over that period. Participants may also, where appropriate, choose to submit bids and offers into the balancing mechanism to increase or reduce their production or consumption and National Grid can call upon these to balance the system. Under the rules of the BSC, a party's imbalance volume is the difference between its notified contract volume and its metered volume. If the two amounts do not match, the party is then producing (or consuming) electricity which has not been contracted for. Imbalance settlement (or cash out) is designed so that any such electricity is charged at a price that should reflect the costs incurred by National Grid in keeping the system balanced.

A cash out mechanism exists in which there are two energy imbalance prices, a System Buy Price (SBP) and a System Sell Price (SSP), both of which are generally disadvantageous compared with the prevailing market price. Parties that are short of electricity are charged SBP for their imbalance volumes and parties that have a surplus receive SSP. This serves to incentivise the parties to generate or contract to meet their customers' demands.

The costs of administering the system balancing mechanism are recovered from parties to the BSC in proportion to their physical volumes of electricity produced or consumed.

Scotland

In Scotland, the market structure has remained substantially unchanged since privatisation of the electricity industry in 1991. Currently, there is no wholesale electricity market in Scotland (although this is due to change with the introduction of BETTA as referred to above and as described in greater detail below in paragraph: Regulation) and therefore we currently sell all of our output from Hunterston B and Torness nuclear power stations to Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy pursuant to the Nuclear Energy Agreement described in the section below headed: Arrangements in Scotland.

Demand

Demand for electricity in the UK is affected by a number of factors including: the time of day; weather; changes in economic activity; the relative energy requirements of individual sectors of the economy; improvements in the efficiency of electricity usage; and the price to consumers of electricity relative to other forms of energy.

Electricity consumption in the UK has generally risen over the last few decades. The annual rate of growth of UK electricity consumption has been broadly between 1.5 per cent. and 2 per cent. between 1996 and 2003. The transmission system operators in Great Britain forecast an increase in peak demand over the next few years, with the average demand growth over the period to 2009/2010 of approximately 1 per cent. per annum.

Generation

Competition in generation in England and Wales has developed significantly from the highly concentrated market that existed in 1990. The entry of new, independent power producers and

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

the divestment of stations by National Power (now RWE Innogy) and Powergen (now E.ON UK) have led to significant changes in the market shares of the major generating companies. We are currently the largest generator in the UK and our major competitors are E.ON UK, RWE Innogy, EDF Energy, Drax Power Limited, Scottish Power, Scottish and Southern Energy and BNFL. In addition, there are a large number of companies which own single power plants.

The increase in the number of gas-fired power stations, primarily at the expense of coal-fired power stations, has brought about a more balanced generation mix in England and Wales. In Scotland, the generation mix and ownership has remained largely unchanged, with Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy, together with us, owning 98 per cent. of the generation capacity.

Supply

Competition was introduced into the supply market in April 1990 and since May 1999 all consumers have been able to select their electricity supplier regardless of their size or location. In 2002, following a review of the development of supply competition, GEMA removed all remaining price controls in the supply market in Great Britain. As at 31 March 2003, 38 per cent. of domestic customers in Great Britain were no longer serviced by their original supplier. In Great Britain, licensed transmission and distribution system operators are required to allow electricity suppliers access to their systems on a non-discriminatory basis.

There has been some consolidation of supply businesses in recent years. Excluding British Energy, there are currently only six major suppliers in Great Britain, namely E.ON UK, RWE Innogy, EDF Energy, Scottish Power, Scottish and Southern Energy and Centrica (British Gas). We operate in the industrial and commercial sector, while all the other major suppliers also compete in the domestic retail sector. Gaz de France has recently entered the supply market and competes in the industrial and commercial sector.

In Scotland, Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy have the major share of the supply market. For example, as at December 2003, they supplied 63 per cent. and 82 per cent. respectively of domestic customers within their local Scottish supply areas. Other suppliers generally purchase electricity from Scottish Power or Scottish and Southern Energy to cover their requirements. The maximum price is set by GEMA based on a reference price from the England and Wales wholesale market.

THE NUCLEAR GENERATION INDUSTRY

Introduction

The process of producing electricity at a nuclear power station is broadly similar to the process used at a fossil fuel power station except in respect of the source of heat used to generate the steam which drives the turbines and electrical generators, thereby

producing electrical energy. In a nuclear power station, heat is created in the reactor core which is contained within a pressure vessel and a biological shield. In order to control the process of heat creation, control rods are inserted inside the reactor core. A coolant such as pressurised CO₂ or water passes through the reactor and transfers the heat to a boiler. Fuel rods have a limited life and therefore need to be periodically replaced. The refuelling of a reactor has an impact on its overall performance because this requires a reactor to be shut down or reduce its output in order to refuel.

Our nuclear power stations

We own and operate two types of nuclear reactors namely, the AGR and the PWR. They differ in many respects including, amongst other things, in the design of the fuel used and of the reactor. Each of our seven AGR nuclear power stations, Dungeness B, Hartlepool, Heysham 1, Heysham

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2, Hinkley Point B, Hunterston B and Torness, are powered by two AGRs. Sizewell B is powered by a single PWR. Whereas the AGR design is unique to the UK, the PWR design is the most common reactor type in the world.

As well as being unique to the UK, our AGR power stations were constructed to varying specifications by different engineering consortia which we believe makes demonstrating safety cases for different reactors less straightforward. It can also mean that implementation of remedial action to make good a defect at one nuclear power station cannot be replicated with ease at other differently designed nuclear power stations. For further information on safety cases see the paragraph below headed: Nuclear power station lifetimes.

An AGR has a graphite moderator (which helps to enable the reaction) which is comprised of large graphite bricks with channels for the fuel rods, control rods and pressurised carbon dioxide coolant. The reactor is encased in a steel-lined, pre-stressed concrete pressure vessel which acts as one of the multiple barriers to the release of radioactivity in the event of an accident. The boilers in which water is heated are situated inside the pressure vessel. The AGR uses enriched uranium for its fuel.

A PWR is contained inside a steel pressure vessel filled with pressurised water which acts as the coolant and moderator. Pressurised water is pumped around the reactor and through the boilers. The pressure vessel, boilers and connecting pipework are contained within a steel-lined, pre-stressed, containment building which acts as one of the multiple barriers to the release of radioactivity in the event of an accident. The fuel used is enriched uranium dioxide and is contained in zirconium alloy tubes.

Operating regime***Capacity and output***

The electrical output of a nuclear power station depends on a combination of its overall generating capacity, the output level at which the station actually operates and its availability. The capacity of each nuclear power station is reviewed and amended from time to time to reflect the long-term capability of the plant. The table below sets out the capacity values for each of our nuclear power stations and the output of each of our nuclear power stations for the five years to 31 March 2004 and the percentage of the fleet's capacity that was achieved in each year (Annual Load Factor).

<u>Station</u>	<u>Capacity (MW)¹</u>	<u>Output (TWh)³/Year to 31 March</u>				
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Dungeness B	1,110	6.66	5.18	5.25	3.66	2.23
Hartlepool	1,210	8.28	9.34	8.83	9.09	9.32

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Heysham 1	1,150	6.28	7.85	8.11	8.92	8.45
Heysham 2	1,250	9.81	9.30	9.03	10.05	6.41
Hinkley Point B	1,220	8.11	8.26	8.98	8.23	7.68
Hunterston B	1,190	8.77	8.93	9.85	6.43	8.88
Sizewell B	1,188	8.90	9.20	9.22	8.43	9.06
Torness	1,250	8.15	5.70	8.30	7.71	10.17
Total	9,568	64.96	63.76	67.57	62.53	62.20
Annual Load Factor ²		77%	76%	81%	75%	74%

1. Capacities are stated net of all power consumed for the stations own use, including power imported from the National Grid.
2. Annual load factors are obtained by dividing the actual output by the output that would have been achieved had each station operated at its stated capacity in that year for the entire period.
3. Output in each year reflects any statutory, refuelling and unplanned outages as discussed below.

Source: British Energy (2004)

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

The output levels which nuclear power stations can achieve relative to their stated capacities are affected by a number of factors, including plant operating conditions and operating strategies, which can result in a nuclear power station being operated at below its maximum capacity level. Nuclear power station availability is principally affected by the number and duration of planned and unplanned outages and load reductions, such as those required to carry out refuelling (as described below). Taking into consideration the impact of statutory outages and refuelling (but excluding planned repair outages and any unplanned outages), the maximum annual load factor which could theoretically be achieved across our portfolio of nuclear power stations is between 88 and 90 per cent., albeit that the maximum achieved in the last five years has been 81 per cent. for the year ended 31 March 2002.

Statutory outages

Periodically, our nuclear reactors need to be shut down to allow for regulatory inspection and routine maintenance. We refer to these as statutory outages.

The interval between statutory outages is determined by the plant safety case, which includes the requirements for inspection, maintenance and testing, and the arrangements in place to control this interval are approved by the NII. Currently, each of our AGRs must initiate a statutory outage once every three years and our PWR once every 18 months.

After a statutory outage, the NII's consent is required for a reactor's return to service and this consent is dependent upon us demonstrating an adequate safety case in respect of that reactor. For more information on safety cases see below in the paragraph headed: Nuclear power station lifetimes. We seek to reduce the impact of statutory outages on revenue by timing such outages to occur during periods of lower demand for electricity when prices are lower (generally between March and October). We also seek to reduce the duration of any statutory outages by improving the efficiency with which we conduct the required programme of work. AGR statutory outages completed during the year ended 31 March 2004 had an average duration of 53 days, compared to 56 days in 2003 and 46 days in 2002. Statutory outages are generally limited to one reactor within each AGR power station at any one time.

Refuelling operations

Reactor output is also affected by planned outages including load reductions required to carry out refuelling.

The plant design permits on-load refuelling (i.e. refuelling whilst the reactor's power is reduced to between 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. of full power) at Hinkley Point B, Heysham 2, Hunterston B and Torness to help reduce the amount of output lost due to refuelling. We refuel these reactors one at a time at each station. On-load refuelling operations typically take a few days to complete and are repeated approximately every six weeks for each reactor.

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At Heysham 1, Hartlepool and Dungeness B, we refuel the reactors whilst they are off-load (i.e. refuelling whilst the reactor s power is reduced to zero), which typically takes approximately one week. We also refuel these reactors one at a time at each station. This process typically occurs every five months for each reactor.

Improvements in fuel utilisation have reduced the amount of fuel required at each reactor. In particular, we have developed more efficient fuel management techniques, such as increasing fuel enrichment and moving partially burnt fuel assemblies from the edge of the reactor to the centre so that more of the energy can be extracted from the fuel, a process known as radial shuffling. Radial shuffling is carried out routinely at Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B and radial shuffling safety cases have been developed for Hartlepool and Heysham 1, where the process is expected to re-start in 2004, and approximately one year later at Dungeness B. Radial shuffling is not planned at Torness or Heysham 2 because it would disproportionately increase the time taken to complete refuelling and therefore would be uneconomical.

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We are presently in discussions with BNFL regarding possible further increases in fuel enrichment and changes to the fuel design that may further improve its utilisation and could also make it less susceptible to failure.

PWRs are not designed to refuel on-load and must be shut down for refuelling. Accordingly, we seek to time statutory outages at Sizewell B to coincide with refuelling outages. Although Sizewell B has only one reactor, that reactor has a performance capacity comparable to the combined reactor capacity of both reactors at an AGR power station and the impact of an outage for the same period is therefore substantially greater than that associated with a single AGR. Sizewell B currently operates for a period of up to 18 months between statutory/refuelling outages, the average length of which is 47 days. During refuelling, approximately one third of the fuel is replaced.

Unplanned outages

Our level of unplanned outages (see the table below) significantly affects our operations. To date these unplanned outages have been caused by a variety of technical issues, the most significant of which are problems with: our refuelling equipment and processes; turbine-generators; tendons; boilers; boiler feed pumps; gas circulators (which are used to pump carbon dioxide coolant gas around the reactor core); and the seawater coolant system. We believe that the loss of output arising from these outages is indicative of a deterioration in the materiel condition of our plant over time, caused by: (i) inadequate investment when compared with international benchmarks for spending at nuclear power stations; (ii) a failure to perform required maintenance on a timely basis; and (iii) human errors in the operation and maintenance of our plant including conducting our operations and maintenance functions on a station-by-station rather than fleet-wide basis. This conclusion is consistent with the findings of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) corporate review carried out in 2001 (details of which are set out below in the paragraph headed: Key findings from the WANO 2001 corporate review).

Total unplanned outages (TWh)/Year to 31 March

2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
10.7	10.6	9.1	12.8	12.4

Source: British Energy (2004)

When an unplanned outage occurs we may, depending, amongst other things, on our contracted position, be compelled to buy additional power via the balancing mechanism referred to above in the paragraph headed: The electricity market. For further detail, see the risk factor headed Unplanned outages at our nuclear power stations could adversely affect our turnover and profitability.

Performance Improvement Programme

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To address the issues described above and with a view to reducing the level of unplanned outages, in August 2003 we brought together a team within British Energy and engaged a consortium of experienced external consultants, led by Ove Arup and Partners International Limited, in conjunction with significant support from WANO, to design and implement a far-reaching Performance Improvement Programme (PIP). Our PIP implementation team and power station management teams, supplemented with additional experienced nuclear professionals seconded from WANO, have targeted six focus areas namely: (i) foundation; (ii) training; (iii) human performance; (iv) equipment reliability; (v) management of work; and (vi) operational focus:

- (i) **Foundation:** provides the infrastructure to mobilise many of the changes planned across the fundamentals of human performance, equipment reliability, management of work and operational focus. Its focus is on creating a defined, aligned, effective and properly resourced organisation with improved organisational effectiveness to help achieve

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

excellence in nuclear plant operation. In addition, it aims systematically to develop management and leadership skills to meet station and corporate needs. We expect this aspect of the programme will lead to our employing more engineering and technician staff to work at our nuclear power stations;

- (ii) **Training:** supports foundation and seeks to develop and maintain a knowledgeable, skilled nuclear staff by creating the appropriate training to enable staff to do their job effectively and to ensure there is training to refresh and enhance skills;
- (iii) **Human performance:** involves promoting cultural change with a focus on accountability and striving for excellence, improving the skill sets of our operational support team and setting clear performance targets. The achievability of operational performance targets are reinforced by the consistent application of error reduction techniques. We have sought to capture the essence of this objective by defining our corporate ethos (communicated to our employees) as *Safe, profitable and proud*. Examples of progress to date include a number of operationally experienced people being appointed to senior positions in our central support functions, including the appointment of a new head of supply chain, improvements in our technical training function and the re-organisation of operational staff that we have undertaken at station level, including the appointment of certain new station directors;
- (iv) **Equipment reliability:** will involve significant investment to improve the materiel condition of our plant and to recover or attain higher levels of plant reliability and hence improve output levels. The asset survey review we recently concluded and the asset planning and investment division currently being formed will be instrumental in seeking to identify and prioritise necessary expenditure over the next five years and to assist in ensuring that this expenditure is well targeted;
- (v) **Management of work:** follows on from the work management programmes initiated in 2001 and aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of project management and work activities, including through the creation of a projects division; to standardise processes for resolving issues across sites where commonality can provide benefits; and to redirect planning and work management processes to reduce maintenance backlogs by, for example, undertaking more maintenance at the same time as works undertaken in relation to planned and unplanned outages. Other key objectives include keeping work scopes stable, improving adherence to work schedules and improving outage management across the fleet. This will be necessary as investment is increased in the plants in the ensuing years; and
- (vi) **Operational focus:** seeks to strengthen the management focus on excellence in nuclear operating performance. It includes the introduction of an effective corrective action programme, redirecting our engineering teams to focus more closely on the health and performance of our systems (targeting the root cause of problems), ensuring operational challenges are identified and resolved prior to them impacting the operation of the nuclear power stations, and promoting increased use of operating experience information to improve plant safety and reliability.

As it is implemented, we envisage that PIP will evolve over time, to reflect changes to our business and operations though its overriding objective - to reduce unplanned outages - would remain unchanged. We would also strive to ensure that in the long term the six strands of PIP would become an integral part of the way we work.

Following an initial mobilisation phase which ended in July 2004 and which included an asset condition survey to develop a detailed plan of action, the next phases of PIP implementation will focus on staff organisation, prioritisation of work activities, human performance initiatives and investing in people, processes and the materiel condition of our plant. The final phases are targeted to complete, subject to necessary working capital headroom being available, by 31 March 2007. Certain aspects of remedial capital investment will, however, likely run beyond that into the financial year ending 31 March 2008.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

The investment in the material condition of our plant will focus initially on those items which we believe from our asset survey condition, represent high priority issues. There can be no assurance that the items of plant which we have identified as lower priority issues, on the basis of information to date, will not be a cause of an unplanned outage in the future or that the order in which we deal with higher priority items of plant will prevent unplanned outages. Furthermore, we recognise that to successfully improve our overall business performance we will need to perform better across a number of different areas of our business, such as trading.

Further information regarding PIP is set out in the results for British Energy for the three months ended 30 June 2004 contained in Part IV, Section 2 under the paragraph headed: Performance Improvements.

By putting in place and implementing PIP, which in essence, involves investing in our people, processes and plant, we are aiming to increase the reliability of our nuclear generating assets. PIP should also lead to a reduction in our maintenance backlog. We believe that as a result of PIP, if properly implemented, we will be better placed to play a role in any future review by the Government of UK energy policy.

However, because of PIP's wide ranging nature and the time and costs involved in implementing it, we do not expect to see the benefits of the hoped for improvement in operational reliability in the current or next financial year. The degree of improvement in operational reliability and the quantification of its impact on our financial results will depend on how the implementation of PIP progresses in the next 12 months but the Directors believe, on the basis of other improvement programmes implemented elsewhere in the world, that enhancements in output reliability should be capable of being achieved.

AGR power stations are unique to the UK and were built in the 1970s and 1980s by different design consortia to different design specifications. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the improvement in reliability achieved in other nuclear power station improvement programmes, upon which PIP is based and which have been undertaken on newer fleets of nuclear power stations based on non-AGR technology, will be capable of being achieved in respect of our AGR power stations.

In relation to the current financial year ending 31 March 2005, we believe that the investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole New British Energy Group which includes incremental PIP expenditure of approximately £20m, will be in the range of £140m to £170m based on the financial resources we expect to have available to us. If our financial resources are otherwise required due to unforeseen outages or changes to electricity prices and collateral requirements, we may be required to adjust our investment plans accordingly. During the three-month period ending 30 June 2004 and six-month period ending 30 September 2004, investment expenditure on plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole Group, including incremental costs associated with PIP, totalled £32m and £64m respectively of which we estimate that £17m and £32m respectively may have been capitalised, with the main projects in the period including replacement of cast iron pipework, fuel route improvements and the implementation of the work management programme. Since the FRS11 impairment review in the financial year ended 31 March 2003, all expenditure of a capital nature has been expensed and will continue to be expensed until such time as it is possible to demonstrate that it results in an enhancement to the carrying value of fixed assets.

The detailed business plans for each of the two financial years ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 will not be finalised until shortly prior to the commencement of the relevant financial year. The incremental expenditure of PIP will depend on our financial

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resources and prospects at the relevant time. Based on our current expectations of future electricity prices and output, and therefore our financial resources, we believe that annual investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole New British Energy Group, which includes incremental PIP annual expenditure in the range of £70m to £120m, will be in the range

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

of £200m to £250m in each of the years ending 31 March 2006 and 2007. This compares with the range of capital expenditure of £85m to £90m stated at the time we announced our Restructuring on 1 October 2003 which did not include any PIP expenditure, nor the costs of major repairs and strategic spares. If our financial resources are otherwise required due to unforeseen outages or changes to electricity prices and collateral requirements, we may be required to adjust our investment plans accordingly.

We do not believe that the restrictions on our expenditure under our existing agreements, or those agreed to, in particular the restrictions in the Contribution Agreement (to be entered into pursuant to the Government Restructuring Agreement), prohibit spending on PIP (as currently envisaged) at the levels previously announced.

Nuclear power station lifetimes

The primary factor in determining the operating life of a nuclear power station is the technical and economic practicability of supporting an agreed safety case for that particular station. A safety case is the underlying written report that describes the steps taken to secure the safe operation of a nuclear power station as well as certain supporting documents built up over the years of the station's operation that demonstrate the arrangements made for managing the safety of that station. The adequacy of the safety case for each nuclear power station is confirmed at each statutory outage by us undertaking a review of operating performance and by an inspection of the plant and passing the findings of such review and inspection to the NII. The NII is our key regulator and derives its powers from the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA) and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA). As a licensee we seek to demonstrate to the NII a robust safety case which will likely involve detailed technical evaluations and may require complex judgements to be taken. The NII must then give its consent to a reactor being restarted. A reactor may thus only be operated for the interval determined by the safety case which, in respect of our AGR power stations, is currently three years.

In addition, every ten years, we have to undertake a Periodic Safety Review (PSR) for each nuclear power station. The results of the PSR require the approval of the NII in order to secure continued operation. Following the first PSRs at our AGR power stations, the NII gave its approval for a further ten years of operation for each of these stations based on an agreed programme of work for modifying the plant to ensure adequate safety cases. Our progress against the agreed programme of work is assessed at each statutory outage. Further information on PSRs can be found below in the paragraph headed: Periodic safety reviews.

Key elements in support of an AGR safety case are the justifications for the continuing integrity of the reactor's graphite core and the boilers (as they may be uneconomic to replace). Over the course of the nuclear generation process, cracks develop in the graphite bricks which form the graphite core in our AGRs. Such cracking can lead to the distortion of the core structure and the reduction of the AGRs' operational capacity. Our plants may require more frequent inspection to support our safety cases, which could result in prolonged statutory or unplanned outages. Reduced boiler life can be caused by different factors and can lead to a permanent reduction in boiler performance and potentially our ability to generate electricity. By contrast, the key element in support of a PWR's safety case is the ability to show the continuing viability of the lifetime of the reactor pressure vessel (as this is unlikely to be economic to replace). All these highly complex issues are subject to agreements being reached with the NII. For further detail regarding the risks associated with this aspect of our business see Part II: Risk factors, the risk factor headed: Our business is subject to extensive and unique regulations.

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The assessment of the potential operating lifetime of each of our nuclear power stations when used in our financial statements (for example, for purposes such as depreciation) is known as the accounting life. This is consistent with our technical assessment of the ability to make a secure safety case at each statutory outage and at the relevant PSR. The current potential operating lifetimes and, thus, accounting lifetimes are set out in the following table.

Station	Lifetime (years)	Estimated¹ Closure Date	Date next PSR is submitted to NII	Date of expected response from NII
Dungeness B	25	2008	December 2006	January 2008
Hinkley Point B	35	2011	December 2005	January 2007
Hunterston B	35	2011	December 2005	January 2007
Heysham 1	30	2014	December 2007	January 2009
Hartlepool	30	2014	December 2007	January 2009
Torness	35	2023	December 2008	January 2010
Heysham 2	35	2023	December 2008	January 2010
Sizewell B	40	2035	December 2013	January 2015

Source: British Energy

¹ The exact closure date based on current accounting lifetime of our AGR power stations will depend on the timing of the reactors' statutory outages. We will aim to close one of the two reactors at each AGR power station ahead of the other in order to allow de-fuelling, which forms part of the decommissioning process, to take place effectively.

Some of the technical risks affecting the lifetimes of our AGR power stations are set out in Part II: Risk factors under the risk factor headed: Problems of graphite core brick cracking and reduced boiler life could negatively affect our profitability and the lifetime of our AGR power stations.

Extension of operating lifetimes

The current operating lifetime used in financial statements for each AGR power station, other than Dungeness B, is at least five years greater than its initial operating design life. Any decision to extend the operating life of an AGR power station used in our financial statements would be based, in large measure, on a combination of economic factors and the engineering judgements reached in respect of technical issues, such as those referred to above.

Our technical evaluation of the ability to extend the operating lifetime used in our financial statements for Dungeness B is well advanced but no financial assessment of this work has been undertaken to date. However, when we make decisions regarding significant expenditure and staffing levels at Dungeness B, we do so on the basis that Dungeness B's operating lifetime (and thus its accounting lifetime) may be capable of being extended to 2013. These decisions have been undertaken to preserve the possibility that such an extension may be achieved in the event that our financial assessment of the work and investment required

to make a secure safety case for the period up to 2013 transpires to be in favour of such an extension. In relation to our ability to extend the operating lifetime used in our financial statements of our other AGR power stations, our technical evaluations are currently at a less advanced stage.

There can be no assurance that lifetime extensions will be attainable at any of our AGR power stations nor that the existing operating lifetimes used in our financial statements will be capable of being achieved. For further information see Part II: Risk factor headed: Problems of graphite core brick cracking and reduced boiler life are amongst those that could negatively affect our profitability and the lifetime of our AGR power stations. If our AGR power stations are to operate until the end of the current operating life used in our financial statements, we will also need to continue to be able to source AGR fuel from BNFL, the sole supplier of AGR fuel. This risk is set out in more detail in Part II: Risk factors, under the risk factor commencing: Our business depends upon equipment and service suppliers of a specialised nature.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Sizewell B currently has an operating lifetime of 40 years and an assumed closure date of 2035. Based on recent experience in the US (where the regulatory regime is different) where regulatory approval has been given to some PWRs to extend their lifetimes so that they have a total lifetime of 60 years, an extension to the current Sizewell B lifetime may be achievable. However, no evaluation has been undertaken to date in relation to extending Sizewell B's operating lifetime and there can be no assurance that such a lifetime extension would be attainable.

We recognise that extending the operating lifetimes of our nuclear power stations would enhance the value of our asset base and we plan to carry out evaluations to see if our nuclear power station operating lives can be extended subject, if required, to our being given consent by the NLF under the Contribution Agreement to spend the sums necessary to effect such evaluations. However, we recognise that such lifetime extensions will require the consent of the NDA pursuant to the Nuclear Liabilities Funding Agreement (NLFA) if the extension will result in an increase in the Costs of Discharging Liabilities (as defined in the NLFA). The NDA is obliged to consent if we can demonstrate that any economic benefits to the NLF or the Secretary of State deriving from the extension are reasonably likely to exceed the corresponding increase in such costs. Such benefits will be taken into account by the NDA in deciding whether to give its consent in other circumstances. For further information on the NLFA, see Part VI: Further information in relation to the Restructuring and Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (c). We also recognise that investing in improving the material condition of our plant may be required to support extending the operating lifetimes used in our financial statements.

Nuclear fuel cycle

There are several clearly identifiable stages in the life of nuclear fuel, which are collectively known as the fuel cycle. The stages of fuel preparation before it enters the reactor, namely, uranium procurement, conversion, enrichment and fabrication, are known as the front-end fuel cycle. The handling, storage, reprocessing and ultimate disposal of spent nuclear fuel and associated waste products are known as the back-end fuel cycle. The various stages of the fuel cycle and our fuel cycle contracts are described in more detail below.

The front-end fuel cycle

Uranium procurement, conversion and enrichment

The uranium procurement, conversion and enrichment stages are collectively termed uraniums. Over the last 15 years, a substantial proportion of the world's uranium needs have been met from ex-military and civil stockpiles.

Uranium in the form of uranium ore concentrate, which is available on the world market, is first converted into uranium hexafluoride (natural UF_6).

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There are five major suppliers of conversion services and there is a competitive world market, although one supplier (BNFL) has announced that its conversion plant will be shut down in 2006.

Once the uranium ore concentrate has been converted to natural UF_6 , it is enriched by increasing the proportion of U_{235} (creating enriched UF_6) to make it suitable for use in certain types of commercial nuclear reactor. There are four major suppliers of enrichment services and there is a competitive world market for these services.

Fabrication

Up to the fabrication stage, fuel cycle processes are identical for both AGRs and PWRs. At the fabrication stage, enriched UF_6 is converted into either AGR or PWR ceramic fuel pellets and

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

assembled to produce fuel elements and fuel assemblies, respectively, which are subsequently loaded into the reactors.

Given the limited use of AGR technology globally, the sole supplier of AGR fuel fabrication services is BNFL. A competitive world market exists for PWR fuel fabrication services.

Front-end fuel cycle contracts

Uranium procurement, conversion and enrichment

BNFL purchases uranics on the world market using a number of suppliers in order to supply fabricated AGR fuel for our AGR power stations. Enriched uranium is also purchased by BNFL for on-supply to the PWR fuel fabricator that we use. These arrangements are set out in our AGR fuel fabrication and supply agreements with BNFL (Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreements).

We have contracted to acquire AGR fuel from BNFL for the period to 31 March 2006 and, subject to amongst other things, the Restructuring becoming effective, beyond 31 March 2006 under the Post 2006 AGR Fuel Supply Agreements which are described in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.1 (aa) and (cc). The Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreements and Post 2006 AGR Fuel Supply Agreements give BNFL the responsibility for procuring the uranics requirements to meet our fuel orders as described below.

The uranics supplied by BNFL to BEG comprise the BEG stocks transferred to BNFL, as well as uranics obtained under BEG's contracts which were (and are in the process of being) novated to BNFL (under a deed of sale and purchase entered into on 31 March 2003 (the Uranics Sale and Purchase Deed) described in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1 (ee)) and which are sufficient to fully meet our requirements for BEG's AGRs and PWR until at least the end of 2006. Thereafter, the uranics supplied by BNFL, where these are not committed under existing contracts, will have to be procured by BNFL on the market. Subject to the Restructuring becoming effective these arrangements will continue until at least 2010 at which time the parties may decide to continue the arrangements or, alternatively, to source our uranics procurement and supply services on the open market. BNFL has supplied uranics to BEG UK since 1996. Beyond 31 March 2006, the uranics supply arrangements to BEG UK will become part of the uranics supply arrangements to BEG as described above.

AGR fuel fabrication

We are dependent on BNFL as the sole supplier of AGR fuel fabrication services for the operating life of our AGRs. The supply component of our Post 2006 AGR Fuel Supply Agreements will expire when no further AGR fuel is required to be loaded into our AGR power stations. A summary of these agreements is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.1 (z) to (cc).

We maintain stocks of fuel at our AGR power stations which, together with the capability of the AGRs to continue to generate power without the need for new fuel to be loaded, would be sufficient for, typically, three to four months continuous generation in the event of supply disruption.

The principal payment terms of the Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreements (as amended by the March 2003 Deeds of Amendment) and the Post 2006 AGR Fuel Supply Agreements are as follows:

- (i) a payment of £28.5m fixed per annum until 31 March 2006, but discounted on a linear basis in accordance with the market baseload price of electricity to a minimum payment of £13.5m per annum at a market price of £15.0 per MWh. The fixed starting price falls to £25.5m thereafter and is also subject to the discounting mechanism; and
- (ii) a payment of £191,000 per tonne of uranium in AGR fuel delivered.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

These amounts are in July 2002 or 2002/2003 monetary values and are indexed to RPI.

PWR fuel fabrication

Fuel fabrication services for Sizewell B are currently provided by Framatome ANP (Framatome) utilising enriched UF₆ supplied to us by BNFL under BEG's Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreement. The agreement with Framatome provides for a mix of fixed commitments for PWR fuel and options for us to call for additional PWR fuel, and is capable of meeting Sizewell B's requirements until around 2015.

As PWR fuel is readily available in a competitive world market, we believe that it would be possible to secure replacement supplies in the event of supply disruption from our PWR fuel supplier, subject to fuel compatibility and licensing requirements.

The back-end fuel cycle

Spent fuel

Spent fuel is used fuel which is removed from a reactor because it can no longer support the required level of power generation. Following a three to six month period of storage and cooling in water-filled ponds at the AGR power station sites, the spent AGR fuel is loaded into specially designed flasks and transported to BNFL's plant at Sellafield for storage and reprocessing or long term storage. Our spent PWR fuel is stored on-site in a cooling pond pending construction of a longer term dry storage facility (such construction to be funded by the NLF pursuant to the NLFA). Spent AGR and PWR fuel can be stored for long periods prior to final disposal, or, after a period of at least three years for spent AGR fuel or five years for spent PWR fuel, it can be reprocessed.

Spent fuel reprocessing

Reprocessing of spent AGR fuel separates uranium and plutonium from highly radioactive nuclear waste products and is followed by storage of the resulting materials. We use BNFL's reprocessing facilities at Sellafield in Cumbria, England.

Reprocessed uranium can be recycled once it has been converted, enriched and fabricated into new AGR or PWR fuel. Reprocessed uranium is not currently used in the UK and regulatory consents have not been obtained for its use.

Nuclear waste

Nuclear waste products are categorised by their radioactivity levels into low level radioactive waste, intermediate level radioactive waste and high level radioactive waste.

Low level waste (LLW) comprises potentially contaminated or slightly radioactive materials, such as used protective clothing and tools. In the UK, LLW represents approximately 86 per cent. by conditioned volume of radioactive waste. Most LLW can be handled by workers wearing simple protective clothing and gloves and without any requirement for radiation shielding.

Intermediate level waste (ILW) includes the sludges and resins from the cleaning of cooling pond water and certain wastes arising from the reprocessing of spent fuel. In the UK, approximately 14 per cent. by conditioned volume of radioactive waste is classified as ILW.

High level waste (HLW) comprises spent fuel which will not be reprocessed and certain nuclear waste products separated out from uranium and plutonium during the reprocessing of spent fuel. These categories of waste are characterised by the fact that their temperature may rise significantly as a result of the high level of radioactivity and this needs to be taken into account in the design of storage or disposal facilities. In the UK, HLW excluding spent fuel represents

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

approximately 0.1 per cent. by conditioned volume of radioactive waste from reprocessing, although this contains approximately 95 per cent. of the total radioactivity in all nuclear waste (excluding uranium and plutonium recovered from reprocessing).

Current Government policy on managing radioactive waste is that HLW should be stored for at least 50 years to allow the radioactivity to decay and consequent heat generation to reduce. Once the waste has cooled, one of the options is underground disposal. Spent fuel which is not reprocessed should similarly be allowed to cool. Once the HLW has cooled, it will continue to be stored pending a decision on final disposal. There is currently no disposal route available in the UK for either ILW or HLW, however the Government has asked the newly-formed Committee on Radioactive Waste Management to report to it on this issue in 2006. Upon implementation of the Restructuring, the costs of disposal will be dealt with under the New Spent Fuel Agreements with BNFL in respect of new spent fuel and under the Historic Fuel Agreements and the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements in respect of historic spent fuel. (Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under paragraph headed State Aid.)

Management and disposal of operational nuclear waste

We are responsible for the management and disposal of all operational nuclear waste arising from our operations in conformity with relevant laws and regulations and having regard to Government policy.

LLW is often incinerated on site and the resulting ash and other LLW that has not been incinerated is compacted, if appropriate, and then sent to BNFL for disposal at its facility at Drigg in Cumbria, England. We have contracts in place with BNFL until 31 March 2005 for the disposal of LLW. We intend to enter into further contracts with BNFL for the disposal of LLW at Drigg beyond 31 March 2005.

At present our ILW is stored on-site in purpose-built facilities and, in most cases, these facilities are designed to accommodate all of the ILW that we expect to be created during the current nuclear power station lifetimes. In anticipation of the fact that the capacity of our untreated ILW resin storage tanks at Sizewell B will be exhausted by 2008/2009, we are presently engaged in modifying the station's on-site encapsulation plant to enable it to encapsulate ILW. Once the ILW has been encapsulated in metal drums, the waste can be stored in Sizewell B's conditioned waste storage building. We intend to complete the encapsulation plant modifications before ILW resin storage tank capacity exhaustion.

Back-end fuel cycle contracts

Reprocessing and long-term management of spent fuel

AGR fuel

Each individual AGR power station's storage capacity varies but overall average capacity is approximately equivalent to nine months of spent fuel storage and with the storage facilities usually holding approximately six months' spent fuel, this leaves approximately three months' additional capacity in case of any short term interruptions in the movement of spent fuel to BNFL's Sellafield site. If a nuclear power station's spent fuel storage facilities became full, that station could theoretically continue to generate electricity, but the volume of electricity produced would gradually reduce as the fuel in the reactors was consumed. It would not be possible to load additional fuel into the reactor until at least the equivalent quantity of stored spent fuel was despatched to Sellafield.

We have contracts with BNFL (the only available supplier of reprocessing and long term storage services in respect of spent AGR fuel) for the long term management of spent fuel covering the

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

entire operating lives of our AGR power stations and for the fuel removed from the reactors at the end of their operating lives. Upon implementation of the Restructuring, these will be the Historic Fuel Agreements and the New Spent Fuel Agreements. We also have a number of agreements with BNFL for the provision of certain ancillary services in relation to spent fuel management. These are referred to as the BNFL Ancillary Agreements and, upon implementation of the Restructuring, will cover services provided in relation to both historic spent fuel and new spent fuel.

Upon implementation of the Restructuring, under the Historic Fuel Agreements, BNFL will provide spent fuel management services for an agreed period for historic spent fuel. The Secretary of State has also agreed, subject to the implementation of the Restructuring, to meet our liabilities to BNFL (subject to certain exceptions) under the Historic Fuel Agreements and, in relation to historic spent fuel, under the BNFL Ancillary Agreements (pursuant to provisions of the Historic Liabilities Funding Agreement (HLFA), which is summarised in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (d)). (Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under paragraph headed State Aid.) We retain ultimate responsibility for these materials after the date on which BNFL is no longer obliged to perform the services; however, these liabilities will fall within the scope of the liabilities to be met by the NLF or, where the NLF has insufficient assets, the Secretary of State under the NLFA (as described below in the paragraph headed: Decommissioning and other nuclear liabilities). Under the HLFA, the Secretary of State will also have an option to acquire title to any of our historic spent fuel and materials deriving from spent fuel management at Sellafield.

Under the Historic Fuel Agreements, BNFL will be responsible for the storage of the uranium, plutonium and, pending disposal, HLW and ILW arising from historic spent fuel reprocessing and for the storage of historic spent fuel which is not reprocessed until agreed dates. BNFL will be obliged to treat, package and store ILW resulting from fuel reprocessed under the Historic Fuel Agreements. If we require it, BNFL will store our ILW waste until an agreed date. BNFL will also take title to, and all liabilities for, certain cooling pond equipment (LLW and/or ILW) which is used to store spent fuel on behalf of BEG. The contracts with BNFL also provide for the possibility of extending these periods of storage, subject to obtaining necessary regulatory and planning consents, and taking into account the need for storage beyond this date.

Upon implementation of the Restructuring, under the New Spent Fuel Agreements, BNFL will take title to, and all liability for, the management and ultimate disposal of all spent AGR fuel arising from fuel loaded into the reactors on or after the Effective Date, namely the new spent fuel.

With respect to the back-end fuel services under the New Spent Fuel Agreements, we will be obliged to pay:

- (i) a payment of £150,000 per tonne of uranium in AGR fuel, payable on loading of such new fuel into one of our AGRs;
- (ii) a rebate/surcharge against the payment mentioned in (i) above equivalent to 50 per cent. of the difference between the market baseload price of electricity in a year and £16.0 per MWh multiplied by the MWh produced by the AGR fleet in that year. The market baseload price of electricity used in the calculation will not be less than £14.8 and not more than £19.0 per MWh; and
- (iii)

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if the market baseload price of electricity exceeds £19.0 per MWh, a surcharge against that payment equivalent to 25 per cent. of the difference between the market baseload price of electricity in a year and £19.0 per MWh multiplied by the MWh produced by the AGR fleet in that year. The market baseload price of electricity used in that calculation will not be less than £19.0 and not more than £21.0 per MWh.

All of the above amounts are stated in 2002/2003 monetary values and are indexed to RPI.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

As a result of the standstill arrangements with BNFL (described above in the Key information section, paragraph headed: Standstill arrangements), since 1 April 2003 we have been making payments under our existing back-end fuel services contracts with BNFL as if the pricing provisions of the New Spent Fuel Agreements applied. BNFL has agreed to standstill in respect of the difference between amounts currently being paid and the amounts which would have been payable under the existing contracts (unamended).

The pricing provisions highlighted above are intended to enable us to reduce a proportion of our fuel costs which are fixed by providing for a discount when the market baseload price of electricity is below a specified amount and a surcharge when above this amount. As electricity prices have risen substantially since October 2003, we are now making additional payments to BNFL under the new arrangements for spent fuel management in the form of the surcharge referred to above. Our obligation to make additional payments for spent fuel management will continue for so long as electricity prices remain above £16.0 per MWh (in 2002/2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI).

The New Spent Fuel Agreements and the Historic Fuel Agreements (and other agreements ancillary thereto) are summarised in more detail in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.1 (ff) to (ss) and further details on the costs are set out in Part III: Operating and financial review and prospects.

PWR fuel

We intend that spent PWR fuel from Sizewell B will be stored on the Sizewell B site pending final disposal of the fuel. PWR fuel is not currently expected to be reprocessed though this has not been discounted.

The spent fuel storage pond at Sizewell B was designed to accommodate 18 years of spent fuel arisings and will be reconfigured to accommodate approximately 30 years spent fuel arisings, subject to obtaining appropriate consents including from the NDA and the NII. The reconfiguration work requires completion by 2009/2010 to allow the continued operation of Sizewell B. At this time, it is our judgement that these works will be completed before or during 2009/2010. We will consider, in due course, arrangements for the remainder of lifetime arisings for spent PWR fuel in the light of the prevailing commercial and regulatory environment.

The qualifying costs of waste management and the disposal of spent PWR fuel from Sizewell B will be met by the NLF (described in greater detail below in paragraph below headed: Nuclear decommissioning).

BNFL payment deferrals

Certain of our contractual arrangements with BNFL provide for BNFL to use its reasonable endeavours to meet our requirements for deferring payments or for us to use our reasonable endeavours to meet BNFL's requirements for receiving advance payments under those agreements so long as neither party is adversely affected.

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In exercise of this provision, we agreed with BNFL in June 2004 that the payment of certain charges invoiced by, and due to BNFL in July, August and September in each of the financial years of 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 under the Existing BEG AGR Fuel Supply Agreement and Post 2006 BEG AGR Fuel Supply Agreement, may be deferred up to a maximum of £20m, providing we are in compliance with our other payment obligations under those agreements. These deferrals will allow us to align the payments for fuel due in any one of these three years more closely with the receipts from the sales of our electricity in the same year.

Accordingly, we have deferred the agreed sum of £20m in this financial year under this arrangement, and have stated to BNFL that it is our intention to pay the amounts in respect of the July invoiced payments on 1 February 2005 and to pay the amounts in respect of the August

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

and September invoiced payments on 1 March 2005. The interest payable on such deferred amounts for the period of the deferral is at the contractual late payment interest rate of LIBOR plus 2 per cent. Interest is calculated every three months, upon which BEG has an option to pay this interest or add it to the deferred payment amount.

In addition, we have agreed a further side letter with BNFL dated 10 November 2004 under which it has been agreed that certain other payments under our existing fuel arrangements may be deferred. These payments were due in August, September and October 2004 and aggregate approximately £35m. We have agreed to pay approximately £10m of this amount on or before 31 December 2004, and the balance in two tranches in amounts to be agreed on or before 31 January 2005 and 28 February 2005, respectively. The contractual late payment interest at the rate of LIBOR plus 2 per cent. has started to accrue in relation to the amounts outstanding. BNFL has agreed that these late payments will not constitute non-compliance with our payment obligations for the purpose of our June 2004 deferral arrangements described above, provided the additional deferred amounts are paid in accordance with the proposal set out above.

Nuclear decommissioning

The decommissioning process

Decommissioning of a nuclear power station is the process whereby it is shut down at the end of its economic life and eventually dismantled. Throughout the world, over 90 nuclear reactors have been shut down and a large number of decommissioning projects are in progress. Decommissioning has usually been planned to take place over several decades and the majority of these projects are at an early stage. However, there is a growing volume of experience of the early decommissioning activities and pre-closure planning and preparation requirements of large scale nuclear power station decommissioning.

Our objectives for decommissioning are to: ensure the continued safety of the public, the workforce and the environment; minimise the environmental impact as far as reasonably practicable; release sites for further use as appropriate; and, in a manner which is consistent with all of the foregoing, minimise the expenditure of resources.

We have adopted the Early Safestore Decommissioning Strategy (ESS) for decommissioning our AGR and PWR power stations. The principal activities of the ESS are:

- *Stage 1:* pre-closure preparatory work; defuelling; decommissioning engineering preparatory work; and management of potentially mobile operational wastes;
- *Stage 2:* dismantling redundant ancillary buildings; safestore development; site surveillance, care and maintenance; and

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- *Stage 3*: preparation for reactor building dismantling and clearance; retrieval and management of stored radioactive waste; reactor dismantling and reactor building dismantling and clearance; and site clearance and release for further use.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) receives requests from time-to-time to delicense parts of, or even entire sites licensed under the NIA. The NIA requires that before allowing all or part of a site to be delicensed, HSE must be satisfied that there has ceased to be any danger from ionising radiations from anything on the site or, as the case may be, on that part thereof. HSE is currently in the process of developing and publishing a policy statement that sets out its criteria for delicensing sites that are licensed under the NIA. Public consultation on this policy closed in July and the policy statement is expected later this year.

Decommissioning and other nuclear liabilities

We have an obligation under our nuclear site licences to decommission our nuclear power stations at the end of their useful lives. The estimated undiscounted cost of decommissioning our AGR and PWR power stations as reported in our financial statements for the year ended 31

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

March 2004 is £5.1 billion out of a total estimate for all nuclear liabilities of £15 billion. Currently, certain of the decommissioning liabilities are covered by the existing arrangements with the NDF to which we have made contributions pursuant to the terms of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agreement which was entered into on 29 March 1996.

If the Restructuring becomes effective, the Nuclear Decommissioning Agreement will terminate, the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements will become fully effective and the existing NDF will be enlarged into and renamed the NLF, as described below.

Under the terms of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements, the NLF will, subject to certain exceptions, fund our qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities (i.e. all those nuclear liabilities for which there is currently no contract in place) and the qualifying costs of decommissioning our nuclear power stations (decommissioning costs). The NLF will be funded by contributions from us and the Secretary of State has agreed to fund the qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs to the extent that they exceed the assets of the NLF. To the extent that there are any surplus funds in the NLF, this amount will be paid to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has also agreed, again subject to certain exceptions, to fund certain of our contracted liabilities for historic spent fuel. (Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under paragraph headed State Aid.)

The New British Energy Group will be responsible for funding certain excluded or disqualified liabilities and will, in certain circumstances, be required to compensate or indemnify the NLF and the Secretary of State in relation to such liabilities. Our obligations under these arrangements with the Secretary of State will be guaranteed by each Material New British Energy Group Company. These excluded or disqualified nuclear liabilities are described in greater detail in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements and in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.2 (c) and (d).

In consideration for the assumption of these liabilities by the Secretary of State and the NLF, Holdings plc will issue £275m of New Bonds to the NLF and the New British Energy Group will make the following ongoing payments to the NLF:

- the NLF Cash Sweep Payment;
- fixed decommissioning contributions of £20m per annum (stated in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) but tapering off as our AGR power stations are currently scheduled to close; and
- £150,000 (stated in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) for every tonne of uranium in PWR fuel loaded into the Sizewell B reactor after the Restructuring Effective Date.

The NLF will have the right from time to time to convert all or part of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment into Convertible Shares (the NLF Conversion Right). On a full conversion the NLF would hold up to 65 per cent. of the thereby enlarged equity share capital of the Company. However, the terms of the Convertible Shares include a limit on the voting rights attaching to such shares equal to the maximum amount which can be held by the NLF without triggering a mandatory offer under the City Code on Takeovers and

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Mergers (Takeover Code), being currently 29.9 per cent. of the voting rights of the Company (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other ordinary shares of the Company held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF). This voting restriction applies for so long as the Convertible Shares are held by the NLF. The Convertible Shares will convert automatically into ordinary shares in the Company on transfer to a third party but are not convertible at the election of the NLF prior to such transfer. There are restrictions on the manner in which the NLF may exercise the NLF Conversion Right or dispose of any of the shares arising on such exercise.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Further information relating to these arrangements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements and in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e).

COAL-FIRED GENERATION

Eggborough power station s operating regime

EPL, the owner of the Eggborough power station, was acquired from National Power in March 2000 using Group funds. This purchase was subsequently re-financed by a £550m project finance loan on 13 July 2000 between EPL and the Eggborough Banks, with the proceeds subsequently being received by British Energy.

Following the Restructuring, EPL will remain within the Group and continue to own and operate the Eggborough power station unless the Eggborough Banks: (i) exercise an Eggborough Option; or (ii) enforce their security and take ownership of EPL or the Eggborough power station.

Further details of these arrangements are set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring and in Part X: Additional information.

Output from the Eggborough power station was 7.6 TWh during the year ended 31 March 2004, compared with 5.7 TWh and 7.1 TWh for the years ended 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2002, respectively. The Eggborough power station s output level is influenced by market prices, our contracted trading position; the extent to which its operation is required to cover for unplanned outages at our nuclear stations; and relevant environmental legislation (the influence of such relevant environmental legislation increasing significantly over time).

As a result of it being coal-fired, the Eggborough power station produces emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and therefore its future output will be affected by the impact of two important environmental initiatives which seek to limit these emissions namely, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and the Large Combustion Plant Directive, which are discussed in the paragraph below headed: Future legislation affecting the Eggborough power station s output.

The Eggborough power station consists of four generating units which, together, have a combined registered capacity of approximately 1,960 MW and is operated at various output levels, rather than at constant levels in the manner of our nuclear power stations. Specifically, the Eggborough power station fulfils the following functions:

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- *Reserve capacity*: by maintaining a level of reserve capacity it assists in managing the trading risks associated with unpredictable reductions in the availability of our nuclear power stations. Calling on the Eggborough power station as an alternative source of generation reduces our reliance on the spot markets or the balancing mechanism;
- *Profiling or shaping*: unless a customer has a purely baseload power requirement (i.e. a requirement for unvarying amounts of energy) we are unable to meet their requirements based solely on our nuclear generation capacity. As a result, we need to combine our baseload generation with flexible output to meet the requirements of our customers who require varying levels of output over the term of their contract. The Eggborough power station provides us with a source of electricity generation for this purpose, thereby reducing our reliance on purchases from competitors; and
- *Flexibility*: changes in customer demand over the short term and the nature of the overall customer profile mean that we need to have access to capacity that is able to change output rapidly in response to changing requirements. Like other fossil fuel power stations, the Eggborough power station is able to provide this flexibility and is an alternative to the use of short term markets and power exchanges.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

We own an ash disposal site at Gale Common, close to the Eggborough power station, which is used for the disposal of ash produced by the Eggborough power station and by the nearby Ferrybridge power station, which is owned by a subsidiary of Scottish and Southern Energy.

Investment in the Eggborough power station

In response to recent developments in relation to the regulation of emissions, details of which are set out below in the paragraph headed: Future legislation affecting the Eggborough power station's output, we are in the process of fitting two of the four generating units at the Eggborough power station with flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) equipment. Once operational, the equipment is designed to reduce emissions of SO₂ to the atmosphere from the units which have been fitted with FGD by approximately 90 per cent. The FGD has been installed and commissioning tests are in progress. Handover of the project has been delayed pending resolution of certain performance issues. We currently believe that the issues can be resolved without having a material adverse effect on our financial or trading position.

As part of the Restructuring:

- in the period from the Restructuring Effective Date to 31 March 2010, certain constraints are imposed on the funding of the Eggborough power station including: (i) specifying the operating and maintenance costs that may be met; and (ii) imposing a cap of approximately £70m (subject to certain de minimis exceptions) on capital investment. Specifically, we are contractually committed to certain capital investment to improve the Eggborough power station's performance and reliability. Any further capital investment in the Eggborough power station by any member of the New British Energy Group that is a restricted subsidiary under the New Bonds will be treated as restricted payments under the New Bonds unless the limitation on restricted payments in the New Bonds has been suspended (by reason of the New Bonds attaining an investment grade rating from Moody's and at least one other rating agency at the relevant time); and
- in the period post 31 March 2010, we may fund capital investment in the Eggborough power station for maintenance including non-recurring maintenance and/or repairs of a capital nature only. Any further capital investment in the Eggborough power station by us or any member of the New British Energy Group that is a restricted subsidiary under the New Bonds will be treated as restricted payments under the New Bonds unless the limitation on restricted payments in the New Bonds has been suspended (by reason of the New Bonds attaining an investment grade rating from Moody's and at least one other rating agency at the relevant time).

Any investment in the Eggborough power station which is not permitted under the terms of the New Bonds will require approval by way of an extraordinary resolution passed at a New Bondholders' meeting as there are no express consent requirements in the New Bonds.

Future legislation affecting the Eggborough power station's output

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The EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and the revised Large Combustion Plant Directive (2001/80/EC) (LCPD) are major environmental initiatives which will have an important impact on the Eggborough power station as they seek to reduce the emission of CO₂, SO₂, NO_x and particulates. The ETS is due to be implemented in January 2005. The main provisions of the LCPD which limit emissions are due to become effective on 1 January 2008. The LCPD will limit emissions even further than the current Large Combustion Plant Directive (1988/609/EC).

ETS

Combustion installations with a rated thermal input in excess of 20 MW (excluding hazardous or municipal waste installations) require a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Permit (an Emissions

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Permit). Under an Emissions Permit, a combustion installation is allocated CO₂ emissions allowances (ETS Allowances). From 1 January 2005 onwards, each combustion installation must begin monitoring CO₂ emission and surrender ETS Allowances equal in amount to its actual annual reportable emissions of CO₂ by the date falling four months from the end of the year in which such emissions arose. In any year, a combustion installation's emissions of CO₂ may not exceed its ETS Allowances for such year unless it has purchased additional ETS Allowances to cover such excess emissions (in principle, ETS Allowances should be tradable across all Member States, enabling those operators with a surplus of allowances to sell to those with a shortfall).

The Eggborough power station has an Emissions Permit, however, the Government is still in the process of determining the allocation of ETS Allowances for combustion installations. Implementation of the ETS in the UK involves a draft National Allocation Plan (NAP) under which each combustion installation, including the Eggborough power station, is given a CO₂ allocation for the period 2005/2007 (the First Phase). The Government published draft NAPs in January and May 2004 for consultation. These documents set out the principles for determining the total quantity of allowances and provided provisional installation-level allocations. The Government has always made clear that the allocations published were subject to change as a result of: updated emissions projections; verification of baseline data; and the inclusion of additional installations; and that the overall level of allowances to be set in the final allocation decision will be revised in the light of these changes. In the NAP submitted to the Commission in April 2004, the Government stated that in the First Phase of the ETS it was seeking an overall reduction in emissions of CO₂ which was in line with achieving reductions of 15.2 per cent on 1990 levels by 2010. On this basis, the First Phase would reduce emissions of CO₂ by 5.5m tonnes representing a 0.75 per cent. reduction of the total allowances and that this would be achieved by cutting the projected emissions of the power station sector by a corresponding amount.

In the draft list of installation level allocations, published by the Government in January 2004, the Eggborough power station was allocated ETS Allowances equating to 4.9m tonnes of CO₂ emissions in each of the calendar years 2005, 2006 and 2007. This is equivalent to the level of emissions associated with electrical output of approximately 5.4TWh in each such year. This allocation is scheduled to be finalised in autumn 2004 but may change. Depending on the final allocations, additional allowances may need to be acquired if the Eggborough power station is to continue to generate electricity at 2003/2004 levels. We, along with other industry participants, are lobbying the Government for an increase in ETS Allowances. (The Government has indicated that they intend to retain some ETS Allowances for new market entrants and to auction any unallocated ETS Allowances from this reserve on an annual basis in the years up to 2007).

On 27 October 2004, the Government announced that it was proposing to amend the NAP submitted in April to increase the total quantity of ETS Allowances by just under 3 per cent. because of revised projections of emissions by UK installations covered by the scheme. On 10 November 2004, the Government submitted its amendments to the Commission. Details of how this amendment, which is subject to approval from the Commission, will affect allocation to individual installations have not yet been published. The new allocation would be 5.2 per cent. below final projection of emissions for business as usual in the UK and the Government is continuing to look to the electricity supply industry to bear the burden of reducing emissions below business as usual projections.

The basis for the allocation of ETS Allowances in the second phase of the ETS (this relates to the period from 2008 to 2012) has yet to be determined by the Government.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

LCPD

The LCPD seeks to reduce the emissions of certain pollutants (namely NO_x, SO₂ and particulates) into the air from large combustion plants. From 1 January 2008, under the LCPD, Member States must achieve significant emissions reductions by:

- ensuring that all permits for the operation of existing plants contain conditions requiring compliance with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) established for existing plants; and/or
- ensuring that existing plants are subject to a National Emission Reduction Plan (NERP).

ELV

The ELV approach involves setting specific limits on the emission of NO_x, SO₂ and particulates for individual plants which cannot be exceeded by a plant without it breaching its permit.

NERP

NERP applies an overall cap on emissions of NO_x, SO₂ and particulates for each Member State. This cap is calculated by taking the aggregate of the limits that would have applied to each plant in operation within the Member State in the year 2000 had the ELV approach been taken (based on each plant's annual operating time, fuel used and thermal output averaged over the last five years of its operation up to and including the year 2000). As long as the cap is not breached, a Member State has some flexibility in the implementation of NERP. For example, it may allow plants to trade their allocations within the same Member State. However, a Member State's flexibility under an NERP approach is constrained by:

- the limits set under the pollution, prevention and control regime (for further detail, see the section below headed: Regulation of the Eggborough Power Station and Gale Common);
- the LCPD which provides that closure of plants subject to NERP will not result in a corresponding increase in allocation to the remaining plants subject to NERP; and
- the fact that the requirements of the LCPD under a national plan approach need to be met on a calendar year basis, (this therefore negates the possibility of banking or trading allowances across years).

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The Government has been in discussions with the electricity, steel, oil refining and other industries in recent months concerning the implementation of the LCPD. Discussion has focussed on whether to limit future emission rates for plants or to limit total emissions based on historic generation; and whether a plant will be treated as being a whole station, or an individual generating unit, in which case the Eggborough power station's four units would be treated as separate plants. In the case of the former, the Government has highlighted that it is in discussions with the Commission about implementing a hybrid solution where large power stations, such as Eggborough, would be subject to rate limits for future emissions.

Plant owners have the option to opt-out of the LCPD in which case they will be permitted to run plants for a total of 20,000 hours between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2015, subject to additional regulations imposed by the Environment Agency (EA). Given the uncertainty on the key issues and the fact that the Government has not yet taken pivotal decisions on how the directive is to be implemented in the UK, the Government has provided further instruction that plant that is opted out by 30 June 2004 can be opted back in prior to 30 June 2005. British Energy has therefore chosen to conditionally opt-out its two non-FGD units, the conditionality relating to: (i) the choice to opt back in prior to the 30 June 2005 deadline; and (ii) whether a plant is treated as being a whole station, or an individual generating unit (if the former is the case the two-unit opt-out would be deemed

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invalid and those two units would be opted back-in again (subject to the consent of the Eggborough Banks holding 66 ²/₃ per cent. of the debt under the Amended Credit Agreement (the Majority Banks), such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed).

The final details of the implementation of the LCPD may affect the level of generation from the Eggborough power station and other fossil fuel plants in the future. The Government is expected to make a decision on how the LCPD will be implemented by early 2005.

Other legislation

Limits on the emissions of pollutants may also be imposed in permits issued by the EA and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and it is possible that stricter limits could be imposed than under the ETS and the LCPD.

This is because the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is required to implement the LCPD and ensure that in doing so, the National Emissions Ceiling Directive is not compromised. In addition, the EA has to take into account the requirements of the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive, the National Emissions Ceiling Directive, the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive when setting permit conditions going forward.

ELECTRICITY SALES

Routes to market

We sell our generation through diverse routes to market. These include bespoke contracts for supply over periods of varying durations, some of which are for the supply of electricity in excess of a year, over-the-counter transactions in the wholesale traded market, electronic power exchange trading, direct supply to industrial and commercial customers, and sales of balancing and ancillary services to the National Grid. We also sell forward (i.e. sell output we have not yet generated) in order to manage the risks of short to medium term price volatility in wholesale electricity market prices and because there is insufficient liquidity in the short term markets alone for us to be sure that we would be able to sell our generation at an acceptable price.

Role of trading

Our approach to trading utilises these different routes to market with a view to reducing overall exposure to volatility in short and medium term wholesale electricity market prices whilst seeking to reduce the amount of credit support required. We aim to build a portfolio of wholesale trades and direct supply contracts (generally at fixed prices) to approximately match our planned generation

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output and to further mitigate the exposure to the wholesale market and, in particular, the risk of wholesale electricity market prices falling. This approach does however reduce in the medium term the benefit we receive from wholesale electricity prices rising. As of the end of October 2004, we had in place contracts for volume equivalent to virtually all of our planned generation in 2004/2005, of which nearly all are at fixed prices. For 2005/2006, contracts are in place for approximately two-thirds of planned generation, with approximately half of these being at fixed prices at an average price of approximately £25 per MWh. This includes an element of the Centrica contract (referred to below) and DSB and structured trades fixed during the period the year ended 31 March 2004 or before. This is substantially higher than the average realised price of £16.9 per MWh for the year ended 31 March 2004 but is lower than the prevailing wholesale electricity price for delivery in 2005/2006 which was in excess of £34.0 per MWh by the end of October 2004.

In addition to our hedging activities we may also undertake non-hedging related trades from time to time within set limits and policies approved by the Board.

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Trades in the wholesale market

Longer term structured trades, on fixed or floating price terms, are used in particular to hedge against exposure to falling market prices and to secure a longer term route to market for planned generation. Longer-term structured trades typically contain provisions to fix pricing up to 6 months ahead of the period for delivery.

We entered into a 4-year contract with Centrica on 19 March 2003 which expires in April 2007, for a total of 38 TWh. Over half of the output to be sold over the term of this contract is at fixed prices agreed at the time the contract was entered into and the remainder being linked to future electricity prices.

All of our over-the-counter trades, and a number of our longer term bespoke trades, are executed under the terms of Grid Trade Master Agreements (GTMA) agreed with the counter-party in question. The GTMA contract details responsibilities for contract notification and other obligations in respect of the BSC, payment terms, default and termination provisions, credit arrangements and other terms. Over-the-counter GTMA transactions, including both futures and options on electricity, are used to balance generation against the portfolio of contracts and as a hedge against adverse market price movements in the short to medium term.

Our ability to utilise the wholesale market as a route to market is affected by the strength and depth of the market, see Part II, risk factor headed: Lack of liquidity in the wholesale market may adversely affect us or require us to alter our trading strategy.

Short term trading is carried out via the Amsterdam Power Exchange (UK) Limited (APX), and is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. APX provides an anonymous electronic trading platform and clearing and notification service for electricity futures and spot trades for individual half-hour periods. We primarily use APX as a means of balancing our within-day physical position by either buying or selling to compensate for differences between our notified contractual position and planned generation and forecast supply up to gate closure, i.e. one hour before the start of the relevant delivery period. We typically trade 2-hour or 4-hour blocks, or individual half-hour periods.

Trading in products which may be regarded as regulated investments is carried out by our trading subsidiary, British Energy Trading Services Limited (BETS) as agent and arranger for BEPET. BETS is regulated by the Financial Services Authority in respect of these activities.

Direct supply sales business (DSB)

One of our more important routes to market is direct supply sales of electricity to industrial and commercial customers because, amongst other factors, we are not required to post any collateral to such customers. Further information on collateral can be found below in the paragraph headed: Cash collateral. Our target customer base for this business is predominantly among industrial

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users with electricity demands of over 1,000 MWh per annum. As of 31 March 2004, we had contracts in place to supply some 1,350 customers at 7,500 sites. Our DSB has increased by almost 30 per cent. in volume terms in the period 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2004 to 29.0 TWh, which is equal to approximately 40 per cent. of our total electricity generation. This follows an increase of 20 per cent. in volume terms in the period from 31 March 2002 to 31 March 2003. Contracts are generally entered into on a fixed price basis through a competitive tendering process. For most of our contracts, delivery starts in April or October and the term of most of our contracts is one or two years with the majority being for one year.

We are progressively increasing the range of customers and are targeting retail groups with a large number of sites; however, we are not licensed to supply domestic customers. We have continued to score highly in independent surveys of customer satisfaction in the industrial and commercial sector. We have held a number one ranking for over five years according to the

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Independent Energy Information Centre based on data compiled via a quarterly survey of their customer base. The survey is designed to measure how customers rate the service they receive from their suppliers in 18 separate service areas. These include, amongst others, contract price, responsiveness to enquiries, bill accuracy, clarity and promptness. We are also currently ranked second for customer satisfaction by Datamonitor in their 2004 survey.

Arrangements in Scotland

As there is currently no wholesale market in Scotland, we sell all the output from our Scottish nuclear power stations to Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy under the terms of the Nuclear Energy Agreement (NEA).

Under the revised terms of the NEA, Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy purchase the electricity generated by our Scottish power stations under arrangements more closely linked to market prices and terms for baseload energy in England and Wales than previously. The revised NEA will continue in operation until whichever is the earlier of 1 April 2006 and the introduction of BETTA (which is currently scheduled for 1 April 2005). The extension of the amended NEA beyond its original expiry date of 1 April 2005 will be subject to regulatory approval. Beyond the expiry of the NEA, Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy have entered into contracts on GTMA terms up to 2011 at reducing volumes, subject to certain conditions being satisfied. We pay generators in Scotland in respect of the electricity supplied to our direct supply customers in Scotland.

Cash collateral

Our electricity contracts give rise to different requirements for us to provide credit support in the form of cash collateral. In respect of trades in the wholesale market, this is requested by counterparties to ensure that, should the contract terminate early for whatever reason, there are sufficient funds available to reimburse the costs they may incur in replacing the terminated transactions in the open market. In respect of most routes to market, and in respect of generation by our power stations, credit support is also required or requested to ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover balancing, transmission, distribution and other similar costs and charges.

Until September 2002, credit support was generally provided by way of parent company guarantee from British Energy as British Energy had an investment grade credit rating and thus we were not generally required to post cash (or other) collateral. In September 2002, following the loss of our investment grade credit rating, our obligation to provide credit support to counterparties has been satisfied by collateral arrangements provided by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Government Facility (for further details see Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1 (r)). Our current and indicative credit rating on Admission means we are and will continue to be required generally to post collateral (see Part III: Operating and financial review and prospects).

The level of collateral that we are required to post at any time is a function of three factors namely: (i) our contracting strategy; (ii) contract price; and (iii) prevailing electricity market prices.

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Under certain of our GTMA wholesale contracts or as otherwise agreed, we are required to post collateral equal to the net sum of: (i) our billed or billable amounts which have not yet been paid for; (ii) the mark-to-market difference between the contract price and the prevailing market price at that time; and (iii) an additional sum that reflects the potential for market price volatility and future trades. Generally, we have agreed to undertake this calculation on a weekly basis and any collateral that needs to be posted is credited to a deposit account over which the relevant counterparty holds a first fixed charge. In some limited cases, the level of collateral that we are required to post is capped. This risk is set out in more detail in Part II: Risk Factors.

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Our direct supply sales to industrial and commercial customers do not require us to post any collateral to the purchasers of the power. However, collateral is required by distribution network operators in order to cover charges that BEG has to pay them.

In 2002 and 2003, we entered into contracts at the then prevailing wholesale market price equivalent to a large proportion of our forecast 2004 generation output. Since then, electricity prices have increased substantially, which has resulted in us being required to post a significant amount of collateral in support of these contracts. We have since April 2004 sought to reduce the proportion of our sales to the wholesale market via GTMAs with a view to seeking to reduce our collateral requirements.

The Government Facility (as amended and extended) ceased to be available for drawing by the Group on 22 September 2004 following the issue of the State Aid Approval and the Government Facility will terminate upon the Restructuring Effective Date in accordance with its terms. Since 22 September 2004, incremental collateral requirements are being provided by a charge over cash deposits in accounts in the name of Group companies. Upon the implementation of the Restructuring, the Group is required to ensure that the cash collateral provided pursuant to the Government Facility be released and the Group is considering the form of credit support to be provided to its counterparties after the Restructuring Effective Date. Although the Group is satisfied that deposits in Group company accounts will represent reasonable alternative credit support, in certain cases other types of collateral may be required and it may be the case that the provision of such charge arrangements for such collateral arrangements may affect the willingness of certain counterparties to trade with the New British Energy Group.

REGULATION

Introduction

We participate in the electricity industry in two markets, namely England and Wales and Scotland, through a variety of routes. The nature of our electricity generation, the bulk of which comes from nuclear power stations, means that we are a highly regulated business. In addition to the safety, competition, health and environmental legislation which typically applies to a conventional power generation business, we are also subject to additional constraints which apply to the operators of nuclear sites. These regulatory regimes are described below in the paragraph headed: Regulation of the UK nuclear generation industry.

Regulation of the electricity industry

Key legislation

The framework for the economic regulation of the electricity industry in Great Britain is set out in the Electricity Act 1989 (Electricity Act) which has been amended by the Utilities Act 2000 (Utilities Act) and the Energy Act 2004 (Energy Act).

GEMA (more commonly known as the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)) was established by the Utilities Act. In addition to its powers under the Competition Act, GEMA's functions under the Electricity Act include granting licences to generate, transmit, distribute or supply electricity; enforcing compliance with licence conditions; administering funds generated by the English and Scottish Renewables Obligation (described below in the paragraph headed: Renewables obligation); and setting standards of performance for electricity licensees. The Electricity Act requires GEMA and the Secretary of State to exercise their functions under that Act in the manner which they consider is best calculated to protect the interests of consumers present and future, wherever appropriate, by promoting effective competition.

Regulatory developments

On 22 July 2004, the Energy Act received Royal Assent. The Energy Act provides the framework for the establishment of the NDA to manage the clean-up of the UK's civil nuclear legacy as well

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

as the development of offshore wind and other marine renewable energy sources outside territorial waters. The Energy Act further provides for the implementation of BETTA thereby extending NETA to Scotland and creating a single wholesale electricity market for Great Britain. These new arrangements will create a much larger market for our Scottish generation once the NEA, under which all of our existing Scottish generation is currently sold to Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy, ends on the earlier of 1 April 2006 and the introduction of BETTA. However, the termination of the NEA will also mean a loss of the guaranteed market for the output of our Scottish nuclear power stations and other routes to market will need to be developed.

In the White Paper, *Managing the Nuclear Legacy* (published 4 July 2002), a proposal was made by the Government for the establishment of a new Liabilities Management Authority now called the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, or NDA) which will be responsible to the Government with a specific remit to ensure that the nuclear legacy is cleaned up safely, securely, cost effectively and in accordance with national and international environmental requirements. It was envisaged in the White Paper that the Government would accept direct financial responsibility for all of the liabilities that BNFL manages except those covered by commercial contracts, and the Energy Act sets up the framework to implement this proposal and provides the Secretary of State with the power to implement nuclear transfer schemes whereby BNFL's assets and liabilities may be transferred to the NDA.

The New BNFL Contracts contemplate that BNFL may, upon or at any time after the establishment of the NDA, assign or part with or sub-contract any of its rights or obligations under the contracts to the NDA to the extent required by or in consequence of, or to take a benefit available by reason of, any relevant legislation without requirement for consent and in due course, therefore, certain of our contracts with BNFL may be assigned to the NDA.

Licences

Electricity generation licences

Unless covered by an exemption, all electricity generators operating a power station in the UK are required by the Electricity Act to have a generation licence. In England and Wales, the conditions attached to a generation licence require the licence holder, amongst other things, to comply with the BSC, the Grid Code and the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSEC). For operators of power stations in Scotland, the conditions attached to generation licences require the holder, amongst other things, to comply with the relevant grid code and the settlement agreement for Scotland. Failure to comply with any of the generation licence conditions may subject the licensee to a variety of sanctions, including enforcement orders by GEMA, the imposition of monetary penalties or licence revocation if an enforcement order or payment of a monetary penalty is not complied with.

Electricity supply licences

Subject to minor exceptions, all electricity consumers in the UK must be supplied by a licensed supplier as provided for by the Electricity Act. Licensed suppliers purchase electricity and pay for the use of the transmission and distribution networks to deliver electricity to customers' premises. Supply licences now cover all of Great Britain and contain standard licence conditions for most suppliers.

The standard supply licence is split into four distinct parts with not all parts of the licence applicable to all supply licence holders. The licence deals with general obligations and requires the holder, amongst other things, to comply with the BSC, CUSC, Grid Code and Master Registration Agreement (the agreement to which all licensed suppliers and distribution businesses are party and which is concerned with retail customers changing their suppliers).

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

We currently hold one supply licence (held by BEG) through which our DSB makes supplies to our industrial and commercial customers. We are not licensed to supply to domestic customers.

Impact of State Aid Approval on our licences

On 22 September 2004, the Commission issued its decision on the Restructuring (State Aid Approval). The State Aid Approval provides that as far as the Restructuring involves the grant of State Aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market. The Commission's decision is subject to certain conditions and compensatory measures. These conditions include, among others, a requirement that we separate our DSB from our generation and trading businesses by 1 April 2005. When we do so, it is our intention to transfer our existing supply licence for our DSB from BEG to British Energy Direct Limited, a new direct supply sales subsidiary. In addition, the State Aid Approval provides that we will consolidate our nuclear generation activities into a single subsidiary by 1 April 2005 and will use all reasonable endeavours to obtain licence modifications to separate our nuclear from our non-nuclear generation activities for regulatory purposes and prohibit our existing nuclear generation business giving cross-subsidies to our non-nuclear generation business and any other business of the Group. Should GEMA not accept the proposed licence modifications relating to regulatory separation of our nuclear and non-nuclear generation activities, the Deed of Undertaking (see Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1 (o)) provides for alternative arrangements which we believe would have the same effect.

Renewables obligation

One of the ways in which the Government is seeking to increase the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources is by the introduction of the Renewables obligation (the Obligation). The Obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source a proportion of their total electricity requirements from eligible renewable sources came into force in April 2002. The amount of the Obligation increases in steps from 3 per cent. in March 2003 to 10.4 per cent. in March 2011. On 8 September 2004, the Government issued a consultation paper on proposed changes to the Obligation, which would extend it from 10.4 per cent. in 2010/2011 to 15.4 per cent. by 2015/2016, and introduce a number of other changes intended to secure the Obligation and improve its operation. As we are a licensed electricity supplier, we are subject to the Obligation in respect of our DSB.

Each MWh of electricity produced by an accredited renewable generator earns a Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) or, in Scotland, a Scottish Renewables Obligation Certificate (SROC). These certificates can be sold or purchased independently from the electricity to which they relate and a supplier can meet its renewables obligation by presenting equivalent ROCs/ SROCs for the prescribed percentage of electricity supplied at the end of each year or by making a buy-out payment to GEMA (originally set at £30.0 per MWh and indexed to RPI) or a combination of both.

The Obligation is designed to incentivise electricity suppliers to acquire a sufficient number of certificates to meet their total electricity requirements, rather than making, in all likelihood, more expensive buy-out payments which are then re-distributed by GEMA (with interest accrued) to suppliers who have presented ROC/SROCs in compliance with the Obligation.

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In 2002/2003, the Obligation in respect of our DSB was 564,622 MWh. This was met through a combination of ROCs, SROCs, and contributing to the buy-out fund. The cost of meeting the Obligation is recovered from customers through their bills. For 2003/2004 the amount of the Obligation was 4.3 per cent. and the buy-out payment was £30.5 per MWh.

We are undertaking some co-firing of biomass at our Eggborough power station and using the ROCs arising therefrom to part meet the requirement we have under the Obligation.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Under the terms of the Contribution Agreement, we are permitted to increase expenditure up to certain annual thresholds on the development of renewable energy projects agreed with the Secretary of State and which would qualify for ROCs.

Climate Change Levy

The Climate Change Levy (CCL), introduced in April 2001, aims to encourage the efficient use of energy and to reduce carbon emissions by around 5m tonnes a year by 2010. Electricity from qualifying renewable and combined heat and power (CHP) generators are exempt from the levy. Current Government thinking is that the CCL will continue in spite of the implementation of ETS as described above in paragraph headed: ETS. The levy is currently set at £0.43 per kWh.

Our nuclear power stations and the Eggborough power station do not qualify as renewable or CHP generators for the purposes of CCL (except in relation to any qualifying biomass which is burnt at Eggborough). All suppliers are required to collect the CCL from their business customers and to pass this to HM Customs and Excise every quarter.

Regulation of the Eggborough power station and Gale Common

We are subject to numerous environmental regulations with respect to our ownership and operation of the Eggborough power station and the Gale Common ash disposal facility located next to the Eggborough power station.

A system of Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) for power stations was introduced under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for which the EA has responsibility for enforcement. The EA's IPC authorisations require power stations to use Best Available Techniques Not Entailing Excessive Cost to prevent or, where that is not possible, to minimise and render harmless their emission of certain pollutants.

The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive has been implemented in the UK by the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations and modifies the IPC regime, including in relation to noise, waste minimisation and energy efficiency. An application for a permit under the new Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations for the Eggborough power station must be submitted to the EA between 1 January and 31 March 2006. An application for a permit for Gale Common must be submitted to the EA between 1 January and 31 March 2007.

Disposal of ash to the Gale Common facility is governed by the Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002, the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations and two waste management licences which are regulated by the EA.

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More generally, we are also subject to the Water Resources Act 1991 which relates to water pollution and requires persons who have caused or knowingly permitted water pollution to carry out remedial works. The EU Environmental Liability Directive is aimed at the prevention and remedy of environmental damage to water, land and bio-diversity and is based on the principle that the polluter should bear the cost of damages caused to the environment or of measures to prevent imminent threat of damage.

Regulation of the UK nuclear generation industry

Key legislation

The construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear installations and the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiations and security at nuclear plants are principally regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA), and the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 (ATCSA), respectively. The transport of radioactive material is regulated by the Radioactive Material (Road Transport) Act 1991 (RMRTA).

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

The disposal of radioactive waste, including discharges to the environment, is regulated by the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA). The nuclear generation industry is also subject to the same regulations as other generators as regards non-nuclear aspects of health and safety and environmental protection (including emission of pollutants), in particular under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA), the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 and, in Scotland, the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

Further details regarding the risks associated with this aspect of our business are set out in Part II, the risk factor headed: We are subject to extensive and unique regulations.

Nuclear Installations Act

Under UK law, and in particular the HSWA, employers are responsible for ensuring the safety of their employees and the public. This responsibility is reinforced for nuclear installations by the NIA which establishes a nuclear licensing regime controlled by the HSE. The licensing function is administered on HSE's behalf by the NII. Operation of a nuclear plant is governed by the nuclear site licence and the licence conditions which are attached to it and apply to the whole plant through its life cycle, up to and including the early stages of decommissioning.

Before a nuclear site licence is granted by HSE, the NII must be satisfied as to the safety of the operation and eventual decommissioning of an installation, and the ability of the applicant to understand and meet its obligations. Prospective licensees will be assessed under three broad areas: organisation of the applicant and measures to discharge licence obligations; location and security of the site and; safety of the site's design, its manufacture, installation, commercial operation and maintenance.

The safety of the installation is demonstrated through a written safety case and the applicant also documents the arrangements for the management of safety which the NII assesses prior to granting a licence. Modifications to the original safety case are managed through arrangements which ensure that significant changes cannot be made if the NII objects.

There are nuclear site licence conditions requiring the licensee periodically to shut down the reactor to carry out inspections and maintenance (statutory outages), particularly in respect of the reactor core and other plant that cannot be accessed whilst operating, and to review and reassess the safety case for the plant. Statutory outages take place at intervals of up to three years for an AGR and up to 18 months for a PWR.

The role of the NII

The NII's approach to regulating safety involves defining levels of tolerable risk. Tolerable risks must be reduced to a level which is As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). Activities above this level of tolerability are not normally permitted. This means that

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employers must weigh the risks against the cost of reducing such risks and take steps to reduce or remove a risk unless it would obviously be unreasonable to expect such steps to be taken. The NII checks that steps have been taken to reduce risks such that they are ALARP. The ALARP principle has been embodied in a set of safety assessment principles which the NII uses as a basis for assessing safety cases.

The NII scrutinises the activities of the licensee directly on site, and those of the licensee's central support organisation, through the assessment of the licensee's written submissions. An NII inspector is allocated to each nuclear power station and is typically present on site one week per month to hold meetings with the station staff and to check for compliance with the licence conditions and safety case requirements. An inspection team may also visit the nuclear power station to assess a particular part of the plant, or aspect of the safety case, and may also visit the licensee's central support organisation to assess its part in ensuring safety on the licensed

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

sites. As discussed in greater detail in the paragraph below headed: Safety management, each licence also requires the establishment of a Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC) for each licensed site, to provide independent advice to the licensee on significant nuclear safety issues.

Before consenting to a reactor restarting following an outage, the NII has to be satisfied that, based on the previous operating experience and the condition of the plant, there is an adequate safety case for the operation of the plant for the next period. This may require enhancement of the safety case to justify continued operation. The NII's consent to a restart cannot be predicted by us and is a matter determined by the NII in its sole discretion. Its decisions are made by reference to its satisfaction with the safety case relating to the reactor in question. From time to time such consent to restart is not received from the NII.

The recent delays to reactor start-up at Hartlepool and Heysham 1 (both associated with the integrity of the pre-stressing wires of the wetted boiler closure units and significant modifications required to the safety case as a result of flooding and coincident fire threats) are recent examples of the NII intervening in a proposed reactor start-up.

The NII on behalf of the HSE regulates conventional and nuclear safety. Its enforcement powers include the serving of improvement notices, prohibition notices, and prosecutions, and in the case of nuclear site licence conditions, through the use of directions, specifications, notifications, consents, approvals and agreements. In addition to the ability to prevent a reactor restarting the NII may also direct a licensee to shut down a nuclear reactor.

Under our nuclear site licences, we are required to carry out a PSR to review the safety case for each of our nuclear power stations once every ten years to demonstrate that it is safe to operate the relevant reactors for the next ten years, taking into account current safety standards, the operational history and the effects of plant ageing. Further details of the PSR are set out below in the paragraph headed: Periodic safety reviews.

Conditions attaching to nuclear site licences require adequate arrangements to be made for the decommissioning of any plant. To ensure that a licensee's decommissioning strategies remain sound as circumstances change, they are reviewed every five years by the NII, which also consults the relevant environmental regulatory bodies. Applicants must justify their chosen decommissioning strategy to the NII and demonstrate that there will be adequate funds to carry out the work. A nuclear power station remains a licensed site throughout the decommissioning process and is subject to the same system of regulation as when it was operational.

Nuclear site licences for our nuclear power stations are currently held in England by BEG and in Scotland by BEG UK. We have announced our intention to re-license our two nuclear power stations in Scotland to BEG and we have applied to SEPA for consent to transfer the RSA authorisations to BEG. The re-licensing of our two Scottish nuclear power stations is expected to be completed in 2005 and will result in all of our UK nuclear power stations being operated by a single licensed company. This is also the subject of an undertaking to the Commission by the Government and by our corresponding agreement pursuant to the Deed of Undertaking to carry out certain compensatory measures in connection with the State Aid Approval, further details of which are set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring paragraph headed: State Aid. Further information on the proposed move to a single licensee is set out below in the paragraph headed: NII safety management audit.

Safety management

In accordance with its site licence, each nuclear power station has established an NSC to provide independent advice to the licensee on significant nuclear safety issues. The NSC consists of senior company personnel with knowledge of, and responsibility for, nuclear safety and the relevant station director and external appointees who have significant experience in the nuclear industry. The NII approves the terms of reference of each NSC, which determines the matters to be referred to it, and has a power of veto on any appointment to an NSC.

Table of Contents**PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)***Licence condition on organisational change*

In March 2000, HSE added a new condition to the standard nuclear site licence, thereby bringing changes to organisational structure and resource directly within the licensing regime. We have site licence compliance arrangements in place to address the new licence condition and to manage organisational changes which may affect nuclear safety, such as the creation of new station posts, reductions in manpower or outsourcing of functions. A programme director and change plan were put in place in connection with the closure of the current headquarters at Peel Park, East Kilbride, Scotland to manage the impact on the business and enable the licensees to satisfy themselves and the NII that the closure will not adversely affect the overall availability of suitably qualified and experienced staff within the central functions who support nuclear operations.

Nuclear liability under the Nuclear Installations Act (NIA)

The NIA provides that the licensee of a nuclear site has a duty to ensure that no occurrence involving either nuclear material or ionising radiation causes personal injury or damage to property other than property belonging to the licensee or any other property which is on the site and is used in connection with the operation of the nuclear installation. The licensee is exclusively liable for a breach of this duty irrespective of fault.

Under the NIA, our liability to pay compensation for a breach of this duty is currently limited to £140m per occurrence (excluding interest or costs). The NIA requires the licensee to make provision, by insurance or such other means as the Government may approve, for sufficient funds to be available at all times to ensure that duly established claims are satisfied up to £140m in the aggregate per site in respect of each of the periods of the licensee's responsibility specified in the NIA. The NIA also requires that the Government will make available such sums (in addition to insurance or other funds which may be available from the licensee) as may be required to ensure that all duly established claims (excluding interest or costs) in respect of any occurrence are satisfied, up to 300m special drawing rights (equivalent to approximately £240m). Contributions to this amount are made by the Signatories to the Brussels Convention. A claim for compensation which is not satisfied out of this sum may, under the NIA, be satisfied by the Government to such extent as it may determine. These provisions mean that if the licensee's liability to pay compensation (£140m per occurrence excluding interest or costs) exceeds the provision (e.g. by insurance) that it is required to make (£140m in the aggregate per site excluding interest or costs), the shortfall must be paid by the Government. This could happen where there are two or more occurrences at a site which, in aggregate, give rise to established claims in excess of £140m. These provisions may be illustrated with an example (this example assumes that both occurrences are within the same period of responsibility under the terms of the NIA):

- (a) if an occurrence at a site results in established claims of £100m (excluding interest or costs) the licensee would be liable for the full amount since that amount falls within the provision it is required to make (£140m per site in the aggregate excluding interest or costs); and
- (b) if there were another occurrence at the same site resulting in established claims of a further £100m (excluding interest and costs), only £40m would be payable by the licensee (that being all that remains of the provision of £140m per site in the aggregate excluding interest or costs it is required to make).

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It remains possible, however, that the Secretary of State may direct the licensee to begin a new period of responsibility in the light of previous occurrences or claims thereby requiring the licensee to reinstate any provision that may have been reduced as a result of claims following an occurrence.

It is likely that these thresholds will increase in the future. On 12 February 2004, the Government signed two Protocols to amend the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Nuclear Energy, 1960 and the Supplementary Brussels Convention, 1963 which, together, increase the limit of liability of nuclear operators to litigation by persons in states which are parties to the Convention to a minimum of £700m; the liability of the Government to £500m; and the liability of the pool of funds contributed to by contracting parties to the Brussels Convention to £300m. Total compensation available under the revised regime will be a minimum of £1.5 billion, a four-fold increase. In addition, the definition of nuclear damage will be expanded to allow a broader range of damage to be compensated, including economic loss and the costs of preventive measures. Following ratification of the Protocol, the NIA will be amended. The Directors believe that the insurance market will have sufficient capacity to offer cover for these increased limits of liabilities when implemented (and are aware that the costs of insurance will increase in line with the increases in liability resulting from the intended amendments to the NIA described above).

Further details are set out below in the paragraph headed: Insurance.

Periodic safety reviews

As mentioned above, in the paragraph headed: Nuclear power station lifetimes, the adequacy of the safety case for each nuclear power station is confirmed at each statutory outage, at which point the NII reviews the operating performance of the station and the results of examination, maintenance, inspection and testing that we have carried out on the plant. Prior to consenting to the nuclear reactor restarting, the NII must be satisfied that there is an adequate safety case for the operation of the plant.

In addition to this ongoing monitoring, pursuant to a condition of our nuclear site licences, a PSR is required at each nuclear power station, at intervals of not more than ten years, to review the safety case for continuing to operate that nuclear reactor for the next ten years taking into account operational history, plant ageing and current safety standards. The nuclear power station's commercial viability may be significantly eroded if we fail to establish the adequacy of the safety case to the NII's satisfaction. As licensee, we seek to demonstrate a robust safety case which will likely involve detailed technical evaluations and complex judgements.

The scope and timing of the PSR is agreed between the NII and the licensee. Once the timing of the PSR is agreed the licensee carries out the review and submits its findings to the NII. The NII's expectation from a PSR is that it will receive confirmation that safety structures, systems and components remain fit for purpose insofar as they are able to perform according to original design intent and that modern standards are achieved as far as reasonably practicable. Additional (or modifications to) safety structures, systems and components that are required to revalidate a safety case, which are identified through the PSR process, are generally to be completed by the licensee prior to the PSR decision date. The NII may require additional work to be carried out to demonstrate the adequacy of the safety case for continued operation and the progress of any such work will usually be monitored by the NII on an ongoing basis.

The first PSR has been completed for each of our AGR power stations. Sizewell B, the last nuclear power station to complete a PSR, provided its submission to the NII in December 2003. The NII is expected to complete its assessment of that submission in September 2005 (although generally the NII takes approximately thirteen months to assess our PSRs). For details of the PSR dates for all our nuclear power stations see the paragraph above headed: Nuclear power station lifetimes.

The next PSRs of Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B nuclear power stations are planned to be submitted to the NII in December 2005 at which time we will be required to confirm that all the recommendations arising from the previous PSRs of Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B have been implemented. The NII's decision whether to agree continued operation of each nuclear power station is expected a year or so after these submission dates.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Public safety

Security

We operate in a world where we must be vigilant to security threats of all sorts in particular as a result of increased levels of terrorist activity internationally. Our operations are regulated and subject to inspection by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) and must comply with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (the NIS Regulations) which are made under ATCSA and all directions made under that legislation. The OCNS also publish annual reports for the Secretary of State. Its latest annual report dated July 2004 is entitled: The State of Security in the Civil Nuclear Industry and Effectiveness of Security Regulation April 2003-March 2004. This report outlines the ongoing changes and planned improvements in security regimes at the UK's nuclear power stations. We are working with the OCNS, along with other nuclear operating companies, to introduce, where necessary, improvements on our security arrangements which may result in increased security costs.

Our security arrangements have been independently reviewed in connection with Admission and, following the findings of that review, we remain confident that our security regime and processes are of a high standard and meet the necessary UK regulatory requirements and where necessary, have an agreed security improvements plan which conforms with Government guidelines. The review covered protective security-related compliance issues as well as compliance with legal requirements. The review concluded that our security policy and our security risk management audit process are documented and subject to regular internal review and that we have effective systems in place to address security issues across a range of areas including personnel recruitment, information technology, physical security and health and safety. We make every effort to ensure that robust security management is achieved.

Emergency arrangements

Emergency arrangements have been established and demonstrated to the satisfaction of the NII who also approve an emergency plan for each nuclear power station which is lodged with, amongst others, local emergency services and public libraries. Information on emergency arrangements is discussed at local consultative meetings and information is provided to local residents. Each nuclear power station has an emergency control centre on-site, as well as off-site arrangements for co-ordination with the police, the local authorities, other emergency services and other government agencies. No nuclear incidents have occurred at any of our sites which have resulted in a release of radioactivity above the authorised level.

Transport

The transport of all radioactive material, both waste and fuel, off-site must comply with the Department for Transport's requirements under RMRTA and the HSE's requirements under HSWA and ATCSA. The RMRTA regulates the transport by road of radioactive material. Under these Acts, the Government may regulate the packaging, labelling, consignment, handling, transport, storage and delivery of radioactive packages. The current regulations require certain consignments to be specifically approved by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Health & safety

Safety performance

Under the terms of our nuclear site licences, all incidents are required to be recorded and investigated and those of significance must be notified to the NII within defined time scales.

To aid public understanding of the safety significance of events at nuclear installations and their consequences, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have developed the International

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Nuclear Event Scale which sets out various levels of incident increasing in seriousness from 0 (i.e. an anomaly with no safety significance) to 7 (i.e. a major accident with widespread health and environmental effects) and the criteria relating to each level.

Only events at level 4 and above involve a significant release of radioactivity off-site. There has never been an event at any of our nuclear power stations resulting in an exposure to radiation of a person on or off the site above the statutory exposure limits, or the need to consider countermeasures to protect the public off-site. No event has been rated higher than level 2 at any of our nuclear power stations (i.e. an incident with a significant failure in safety provisions but with sufficient defence in depth remaining to cope with additional failures or an event resulting in a radiation dose to a worker in excess of the statutory annual dose limit and/or an event which leads to the presence of significant quantities of radioactivity in the installation in areas not expected by design and which require corrective action).

There has been a reduction in the collective dose from radiation exposure to our workers from 0.12 man Sv/reactor in 2002/2003 to 0.09 man Sv/reactor in 2003/2004. This figure represents approximately one tenth of the worldwide median of the operators contributing to information collated by WANO and places us in the top 10 per cent. of performers in this respect.

We maintain an open culture that promotes the reporting of all accidents, including those where no injury actually resulted. The industrial safety accident rate is used to indicate the average number of accidents involving time off work of one day or more. In the year to 31 March 2004, our industrial safety accident rate (i.e. the number of accidents for all utility personnel permanently assigned to a station that result in one or more days away from work (excluding the day of the accident) or one or more days of restricted work (excluding the day of the accident) or fatalities) was 0.68 lost-time accidents per 200,000 man-hours of operation, an increase from 0.53 in the prior year but a significant improvement from 1.06 in the year ended 31 March 2002. While we have made significant improvements in the last two years, our current performance ranks unfavourably in comparison to other nuclear operators contributing data in respect of their industrial safety accident rates to WANO.

A further measure of safety performance is made by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) who monitor and compare the potential severity of accidents and type of lost-time accident and organisational control procedures in place across UK industry. ROSPA has recognised our safety performance by awarding all of our eight nuclear power stations with Gold Awards for achieving very high standards of safety and health in 2003/2004. Gold Medal Awards were presented to two of our nuclear power stations for continued safety performance over the last five years and five of our nuclear power stations were awarded the President's Award for achieving Gold Awards for the last ten years.

NII safety management audit

In 1998, the Board announced its decision to reorganise the British Energy Group and, in particular, our two licensed subsidiaries, BEG and BEG UK, to bring all eight UK nuclear power stations under one licensee, namely BEG. Following this decision, in April and May 1999, the NII carried out a major audit of the safety management arrangements in the central functions that support safety at the licensed sites. The report from this audit was published by the NII in January 2000 and included 103 recommendations to be addressed by both licensees. The NII expressed concern about the ability of BEG and BEG UK to maintain adequate levels of technical support in the future, the extended working time of technical staff, the levels of contractor support being used and the adequacy of the management of change arrangements. The NII confirmed that it was not concerned about the immediate safety of

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the nuclear power stations, but wished to ensure that BEG and BEG UK remained adequate nuclear licensees in the future. For further information on risks associated with these issues see Part II: Risk Factors.

Since publication of the NII audit report in January 2000, we have worked to develop processes to address the NII's concerns. Of the 103 recommendations, 83 have been fully cleared and

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require no further action, one has yet to be cleared (although the way to resolve the issue has been agreed), and 19 are being monitored to confirm that the agreed resolution has been fully carried out. The NII has confirmed that it will review the BEG and BEG UK management of the proposed relocation of technical staff from Peel Park to Barnwood over the next year or so as a test of whether the processes put in place to address the audit findings are working, and will not finally clear the majority of the remaining 19 recommendations until they are satisfied.

Compliance with nuclear regulations

We seek to emphasise the importance of maintaining and continuing to develop a 'safety first' culture in addition to complying with regulatory requirements. Our overall organisational structures and policies and our safety management arrangements are designed to recognise, implement and monitor legislative requirements and developments through appropriate procedures and practices.

WANO

We are a member of WANO which is an international non-governmental organisation comprising operators from more than 420 nuclear power plants in over 30 countries. WANO aims to maximise the safety and reliability of its members' nuclear power plants. WANO undertakes a programme of site evaluations with the intent of reviewing operations at each of our nuclear power stations every two years.

WANO also carries out corporate evaluations where 'corporate' means any part of the power plant organisation which does not report directly to the station director. These evaluations provide an opportunity for members to be informed of how other members of WANO perform in relation to the question of corporate organisation and how the member in question is performing against benchmarks called Performance Objectives & Criteria (POs&Cs) which WANO has developed over the years. A subset of the POs&Cs has been developed as the basis for corporate reviews. At our request, WANO carried out a corporate review of BEG and BEG UK in July 2001, which was the first such review outside of North America.

Key findings from the WANO 2001 corporate review

In September 2001 WANO presented the findings of the corporate review and identified five areas for improvement:

- the material condition and equipment performance of our nuclear power stations needed significant improvement as it was adversely impacting the reliability of those stations;

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- we needed to develop a strong operational focus to ensure sufficient attention was given to the problems and priorities that affect safe and reliable performance of our nuclear power stations;
- the corporate organisation needed to be aligned around an integrated strategy with the clear lines of authority and accountability to improve overall performance;
- operating experience information needed to be used effectively by the line organisation to prevent the recurrence of operational events; and
- an unambiguous message regarding the overriding importance of nuclear safety needed to be provided throughout the organisation.

June 2003 WANO revisit

In June 2003, a WANO corporate review team returned to BEG and BEG UK to review progress in addressing the five main areas for improvement described above. The findings of the team

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

were that, although they recognised the significant work that had been done to address the issues raised in 2001, the actual progress was not sufficient to place the British Energy Group in the same category as the best performing nuclear operators in the world. However, we have reformulated our strategic business objectives and we believe these will address WANO's concerns as well as seeking to improve our performance. Our efforts to gain world standards of safety and reliability are being supported by PIP (described above in the paragraph headed: Performance Improvement Programme).

August 2004 WANO revisit

In August 2004, a WANO team completed a further review and reported on our progress in addressing June 2003 recommendations. This report, received in September 2004, acknowledged the progress that we had made with PIP and agreed that PIP, if properly implemented, would resolve the shortfalls in our performance that WANO had earlier identified. Whilst acknowledging our progress, the WANO team advised that additional emphasis should be placed on improving our reliability and safety culture.

Environmental

Waste, emissions and discharges

The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA) governs the disposal of radioactive waste including radioactive discharges. Radioactive gaseous, liquid or solid waste may only be disposed of or moved off the nuclear licensed site in accordance with authorisations granted under the RSA.

In England and Wales, the EA regulates nuclear power stations and grants authorisations for radioactive waste disposal under the RSA. In Scotland, SEPA regulates under the RSA. We have obtained all necessary consents and authorisations from the EA and SEPA for the disposal of radioactive waste and discharges from our nuclear power stations.

Authorisations for disposal of radioactive waste require the operator to use best practicable means to reduce discharge of radioactivity. The operator must in any event comply with the authorised discharge limits set by the EA or the SEPA. In England, the EA also sets quarterly notification levels for discharges which are lower than these limits and which, if exceeded, require a formal notification and justification to the EA that best practicable means have been employed. The Energy Act requires the EA and the SEPA to carry out periodic reviews of the limitations and conditions attached to the authorisations. In June 2004, the EA announced that it is reviewing the radioactive waste disposal authorisations at all six of BEG's nuclear power stations. The review is intended to ensure that the authorisation limits and conditions remain fully effective, appropriate and up to date reflecting recent technical developments and anticipated site developments as well as national radioactive waste policy. The review is expected to take three years, with public consultation planned for 2006.

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To enable the re-licensing to BEG of the two nuclear power stations in Scotland currently licensed to BEG UK under the NIA, it is also necessary for BEG to be granted the RSA authorisations in respect of the two Scottish nuclear power stations. Applications for transfer of these authorisations have been made to SEPA and the authorisations are expected to be available on a similar timescale to the nuclear site licences to permit relicensing in 2005.

The EPA provides for a waste management licensing regime and imposes certain obligations and duties on companies that treat, keep and dispose of non-radioactive waste. Separately, the Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) environmental authorisation regime introduced in 1991 under the EPA provides an authorisation regime for emissions which requires that a nuclear power station use the Best Available Techniques Not Entailing Excessive Cost to prevent or, where that is not possible, to minimise and render harmless the emission of certain pollutants. A new Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) regime, which will combine the waste

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

management and emission regimes and will impose progressively stricter requirements on nuclear power stations, is being implemented. It is expected to be fully implemented by 2007 but will not totally replace the existing waste management licensing regime. The regulatory bodies under the new IPPC regime will remain the EA and SEPA.

Consumer information

The EU has recently issued a liberalisation directive relating to electricity markets. It includes a requirement for electricity suppliers to provide information on the types of fuel that have been used to produce the electricity, to assist consumers in making informed choices about the environmental impact of the electricity they buy. This requirement is imposed by way of a new licence condition which will be introduced this autumn, although we have been disclosing fuel mix and other environmental information to customers since 2003.

Environmental performance

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture Science produces a *Radioactivity in Food and the Environment* report on behalf of the EA, SEPA, the Food Standards Agency and the Environmental Heritage Service of Northern Ireland which contains radiological monitoring data. The report shows that in 2002 radiation doses to the public resulting from our radioactive discharges to the environment were well below the national and international limits in all parts of the UK.

Both in England and Wales and in Scotland, compliance with radioactive waste disposal authorisations is assessed through returns made to the relevant regulator and a regular programme of site inspections by the regulator.

None of our nuclear power stations has ever been prosecuted for exceeding any of its authorised limits for the disposal of radioactive waste. However, in January 2003 BEG UK was prosecuted at Haddington Sheriff Court, Scotland relating to the unauthorised discharge of an Active Effluent Discharge Tank in October 2001 at Torness and was fined £15,000 reflecting the fact that: (i) this was the first ever prosecution against BEG UK; (ii) the action it took in reporting and remedying the breach; and (iii) the absence of detriment to the environment.

We have been served with a number of Enforcement Notices from the environmental regulatory authorities requiring improvements to plant and/or processes associated with environmental performance, all but two of which we have currently dealt with to the satisfaction of those authorities (because the end dates for making improvements in respect of these particular issues has not yet expired). In October 2003, the EA wrote to us highlighting a series of incidents and non-compliance (both actual and potential) that, in its view, indicated a serious shortfall in our compliance with our environmental permits and environmental legislation. In December 2003, we responded to the EA setting out the actions that we intended to take to resolve the issues raised in their October 2003 letter. The EA's response to our proposals in January 2004 was broadly positive and supportive of the steps we propose to take, although they included some additional suggested measures to be considered by BEG and a requirement for improvements in environmental management and maintenance of the sites. We have established a new function, led at Director level, to focus on environmental and nuclear liabilities issues, and whose key objective is to work with each of our nuclear power

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stations to raise their environmental standards and performance; upgrade management arrangements to meet the EA's expectations; and implement common best practices across the nuclear fleet. We continue to meet with the EA to review our environmental performance.

The EA's latest "Spotlight on Business Environmental Performance" report notes that in 2003 it had raised with our Directors concerns in relation to 21 actual or potential breaches of environmental permits at our six English nuclear power stations. These breaches were dealt with by enforcement action, including a prosecution at Dungeness B. In light of the actions we have taken to rectify this situation and described above, the EA notes in its report that we have

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responded positively by reorganising responsibility for environmental management and planning environmental improvement projects at each of our nuclear power stations.

The EA on 23 September 2004 issued an enforcement notice against BEG at Sizewell B for failing to maintain and keep in good repair the systems for discharging relevant radioactive waste. This relates to alleged discharges of solid waste from two liquid radwaste systems. We cannot rule out further action being taken by the EA over this matter.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Our properties consist of power stations, administrative offices and land and various other properties (a small number of which are held pending disposal). We own the freehold (in England and Wales) and feuhold (in Scotland) to each of our eight UK nuclear power stations and the Eggborough power station as well as the administrative centres at Barnwood near Gloucester in England. In connection with the closure of Peel Park, we have agreed to take on other office leased premises in Scotland at Renfrew and Livingston.

On 2 July 2003, we announced proposals to close our current corporate headquarters at Peel Park in East Kilbride. Under these proposals, certain operational posts will be relocated to our Barnwood office, and our headquarters will be transferred to a new location at Livingston in Scotland. On 15 September 2004, we announced the sale of Peel Park. In connection with the sale of Peel Park we leased a small part of those offices back. A small number of support staff will remain at Peel Park. We have consulted with those employees directly affected by these proposals. Our remaining staff who choose not to be re-located to Barnwood will be temporarily relocated to offices in Renfrew until personnel can be found to fill the position at Barnwood.

In addition, we currently lease an office in London.

Details of our power stations and principal offices are set out below:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Type of nuclear power station (where relevant)</u>	<u>Capacity (MW)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Nuclear Power Stations:			
Dungeness B	AGR	1,110	England
Hartlepool	AGR	1,210	England
Heysham 1	AGR	1,150	England
Heysham 2	AGR	1,250	England

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Hinkley Point B	AGR	1,220	England
Hunterston B	AGR	1,190	Scotland
Sizewell B	PWR	1,188	England
Torness	AGR	1,250	Scotland
Coal-Fired Power Station:			
Eggborough		1,960	England
Principal Offices:			
Barnwood, Gloucester			England
Sheldon Square, London			England
Renfrew			Scotland
Systems House, Livingston			Scotland

Source: British Energy

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

In connection with our privatisation in July 1996, we entered into a Property Clawback Deed with the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. The Property Clawback Deed provides that in the event of the disposal, or an event deemed to be a disposal, of any property in which we had an interest as at 31 March 1996 (other than licensed sites within the meaning of the NIA), the Government is entitled to 50 per cent. of any post-tax gain realised on the disposal in excess of £400,000 increased in accordance with RPI since 1 April 1996. The Property Clawback Deed will cease to have effect from 31 March 2006. We do not believe that a post-tax gain susceptible to claw back was realised on the sale of our offices at Peel Park.

Certain of our Group companies have granted security over their assets in order to secure the Decommissioning Default Payment and related costs and expenses under the Contribution Agreement pursuant to the DDP Debenture which will become effective from the Restructuring Effective Date. For further information on the DDP Debenture, see Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (f).

In addition, under the Government Option Agreement, the Secretary of State will have an option to acquire for £1 each nuclear power station and related station assets (subject to certain exclusions) for the purpose of decommissioning or continuing the operation of the nuclear power stations beyond the date of closure of those stations chosen by the Group. The assets to be transferred upon the exercise of the option will include only that part of the land owned by the nuclear power station which is required for the decommissioning or continued operation of the nuclear power station and the remainder of the land will be retained by the Group. Consequently, the Government Option Agreement imposes restrictions on the use of the retained land and grants certain rights of access to the Secretary of State (or her nominated purchaser) over this retained land. There are also provisions for the Secretary of State to pre-approve the entry into certain agreements relating to this retained land. The Government Option Agreement is described in greater detail in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: The Nuclear Liabilities Fund (and in more detail in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (i)).

INSURANCE

The principal types of insurance carried by us cover: material damage and business interruption; nuclear liability under the NIA; conventional third party liability; directors and officers liability; employers liability; property; motor; personal accident and travel insurance; pension trustee liability; and fidelity guarantee insurance. The principal terms of the material damage and business interruption cover, mandatory insurance cover under the NIA and insurance cover for terrorist acts are set out below.

Material damage and business interruption

In respect of nuclear sites, we insure most of our material damage (including machinery breakdown, boiler explosion and excessive temperature within the nuclear reactor) and business interruptions risk and take all of our nuclear liability cover through Nuclear Risk Insurers Ltd, which is also known as the Nuclear Pool. In 1957 the Nuclear Pool was established by commercial insurers and Lloyd's underwriters to insure nuclear installations in the UK. Similar arrangements exist in other western countries and nuclear pools reinsure each other. The UK Nuclear Pool is the principal insurer of nuclear risks in the UK. Given the current lack of alternative capacity in the insurance market, we will need to continue to insure against these risks with the Nuclear Pool.

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The balance of cover for material damage and business interruption for nuclear sites is insured with the European Mutual Association for Nuclear Insurance (EMANI), of which British Energy is a member. The material damage cover is subject to a deductible of £5m for each and every loss and the business interruption cover is subject to a deductible equal to 90 days of any loss if the cause of the interruption is in a radiation area of the plant and 60 days in respect of other areas

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

of the plant. Furthermore, we retain 7.5 per cent of any loss in excess of the retentions referred to above.

EMANI is a mutual company based in Brussels comprising several non-US owners and operators of civil nuclear facilities. EMANI participates in British Energy's material damage and business interruption insurance programme on a co-insurance basis.

Under its articles of association, members of EMANI may become liable for a retrospective premium call of up to a maximum of six times their annual premium at the time the call is made, in the event of exhaustion through claims of its guarantee fund of £72m. Currently EMANI would be able to withstand one full limit loss before its guarantee fund would be exhausted and a premium call on members of 3.03 times their annual premium, would be necessary in order to reinstate it. British Energy's current annual premium is £721,399. Theoretically, in the event of additional claims in the same year leading to another exhaustion of the guarantee fund, a further premium call could be made up to an aggregate maximum of six times current annual premium, which on current levels, would be up to £4,328,394.

It should be noted that no premium call has ever been made during the twenty-six years of EMANI's existence.

We have also arranged balance sheet protection cover with the Nuclear Pool and EMANI which provide reimbursement for all costs incurred following a loss which exceeds £125m and results in the closure of a unit. These costs would include a diminution in the asset value of the nuclear power station and decontamination.

The Group's insurances contain customary exclusions and restrictions. For example, the material damage and business interruption cover for nuclear sites excludes cover for damage caused by losses due to erosion, corrosion, stress corrosion, cracking or embrittlement due to prolonged neutron bombardment as well as other exclusions.

The material damage and business interruption cover for the Eggborough power station is written by the commercial insurance market. It is subject to a deductible for each and every loss for losses to generator transformers of £1.75m and for all other losses of £1m. The business interruption cover is subject to a deductible equal to 60 days of any loss if the cause of the interruption is damage to the steam boiler, steam turbine generator, generator transformers or LP Rotors and 45 days for all other losses. The generator transformers deductible is based on the understanding that EPL has access to a spare transformer owned by EPL for the sole use of EPL and stored on EPL's site. EPL is also currently in negotiations in respect of a shared spares agreement with PowerGen that will allow it to call upon another spare transformer. If the shared spares agreement is not agreed between EPL and PowerGen and therefore the other spare generator transformer is not available to EPL, the deductible will continue to remain at 60 days on the proviso that the spare owned by EPL remains available. If however, for any reason, neither the EPL spare or the proposed shared spare is available, the deductible will revert to 90 days.

The Group's insurances contain standard exclusions and restrictions and the material damage and business interruption cover does not therefore provide cover for damage caused by, for example, losses due to erosion, corrosion, stress corrosion or cracking.

Nuclear liability under the NIA

In relation to nuclear liability under the NIA, we have complied with our obligations under the NIA to make appropriate financial arrangements to meet claims under the NIA by obtaining insurance cover for an aggregate limit of £140m per site; see the above paragraph headed: Nuclear liabilities under the Nuclear Installations Act. The cover is subject to a right of recovery by Insurers of £10m in respect of any one claim. In relation to the increase in the required level

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

of cover which will arise following the ratification of the Protocol (referred to above under the heading: Nuclear liability under the Nuclear Installations Act) to £700m, our insurer has confirmed its expectation of being able to provide sufficient insurance capacity to accept the risks required by the increased cover. We are not, however, in a position to determine how much more this mandatory insurance may cost compared to our current insurance premiums nor to describe the other terms on which our insurer would be willing to make the cover available.

Terrorism cover

Cover for nuclear liability sustained by acts of terrorism has been obtained for the year ending 31 March 2005 from the Nuclear Pool. This cover is subject to the same limits and rights of recovery by insurers as that referred to in the paragraph above headed Nuclear liability under the NIA. The Nuclear Pool indicated following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York that it would not provide cover for nuclear liability arising from terrorist acts without agreement from the Government that it would provide reinsurance cover. This arrangement is subject to annual review and has been forthcoming for the last three years. There is no assurance that the Government will be able to do so in the future.

In addition, the Nuclear Pool provides cover for damage to nuclear installations caused by acts of terrorism resulting in fire or explosion only and resultant business interruption cover caused by terrorist acts as part of the material damage and business interruption policy for nuclear installations. Coverage is subject to the same retentions for material damage and business interruption as outlined above. Cover also applies to all other non-nuclear locations excluding Eggborough.

For Eggborough, we have purchased cover for the cost of damage and business interruption sustained by acts of terrorism from the commercial insurance market. This cover is subject to the same retentions as the material damage and business interruption policy purchased for Eggborough.

When considering the appropriateness of the insurance cover, we have assessed the insurable risks and the advice of our insurance brokers. We are of the opinion that cover provided by the current insurance programme for the Group is of the type, scope and in the amount that is normally purchased by a business of our nature and situation. In addition, we believe that the levels of retained liability under the current insurance programme for the Group are of the amount that is normally purchased by a business of our nature and situation.

Nira Limited (Nira)

British Energy currently holds shares in Nira, a captive insurance company registered in the Isle of Man. Its shareholding as at 30 September 2004 was 656,939 or 3.11 per cent. of Nira. As a shareholder of Nira, British Energy is called upon to agree and adopt the financial statements and, if applicable, the proposed allocation of profits that is tabled each year at Nira's annual general meeting. At 30 September 2004, Nira was showing a net loss of £998,634. Dividends of £955,145 were declared on 4 June 2004 and Nira has incorporated the dividend payments as part of its loss to produce a loss figure in its books of £1,953,799 as at 30 September 2004. Under its articles of association, members of Nira are liable to be called upon from time to time in respect of any

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monies unpaid on their shares as Nira is a limited liability company. However, British Energy's shares in Nira are paid in full.

British Energy is currently disposing of its shareholding in Nira. Nira has a five-year exit policy. A special agreement was reached in 2000 to allow British Energy to dispose of its shares. Fifty per cent. of its shares were redeemed in 2001 with the balance being redeemed in equal instalments over the next four years. The final redemption of shares will be effected no later than 30 June 2005.

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EMPLOYEE SHARE INCENTIVE PLANS

New British Energy has adopted the following employee share incentive plans:

- The British Energy Group plc Interim Deferred Bonus Plan 2005 (the Interim Bonus Plan);
- The British Energy Group plc Long Term Deferred Bonus Plan (the LT Plan);
- The British Energy Group plc Executive Share Option Plan 2004 (the British Energy Group plc Executive Plan);
- The British Energy Group plc Employee Share Option Plan 2004 (the British Energy Group plc Employee Plan);
- The British Energy Group plc Share Incentive Plan (the SIP) and an associated trust (the SIP Trust); and
- The British Energy Group plc Sharesave Scheme 2004 (the British Energy Group plc Sharesave Scheme)

(together, the British Energy Group plc Share Plans).

Principal features common to all the British Energy Group plc Share Plans

Each of the British Energy Group plc Share Plans may operate over newly issued shares, market purchased shares or, if appropriate, treasury shares (other than the Interim Bonus Plan or the LT Plan for which New Shares will be issued).

The British Energy Group plc Share Plans provide that:

- no options/awards will be granted which would cause the number of shares issued or issuable pursuant to options/awards granted in the previous ten years under the British Energy Group plc Executive Plan or any other executive share plan adopted by New British Energy or any subsidiary to exceed 5 per cent. of New British Energy's issued ordinary share capital; and
- no options/awards will be granted which would cause the number of shares issued or issuable pursuant to options/awards granted in the previous ten years under any British Energy Group plc Share Plan or any other

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employee share plan adopted by New British Energy or any subsidiary to exceed 10 per cent. of New British Energy issued ordinary share capital.

- Any treasury shares transferable or transferred under British Energy Group plc Share Plans will be deemed to be new issue shares in New British Energy when calculating the limits described above.

Further information on employee share incentive plans is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 8.

PENSIONS

Since we were previously part of a state owned industry, our employees are members of the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS), an industry-wide scheme. The ESPS is divided into a number of financially independent sections, which are known as Groups (for further information see Part X: Additional information, paragraph 9 headed: Pensions). We operate two ESPS Groups: the British Energy Generation Group (Generation Group) and the British Energy Combined Group (Combined Group).

Members' normal contributions are at the rate of five per cent. of salary for the Generation Group and six per cent. of salary for the Combined Group. Employers' regular contributions

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(before adjustment for the 31 March 2004 actuarial valuation results see further below) are currently at the rate of 17.1 per cent. of salaries for the Generation Group and 15.3 per cent. of salaries for the Combined Group, these being the rates advised by the ESPS actuary following the 31 March 2001 actuarial valuations. Prior to 1 November 2002, employers' regular contributions to the Generation Group were paid at the rate of 10 per cent. of salaries as from 1 April 2001 as part of our arrangements (in accordance with the terms of the ESPS) to deal with the past service funding surplus that was disclosed by the 2001 valuation. For both of our ESPS Groups, the employer contribution rates are (as from 1 April 2004) subject to an offset on account of contracting-out age-related rebates from the Inland Revenue (as advised by the ESPS actuary). Additional contributions are required from the employers from time to time as advised by the ESPS actuary to fund certain additional liabilities, such as the additional costs of redundancy related early retirement benefits.

In addition to their benefits from the ESPS, approximately 25 of our current and former employees have contractual entitlements to additional pension payments (and, in some cases, life assurance benefits) which supplement the benefits payable from the ESPS. These additional benefits are funded from our own operational cash flow at such time as they become due (except for the life assurance arrangements, which are externally insured).

As at 31 March 2004:

- the Generation Group had 4,859 contributing members, 8,412 pensioners (including dependants) and 2,191 deferred pensioners, and the value of the net assets of the Generation Group was £1,791,000,000; and
- the Combined Group had 258 contributing members, 14 pensioners (including dependants) and 12 deferred pensioners, and the value of the net assets of the Combined Group was £31,000,000.

The preliminary report on the actuarial valuation for the Generation Group as at 31 March 2004 states that on the ongoing actuarial basis used by the ESPS actuary, the Generation Group had a funding deficiency of £375,800,000 as at 31 March 2004.

The preliminary report on the actuarial valuation for the Combined Group as at 31 March 2004 states that on the ongoing actuarial basis used by the ESPS actuary, the Combined Group had a funding deficiency of £8,800,000 as at 31 March 2004.

The principal financial assumptions used by the ESPS actuary for the purposes of the Generation Group valuation were as follows:

	Position at 31	
	Method of calculating assumptions	March 2004
Price inflation	Difference between long-dated Fixed and Index-Linked Gilt yields	2.9 per cent. per annum

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Rate of general pay increases	As Price inflation plus 1.5 per cent. per annum	4.4 per cent. per annum
Rate of pension increases	Price inflation subject to a floor of 0 per cent. per annum	3.0 per cent. per annum
Rate of increases of preserved pensions	As Rate of pension increases	3.0 per cent. per annum
Post-retirement discount rate	Long-dated Fixed Gilt yield plus 0.5 per cent. per annum	5.2 per cent. per annum
Pre-retirement discount rate	Long-dated Fixed Gilt yield plus 2.0 per cent. per annum	6.7 per cent. per annum

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

The provisions of the ESPS and the privatisation protected persons statutory pensions regulations (for further information see Part X: Additional information, paragraph 9 headed: Pensions, in relation to those regulations generally) require us to make additional employer contributions to each of our ESPS Groups, with a view to making good any funding deficiency over time (with regard to appropriate actuarial advice, as provided for under the ESPS and the protected persons regulations). We have taken actuarial advice (based on the valuation results as at 31 March 2004, referred to above) as to the future employer contribution requirements for the Generation Group and currently anticipate that:

- as from 1 April 2005, the rate of employers regular contributions for future service benefits under the Generation Group will increase from 17.1 per cent. of salaries to 22.4 per cent. of salaries (less the offset on account of contracting-out age-related rebates from the Inland Revenue, as advised by the ESPS actuary, which is currently assessed as 2.1 per cent. of salaries);
- additional employer contributions will be paid towards the Generation Group funding deficiency (in monthly instalments), totalling £19.0m for the twelve months commencing 1 April 2005, £19.5m for the twelve months commencing 1 April 2006 and £20.0m for the twelve months commencing 1 April 2007; and
- those additional employer contributions to the Generation Group would then increase to a total of £50.3m for the twelve months commencing 1 April 2008 (also to be paid in monthly instalments), and would then be paid at that rate increasing by 2.5 per cent. for each successive period of twelve months from 1 April 2009 until 31 March 2017. However, in practice we anticipate that the employer contribution requirements as from 1 April 2008 for both of our ESPS Groups will be determined by reference to the results of the next regular ESPS actuarial valuations, as at 31 March 2007.

It is our intention to contribute towards the Generation Group funding deficiency at higher rates than those set out above if sufficient cash resources, in light of our other obligations and working capital requirements, permit.

We currently anticipate that as from 1 April 2005, the rate of employers regular contributions for future service benefits under the Combined Group will increase from 15.3 per cent. of salaries to 19.7 per cent. of salaries (less the offset on account of contracting-out age-related rebates from the Inland Revenue, as advised by the ESPS actuary, which is currently assessed as 3.3 per cent. of salaries). We will also be making additional employer contributions towards the Combined Group funding deficiency (having regard to appropriate actuarial advice).

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The members of the Board and the board of directors of Holdings plc at the date of this document are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>
Adrian Montague	Chairman	56
Mike Alexander	Chief Executive#	57
Roy Anderson	Chief Nuclear Officer*#	56
Stephen Billingham	Finance Director#	46
William A Coley	Non-executive Director	61
Pascal Colombani	Non-executive Director	59
John Delucca	Non-executive Director	61
Ian Harley	Non-executive Director	54
David Pryde	Non-executive Director	55
Clare Spottiswoode	Deputy Chairman	51
Sir Robert Walmsley	Non-executive Director#	63

*The appointment of Roy Anderson as Chief Nuclear Officer is to be approved by the NII under the terms of our site licences. We expect this approval to be forthcoming. On this basis, for the purpose of this document, we refer to Roy Anderson as Chief Nuclear Officer.

#These Directors are also directors of BEG and BEG UK. It is intended that the remaining Directors will also in due course be appointed directors of BEG and BEG UK.

Adrian Montague

Appointed Chairman of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently Chairman of British Energy having been appointed in November 2002, he is currently also Chairman of Michael Page International plc, Chairman of Network Rail, Chairman of Infrastructure Investors Limited, a director of Cross London Rail Links Limited, a senior international adviser to Société

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Generale and a non-executive director of Friends Provident plc and Cellmark AB. A law graduate of Cambridge University, he was a partner with Linklaters & Paines, before joining Kleinwort Benson as Head of Project and Export Finance Department in 1994, and subsequently became Global Co-Head of the Project Finance of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson in 1997. Then he undertook a number of senior roles in the implementation of the Government's private finance policies, serving as the Chief Executive of the Treasury Taskforce from 1997-2000, and as Deputy Chairman of Partnerships UK plc, and a Private Finance Advisor to the Department of the Environment, Transport and The Regions between 2000 and 2001. In September 2002 he was appointed to head the review team monitoring London's Crossrail project and he has recently been appointed the pro bono Chair (as well as a director) of Cross London Rail Links Limited, the project company, until March 2005. He was awarded a CBE in 2001.

Mike Alexander

Appointed Chief Executive of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently Chief Executive of British Energy having been appointed in March 2003. Prior to joining British Energy he was Chief Operating Officer and an executive Board Member of Centrica plc, and before that Managing Director of British Gas Trading. After graduating from Manchester University with a BSc in Chemical Engineering and an MSc in Control Engineering

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he joined BP, undertaking a number of operational plant improvement, engineering, corporate planning and business development projects throughout the world. He joined British Gas in 1991 as Commercial Director of BG Exploration & Production Limited and was a Director of several overseas exploration and production subsidiaries, becoming Managing Director of British Gas Supply Limited. Whilst at British Gas he directed their move into the deregulated electricity market and oversaw the launch of the Goldfish credit card. He is a Chartered Engineer and Chartered Scientist and a Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is a non-executive Director of Associated British Foods plc and was previously Chairman of AG Solutions Limited, Hydrocarbon Resources Limited, Goldfish Bank Limited and a non-executive Director of The Energy Saving Trust Limited. He is Chairman of the Executive and Group Risk Management Committees and a member of the Nuclear Performance Review Committee.

Roy Anderson

Appointed Chief Nuclear Officer of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently Chief Nuclear Officer of British Energy, having also been appointed to that position on 16 September 2004 following his joining British Energy on 5 July 2004. Previously President of Public Service Enterprise Nuclear Group in the US and Chief Nuclear Officer of Nuclear Management Company LLC and Florida Power Corporation. His early career involved working for Carolina Power and Light Company, Boston Edison Company and General Electric Company, all in the US. He has a degree in marine and nuclear engineering and an MBA in operation research. He is a member of the Executive, Group Risk Management, Nuclear Performance Review and Safety, Health and Environment Committees.

Stephen Billingham

Appointed Finance Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. He joined British Energy on 25 August 2004 and was appointed to the Board as Finance Director on 16 September 2004. Prior to joining British Energy, he was the Group Finance Director of the engineering consultancy and support services group, WS Atkins plc, during its successful financial recovery. Previously, he led the finance team which signed the large and complex Metronet London Underground Public Private Partnership, which maintains two-thirds of the London Underground infrastructure. For seven years he was the Group Treasurer of the engineering group BICC plc (now Balfour Beatty plc). He has held finance positions in Severn Trent Plc, Burmah Oil plc and British Telecommunications plc. He holds a BSc from Brunel University and a PhD from the University of Aston in Birmingham. He is member of the Association of Corporate Treasurers.

William A. Coley

Appointed as an independent non-executive Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently an independent non-executive Director of British Energy having been appointed in June 2003. He joined Duke Energy, a major US utility company, as an engineer in 1966, becoming Group President in 1997 and retiring from this position in 2003 after a 37 year career with the company. During his time at Duke Energy he held a variety of management and executive roles including Vice-President, Central Division and Senior Vice-President, Power Delivery. He was elected to Duke Energy's Board of Directors in 1990, becoming Senior Vice-President, Customer Group and was President of the Associated Enterprises Group between 1994 and 1997. A Non-Executive Director of CT Communications Inc., and Peabody Energy (all publicly traded companies) and a director of ER Jahna Enterprises (a privately owned company), he holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute

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of Technology. He is a registered Professional Engineer in North and South Carolina. He is Chairman of the Nuclear Performance Review Committee and a member of the Governance and Nominations and Remuneration Committees.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Pascal Colombani

Appointed as an independent non-executive Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently an independent non-executive Director of British Energy having been appointed in June 2003. He holds a doctorate in nuclear physics and is a former Chairman and CEO of the French Atomic Energy Commission. He was also formerly the Chairman (non-executive) of Areva, the nuclear engineering conglomerate, and a board member of Electricité de France, France Télécom, Cogéma, Framatome and Technicatome. He is a member of the French Academy of Technology, an Associate Director at ATKearney and a board member of Alstom SA and of the French Institute of Petroleum. He was awarded the Legion of Honour in 2000. He is a member of the Governance and Nominations and Nuclear Performance Review Committees.

John Delucca

Appointed as an independent non-executive Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently an independent non-executive Director of British Energy having been appointed in February 2004. He holds an MBA in Finance from Fairleigh-Dickinson University School of graduate study and a BA from Bloomfield College and has held a variety of senior roles in US business. Most recently, from 2003 until March of this year he was Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of the REL Consultancy Group. Prior to that, from 1998 to 2002 he was executive Vice-President, Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer of Coty Inc and a member of their Executive Committee. Between 1993 and 1998 he was Senior Vice-President and Treasurer of RJR Nabisco Inc., having previously held executive positions with Hasco Associates, a private investment group, the Lexington Group, providing financial consulting to distressed companies, the Trump Group and the International Controls Corporation, where he was executive Vice-President and CFO as well as Chairman and CEO of a subsidiary, Transway Finance Company. He is a non-executive Director, and chairs the audit committees of, ITC Deltacom, Enzo Biochem Inc. and The Elliott Company. He has been a lecturer at Fordham University's Graduate School of Business Administration and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Seton Hall University School of Business Administration. He is Deputy Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Governance and Nominations and Trading Review Committees.

Ian Harley

Appointed as an independent non-executive Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently an Independent Non-Executive Director of British Energy having been appointed in June 2002. He joined Abbey National in 1977 where he held a variety of posts in the Finance, Retail Banking and Wholesale Banking Divisions before joining the board in 1993. He spent nine years on the board as first, Finance Director, then Chief Executive, before retiring in 2002. An Economics graduate of Edinburgh University, he is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a Fellow and Past President of the Institute of Bankers. He is currently a non-executive director of Rentokil Initial plc and Remploy Limited, a Governor of the Whitgift Foundation and a Vice-President of the National Deaf Children's Society. Previously Chairman of the Association for Payment Clearing Services, a member of the Deposit Protection Board, appointed by the Bank of England, and a member of the Financial Services Authority's Practitioner Panel. He is Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Governance and Nominations and Trading Review Committees.

David Pryde

Appointed as an independent non-executive Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently an independent non-executive Director of British Energy having been appointed on 1 September 2004, he has extensive trading and risk management experience. Having formerly headed precious metals trading in Asia for NM Rothschild and

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Sons Ltd and Philipp Brothers Inc., he joined JP Morgan & Co Inc. in 1984 and has subsequently held various senior management positions in trading businesses, including Global Head of Precious Metals Trading, Global Head of Commodity Derivatives Trading and Marketing and Global Head of Futures and Options Brokerage. He sat on the boards of the Commodity Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Futures Industry Association. He is Chairman of the Trading Review Committee and a member of the Remuneration and Audit Committees.

Clare Spottiswoode

Appointed Deputy Chairman and senior independent non-executive Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September. Currently an independent non-executive Director of British Energy having been appointed in December 2001. Her career started as an economist with the Treasury before establishing her own software company. Between 1993 and 1998 she was Director General of Ofgas and has also served as a member of the Government's Deregulation Task Force (1993) and the Public Services Productivity Panel (1998). Mrs Spottiswoode currently chairs Busy Bees Nurseries Group Limited and Economatters Limited and was previously a non-executive Director of Booker plc. She is also currently a non-executive Director of Advanced Technology (UK) plc, Tullow Oil plc and Petroleum Geo-Services ASA. Awarded a CBE for services to industry in 1999, she holds degrees from Cambridge and Yale Universities. She is the Chairman of the Remuneration Committee, a member of the Trading Review Committee and she is the senior independent non-executive Director.

Sir Robert Walmsley

Appointed as an independent non-executive Director of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 16 September 2004. Currently an independent non-executive Director of British Energy having been appointed in August 2003. Previously he served in the Royal Navy where his final appointment was as Controller of the Navy and member of the Navy Board as a Vice Admiral, starting in 1994. He was knighted in 1995. During his earlier naval career he held a number of nuclear related posts including service as the Chief Engineer of a nuclear submarine, Project Manager of a Nuclear Submarine Refit and Refuel, and Chairman of the Naval Nuclear Technical Safety Panel; he was Director General, Submarines between 1993 and 1994. After retiring from the Navy, he was appointed as Chief of Defence Procurement (a Permanent Secretary grade post in the Civil Service), occupying that position from 1996 until 2003. Holding an MA from Cambridge University and a postgraduate diploma in control engineering, he also was awarded an MSc in Nuclear Science and Technology from the Royal Naval College. He is an independent director of General Dynamics Corporation, EDO Corporation, Stratos Global Limited and he is Chairman of EDO (UK) Limited and the Major Projects Association. Earlier this year he was appointed as a Senior Adviser at Morgan Stanley. He is Chairman of the Safety, Health and Environment and Governance and Nominations Committees. He is also a member of the Remuneration, Audit and Nuclear Performance Review Committees. He is also a non-executive Director of the Group's licensed nuclear generator subsidiaries.

Senior management

In addition to the executive Directors referred to above, the current executive management team are:

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>
Robert Armour	General Counsel and Company Secretary	45
Neil O Hara	Trading Director	38
Sally Smedley	HR Director	55

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Appointed Company Secretary of New British Energy and Holdings plc on 2 July 2004. Appointed Company Secretary of British Energy on 13 December 1995 and General Counsel in 2003. A solicitor, he was a partner in Wright Johnston & Mackenzie, solicitors, between 1986 and 1990 before joining Scottish Nuclear as Company Secretary in 1990. He was Director of Performance Development for Scottish Nuclear between 1993 and 1995. From 1997 to 2003 he was Director of Corporate Affairs. He holds a law degree and MBA from Edinburgh University and has also attended INSEAD's Advanced Management Programme.

Neil O Hara

Appointed Trading Director of British Energy on 4 May 2004. He was previously employed by RWE Innogy and before that was Managing Director for Strategy and Business Development at American Electric Power.

Sally Smedley

Appointed HR Director of British Energy on 8 February 1999. Previously Human Resources and Corporate Relations Director of East Midlands Electricity plc and Employee Relations Director of BOC Group plc. She has a BSc (Tech) in Occupational Psychology.

We are looking to appoint a new Technical Director, to lead our Technical division on a permanent basis, to replace one of our executives who is fulfilling this role on a temporary basis.

Employees

The table below sets out the average number of full-time equivalent permanent employees of the British Energy Group, categorised by business area, for each of the last three financial years.

Business Area	Year to 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
Power Stations Generation	3499	3579	3612

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Corporate Support Functions	399	430	467
Engineering & Technical Support	603	586	552
Group Services	49	67	82
Business Development	18	16	10
North America	32	28	12
Eggborough	251	247	258
Power & Energy Trading	101	129	146
	-----	-----	-----
Total	4952	5082	5139
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Source: British Energy

The classification of employees is for our internal purposes and has and may change from time to time to reflect our business needs. A large proportion of our employees (approximately 80 per cent. of the total) are members of trade unions. We believe that the number of employees will likely have increased by approximately 254 in the financial year ending 31 March 2005.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Directors support high standards of corporate governance. We have undertaken an evaluation of the Board's performance to date as recommended by the Higgs Report 'Review of the role and effectiveness of non-executive directors' and from Admission we intend to comply with best practice in corporate governance, including the requirements of Section 1 of the

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

revised Combined Code. We intend to comply with the requirements of the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Sarbox) and to adopt a code of business conduct and ethics that meets the standards set forth in Sarbox and, if our New ADRs are listed on the NYSE, the NYSE Listed Company Manual as if, to the extent required to do so under the terms of the New Bonds, we were a domestic US issuer. As the successor company to British Energy, we have built on its experiences of corporate governance to assist us formulating our practices and policies outlined below.

The Board

Our Chairman is Adrian Montague. Mike Alexander is our Chief Executive and will be responsible for safety throughout our business. Stephen Billingham is our Finance Director and, subject to NII approval, Roy Anderson will be our Chief Nuclear Officer. The Board also comprises seven non-executive Directors. Biographies of the Directors are set out in the paragraph above headed Directors, senior management and employees .

We intend to comply with the sections of the Combined Code concerning the balance of the Board. We will have three executive and seven non-executive Directors in addition to the Chairman and all our non-executive Directors are independent. The independent non-executive Directors are William Coley, Pascal Colombani, John Delucca, Ian Harley, David Pryde, Clare Spottiswoode and Sir Robert Walmsley. Clare Spottiswoode is the Company's senior non-executive Director and Deputy Chairman. It is intended that at each annual general meeting any Director who has been appointed by the Board since the previous annual general meeting will be required to retire and may seek election, together with such other Directors as necessary, to ensure that the number nearest to, but not less than, one third of the Directors for the time being stand for election (or re-election) at that meeting. In order to comply with the provisions of Rule A.7 of the Combined Code, we intend to ensure that all Directors seek re-election at least every three years. We intend to review the composition of the Board from time to time and to make any appropriate appointments.

All of the non-executive Directors who will be serving on the Board have held senior positions in other major organisations either in the UK or internationally. Each of them will be involved in decision making on key issues facing the Group and will bring a wide range of experience to the Board. It is intended that our non-executive directors meet as a group from time to time without executive directors present. Although the Chairman will be present at some of these meetings, he will not be present at meetings to appraise his performance.

In accordance with the requirements of the Combined Code, the Board will have a number of matters reserved to it, including appropriate strategic, financial and organisational matters. These will be considered at the Board's monthly meetings. The Board will receive reports covering operational, financial, safety, risk management and regulatory performance to assist it in identifying key issues for the business on a regular and timely basis. All Directors may obtain independent professional advice at the Company's expense, and all Directors will have access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary, Robert Armour, who will be accountable to the Board through the Chairman on all corporate governance matters. Where appropriate, matters may be delegated to Board committees, all of which will have written constitutions and terms of reference. The various committees and their intended roles and memberships are identified below.

Matters requiring Board approval

The Board is responsible for ensuring compliance of all Group activities with statutory and regulatory requirements and has specified that the following actions must be subject to Board approval:

- any alteration of the articles of association or the memorandum of association of the Company or its operating subsidiaries and approval of the procedures and regulations of the Board;

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

- approval of the Group corporate plan and the Group budget;
- approval of financial transactions, borrowings and contracts, except as delegated by financial and contractual authorities for the Group;
- approval of the annual report and accounts, the half yearly results and major price sensitive announcements on behalf of the Company;
- the undertaking by the Company of material litigation;
- disposal of land or assets except as delegated under the Board authorities;
- the entry into contracts for land or non-operational assets except as delegated under the Board authorities;
- the acquisition or disposal of shareholdings in companies;
- investment decisions except as delegated under the Board authorities;
- the appointment of key advisers to the Group;
- amalgamation of the pension schemes of Group companies or major alterations to the pension scheme trust deeds;
- group electricity trading and contracting strategy; and
- the approval of the Group's capital and funding structure.

Duties of the Chairman and the Chief Executive

The division of responsibilities between the Chairman and Chief Executive has been documented and approved by the Board in accordance with good practice. The division of responsibility is reviewed periodically. In essence Adrian Montague, as non-executive Chairman, is responsible for the proper and efficient running of the Board and its scrutiny of, and assistance to, management. Mike Alexander, as Chief Executive, is responsible for the proper and efficient running of our business.

Risk management

The Board will be responsible for determining strategies and policies for risk and control and management will be responsible for designing, operating and monitoring risk and control processes which implement Board policies effectively. The Board and its committees will consider risk management and internal control on a regular basis in accordance with the recommendations of the Turnbull report, Guidance for directors on the Combined Code .

The New British Energy Group s risk management process will be based on the identification, mitigation and monitoring of the key risks that influence our strategy and business objectives.

At its regular meetings, the Board will review our business objectives and the risks and controls associated with these. Specific categories of risk will also be reviewed by appropriate committees, including the group risk management committee and subsidiary boards. Risks reviewed by the Board will include: safe operation of our plant; operational risks including reliability, output, plant condition and human performance; the financial position of the New British Energy Group; changes in energy markets; nuclear safety and safety regulations; commercial and environmental regulation; policy proposals by legislative bodies in the markets in which we operate; treasury and trading financial exposures; major contracts; and the acquisition of radioactive waste management services.

Our reporting arrangements will operate across the New British Energy Group s operating subsidiaries and corporate functions, monitoring business performance against key

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

performance indicators and the business plan. Risk logs identifying business risks facing the New British Energy Group as a whole and particular parts of the business will be regularly considered at subsidiary and divisional level and reported to the Executive Committee so that mitigation plans may be established and monitored. Our principal operating subsidiaries will also monitor internal control and risk mitigation. In particular the boards of BEG and BEG UK will review the operation of the New British Energy Group's UK nuclear fleet and risk and internal control issues affecting those businesses.

The conduct of risk assessment will involve senior management of the New British Energy Group in addition to the Executive Directors. The results of these assessments will be summarised and reported to the Board. These risk assessments will continue to be used as part of our evaluation of the risks we face.

The Board intends to report on management and decommissioning liabilities to the boards of BEG and BEG UK as the authorised licence holders which will, in turn, approve the Annual Liabilities Report required under the NLFA.

Committee structure and reporting

The chairman of each committee will report to the full Board following each committee meeting reporting on decisions taken or endorsed and making recommendations as appropriate to the Board. The Board may delegate authority to each of the said committees where the subject of the delegation does not require Board approval. The papers for each committee are made available to all Board members, other than the Remuneration and Nominations Committee papers which are only circulated to independent members or as those committees may direct. The Chief Executive reports to the Board each month on the decisions or recommendations of the executive committee. The intention of the committee structure is to allow the committees to scrutinise performance in more detail than the Board could achieve in full session and so allows the Board to focus to a greater extent on strategic issues.

Our committee structure is described below:

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee will be comprised entirely of independent Directors and will be chaired by Ian Harley. John Delucca will be deputy chairman. Ian Harley and John Delucca are considered to be the financial experts on the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee's primary purpose will be to assist the Board in overseeing the integrity of our financial statements and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and for scrutinising announcements with a material financial impact. The Committee will also be responsible for considering and recommending appropriate accounting policies for the Group, and reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control and compliance procedures and ensuring that the Group complies with all statutory requirements in relation to the principles, policies and practices adopted in the preparation of financial statements. The Committee will review risk management processes across the Group including actions to mitigate or control key risks facing us. The Committee will receive reports twice per annum from both our external and internal auditors in relation to matters arising from their work. The Committee will receive reports regularly (being at least twice per annum) from the Group Risk Management Committee. The Committee will

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review the scope and results of the external audit including the auditors' effectiveness, independence and objectivity, and will be responsible for making recommendations to the Board in relation to the appointment and independence of the external auditors and their remuneration. The Committee will also review the nature and extent of the non-audit services provided by the external auditors to the New British Energy Group to ensure that these are appropriate, and that a balance of objectivity and value for money is maintained. The Committee will normally meet the day prior to a Board meeting and otherwise as required by the business of the Company.

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

Remuneration Committee

The Committee will be comprised entirely of independent Directors and will be chaired by Clare Spottiswoode. The Chief Executive, Mike Alexander, will attend meetings to give advice as required by the committee. He will not be present when matters affecting his own terms and conditions are being discussed. The Committee will advise the Board on the pay, benefits and other employment conditions of the executive Directors and the members of the executive committee. The committee will also review the pay and benefits of other senior staff to ensure reasonable consistency. The committee will meet at least four times per annum.

In determining the remuneration package for individual Directors, the committee will target total remuneration at the middle-market level of its comparator companies. The comparator group consists of other utilities and other companies of similar size, type of activity or complexity.

The committee's aim will be to ensure that the total package (which includes benefits) is competitive and that, as a consequence, we will attract and retain executive Directors with the skills and abilities to manage and develop the business.

It will be our policy that a significant proportion of our executive Directors' total remuneration should be variable and linked to our performance. Recognising the external market, the movement in the base pay of our executive Directors and executive committee members should be broadly in line with the pay increases awarded to other staff. Additionally, it will be our policy that in determining the link between base and variable pay, our commitment to safety and the environment should be reflected, and that there should be a strong and clear link between reward and performance against agreed stretch targets. No elements of remuneration other than base pay are pensionable.

The remuneration of our non-executive Directors will be determined by the Board without the participation of the Directors concerned. As they will be appointed for three-year terms they will not have service contracts. They will not be eligible for participation in any of our share schemes and they will not receive any pension provisions from us.

The policy of the remuneration committee will be to set notice or contract periods for executive Directors at one year or less. Where it is necessary to offer longer notice or contract periods to new Directors who are externally recruited our policy will be to reduce these as soon as possible after the initial period. From Admission, all our executive Directors have a 12 month rolling contract.

Governance and Nominations Committee

The Governance and Nominations Committee will be comprised entirely of independent Directors and will be chaired by Robert Walmsley. The Committee will be responsible for encouraging and monitoring the adoption of good corporate governance practice drawing on the practices and codes prevailing in the UK, US and the EU. It will review the Company's code of conduct and ethics

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and compliance with this and legal obligations generally. The Committee will also advise on the corporate social responsibility performance of the Group.

The Committee will also advise our Board in relation to senior appointments throughout the Group including appointments to Committees, in consultation with the Chairman of the Company. Board appointments recommended by the Committee will be made after an appropriate search and selection process has been undertaken including, where appropriate, the use of external advisers to identify suitable candidates.

Safety, Health and Environment Committee

This Committee will provide advice to the Board in relation to the health and safety of our staff, contractors, visitors and the general public, plant safety and our environmental performance. It

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

will review key safety and environmental risks affecting the business and the actions taken to mitigate or control them. It will be chaired by Robert Walmsley and will include three independent experts as well as other Directors and certain senior members of management. The meetings, which will consider both site specific and generic issues, will be held in rotation at our nuclear power stations with the station manager and site safety representatives in attendance. The Committee will normally meet quarterly.

Nuclear Performance Review Committee

The Nuclear Performance Review Committee will consider and advise the Board and the Executive Committee on issues relating to the performance of and improvements to our nuclear fleet including operational performance, performance improvement, plant reliability, preventive maintenance and materiel condition. The Committee will review and advise on the implementation and direction of PIP. The Committee will be chaired by William Coley and its membership will include Mike Alexander, other non-executive Directors with appropriate technical expertise, Roy Anderson and certain other senior managers with technical expertise. Mike Alexander and executives of the nuclear generation subsidiary boards will continue to have responsibility for and will direct the operational and safety policy of our nuclear operations. The Committee will normally meet the day prior to a Board meeting.

Executive Committee

Chaired by Mike Alexander, the Executive Committee, comprising the senior executives, will direct our business in accordance with delegated authorities from the Board. The Executive Committee will meet weekly to maintain close scrutiny and management of our affairs, directing performance, taking corrective action and ensuring the Board is kept abreast of all material events.

Management Committees

A number of Executive Management Committees will also be used to assist the Directors in controlling the business. These will include the boards of our two nuclear generation subsidiaries (which hold nuclear site licences) which will continue to have responsibility for, and direct operational and safety policy in, our nuclear operations.

Group Risk Management Committee

This Committee will be an Executive Committee chaired by Mike Alexander. Stephen Billingham will be Deputy Chairman. It will meet every two months to review the group-wide risk management processes of the business, maintain an overview of the risks facing the business and report to the audit committee on a regular basis.

Trading Review Committee

The Trading Review Committee will be chaired by David Pryde and will meet at least six times a year to review hedging and risk management strategy for trading and to ensure activities are conducted within overall risk limits. The Committee will review and provide advice on the management and use of risk measurements and control, as well as monitor performance against strategy. It will also oversee the management and maintenance of the policies, procedures, authorisation and overall risk control framework which will be carried out by a sub-committee, the Trading Risk Sub-Committee.

Pensions Committee

This will be an Executive Committee which will monitor the management of our two pension schemes and will be chaired by Sally Smedley. The Chairmen of the British Energy Generation Group Trustees and the British Energy Combined Group Trustees are members, as are certain

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

other Directors and Senior Managers of the Group. The Committee will review and advise on the policies being adopted by the trustees of these schemes and will be responsible for advising the Board and reporting to the Audit Committee on all matters relating to these schemes.

Disclosure committee

This Management Committee was established as part of our response to the requirements of Sarbox. The Committee will be chaired by the Group Financial Controller and will comprise management level representatives of operational and corporate departments from throughout the Group. Its role will be to review the accuracy and completeness of our proposed financial and certain other public statements and/or reports. It will report to the Audit Committee and to our Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director.

Sarbox

Sarbox introduced new and enhanced standards of corporate governance and business and financial disclosure for companies with securities registered pursuant to the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Exchange Act). Many of these requirements apply to us as a non-US company with securities registered under the Exchange Act. Examples of these standards include the requirement that our Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer certify the accuracy of the disclosure, the efficacy of the internal controls and other matters relating to the preparation of our annual report filed with the SEC; changes to the role and composition of the audit committee; and rules relating to internal controls. Furthermore, under the terms of the New Bonds, we have agreed to prepare quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual reports on Form 10-K containing the information required to be disclosed therein as if we were a domestic US issuer and not a foreign private issuer. In order to disclose the information that would be required for a domestic US issuer, we would be required to disclose our compliance with the standards required of a domestic US issuer, including the corporate governance requirements pertaining to Board committee composition applicable to NYSE-listed domestic US issuers; provided the New ADRs are listed on that exchange. In all cases however, we will comply with Sarbox as if we were a domestic US issuer only to the extent it does not conflict with or violate any law, rule or regulation of the UK, including, but not limited to, the Act, or any code or other requirement (including, but not limited to, the Combined Code and the listing standards of the UKLA).

The SEC, as directed by Section 404 of Sarbox (Section 404), adopted rules requiring public companies to include a report by management in their annual filing with the SEC that contains an assessment by management of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting. In addition, independent auditors must report two opinions; firstly, on management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting, and secondly, on their own assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting.

This legislation is, therefore, a new requirement for domestic US registrants as well as overseas registrants. Under the SEC implementation rules, overseas registrants would normally have an additional year to comply with this requirement, however, as part of our undertaking to Bondholders, we have agreed to comply for our annual filing for the period ended 31 March 2005.

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As with many US domestic registrants, we have been working diligently and vigorously to review and test our internal controls over financial reporting in order to ensure our compliance with the Section 404 requirements. We have set up a dedicated implementation team to work on this, led by a senior member of our finance function, who reports directly to the finance director, as well as having regular dialogue with the Chairman of the Audit Committee, who regularly attends Audit Committee meetings to provide status reports. The implementation team includes representatives from Internal Audit. We have also appointed independent external consultants

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PART I DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BRITISH ENERGY GROUP (Continued)

to work with the implementation team to ensure that our approach to compliance with Section 404 is thorough and robust. They also provide us with regular advice on how interpretation of this new regulation is developing in the US and the rest of the world to ensure that we are able to adapt our approach to emerging practice as necessary.

We believe that we are on course to complete the work required in order to meet the deadlines. However, there is still much to be done and because this is new legislation and interpretations and working practices continue to develop, there remains a risk that issues may emerge that require to be reported by management and/or our independent auditors.

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PART II RISK FACTORS

This Part sets out the principal risk factors affecting New British Energy and Holdings plc and should be read in conjunction with all other information relating to New British Energy and Holdings plc contained in this document. You should not rely on the information in this part of the document only. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to New British Energy or Holdings plc or that New British Energy or Holdings plc deem immaterial may also have a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of any or all of them. None of the risk factors identified below seek to qualify or limit the working capital statement in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 13.

For ease of reference only, the risk factors set out below have been grouped into the following two categories:

- (A) *operating, industry, environmental and regulatory risks; and*
- (B) *risks related to ownership of New Shares, New Bonds and Warrants.*

(A) OPERATING, INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY RISKS

If we do not find alternative sources of income as our nuclear power stations start to close we may not be able to recover our costs from our turnover.

Five of our AGR power stations are, based on current scheduled accounting closure dates, due to close by 2014. This will reduce our generating capacity by 61.5 per cent. of our current generating capacity. There can be no assurance that station lifetime extensions will be achievable at any of our AGR power stations or at our PWR power station. Since our ability to find alternative sources of income is restricted by the compensatory measures we have agreed to undertake in connection with the Commission's approval of the State Aid elements of the Restructuring, the terms of our arrangements with Government (including, in particular, the Contribution Agreement and the HLFA) and the restrictive covenants in the New Bonds and the Receivables Facility Agreement, if our remaining assets do not generate income in line with our expectations at that time (for example as a result of earlier than anticipated closure of a nuclear power station) our costs may exceed our turnover and this may adversely affect our financial results and our ability to pay dividends and may require us to close the remainder of our AGR and/or PWR power stations earlier than anticipated.

Our future profitability is dependent upon several factors, some of which are outside our control.

Costs structure and variable electricity prices

The operation of our nuclear power stations is characterised by high fixed costs. Additionally, some of our costs are not borne by our non-nuclear competitors because they are unique to the nuclear power generation industry.

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Our ability to generate sufficient turnover at sufficient margin to cover our fixed costs is dependent, in part, on favourable electricity prices and our sales and trading strategy. Electricity prices depend on a number of market factors, including, the impact of worldwide demand for fossil fuel, UK demand for power and environmental legislation. Because our costs are primarily fixed in nature, they cannot be reduced in periods of low electricity prices. Therefore, in these circumstances it is possible that we may not produce sufficient turnover from our electricity sales and/or trading to cover our generation costs.

In addition, increasing vertical integration in the electricity sector is likely to affect the liquidity of the markets in which we trade and the volatility of those markets. This in turn may affect the revenue from our electricity sales or trading, and may adversely impact our proposed trading going forward.

Unplanned outages

Unplanned outages of our nuclear and fossil power stations result in lost generation and, due to our contractual obligations to deliver electricity at pre-established prices and quantities, we

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

may, therefore, be required to purchase replacement electricity volume in the open market which may be at unfavourable prices. Given the complexity of operating nuclear and fossil fuel power stations, we do not believe that we will be able to completely eliminate the risk of unplanned outages and we cannot predict the timing or impact of these outages with any certainty.

Therefore, there is no assurance that we will be profitable or generate sufficient cash to fund our operations.

Unplanned outages at our nuclear power stations could adversely affect our turnover and profitability.

Historically, our nuclear output has been adversely affected by unplanned outages and unplanned reductions in output. We believe that the loss of output is indicative of a deterioration of the material condition of plant over time in part caused by inadequate investment over the last few years which has resulted in an increase in our maintenance backlog and failure to carry out required maintenance on a timely basis.

Further, some of our unplanned outages flow from human errors in the operation and maintenance of our plant.

Plant unreliability can result in significant imbalance costs being incurred. In the medium term we have contracted to supply most of our electricity to customers at pre-agreed prices and volumes. If our nuclear power stations fail to produce the amount of electricity that we have contracted to supply or have otherwise already balanced in the wholesale market, we may have to enter into the short term market or accept the prices prevailing in the balancing mechanism to meet any such shortfall in output. Prices in the short-term market and imbalance mechanism may be very high, particularly in periods of tight capacity margins for generating plant in the UK, and the unplanned outages of our nuclear power stations may raise demand and therefore raise prices in these markets.

PIP may be constrained by our cash resources and there is no assurance that the hoped for benefits of PIP will materialise. This may adversely affect our prospects in the long term.

Although we are attempting to improve our plant reliability through increased investment and the implementation of PIP, there is no guarantee that we will be able to identify and/or remedy the causes of plant unreliability. Even if we can identify the causes, there is no assurance that we will be able to implement cost effective solutions or PIP in such a way as to maximise the potential benefits that PIP may afford due to the requirements to maximise the output of our plants. The amount we are able to spend on PIP will be affected by the availability of our cash resources and, in the future in certain circumstances, may be restricted or prohibited by our arrangements with the NLF.

Our nuclear stations utilise sea water for condensing the steam from the turbines and for cooling the reactor pressure vessel and turbine-generator auxiliaries. These systems are essential to support generation and their failure could result in lost generation, adversely affecting our revenues and profitability.

In 2003, the failure of a cast iron pipe carrying sea water at Heysham 1 resulted in unplanned losses of some 3.2 TWh. Hunterston B, Hartlepool and Hinkley Point B and to a much lesser extent Dungeness B, Heysham 2 and Torness nuclear power stations also use cast iron pipe work for carrying sea water.

To address the problem, we have developed a strategy to systematically replace the existing cast iron pipe work at these nuclear power stations with steel pipe work coated with a corrosion

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

resistant barrier. The corrosive nature of sea water may affect other parts of our pipe work systems, although inspection and maintenance strategies are in place to mitigate this risk. This program of work is planned to take place in 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 and we have made allowances for additional outages to enable this work to take place. We cannot assure you that there will not be further unplanned losses if any failure occurs before the planned program of work is completed.

Problems of potentially damaged boiler closure unit pre-stressing tendons and subsequent inspection requirements at our Hartlepool and Heysham 1 nuclear power stations could negatively affect our profitability or revenues.

At our AGR power stations, tendons (comprised of steel wires) are used to maintain the integrity of the pre-stressed concrete pressure vessel. We have recently identified corrosion induced failure in a small number of individual tendon wires at our Hartlepool nuclear power station. The access for inspection and repair to these tendon wires is straightforward, and hence repairs are considered to be undemanding.

However, steel pre-stressing wires are used to fulfil a similar safety functional requirement to assure the integrity of the boiler closure units (which are housed within the concrete pressure vessels) at our Hartlepool and Heysham 1 nuclear power stations. As a result of the discovery of corrosion induced failure of the tendon wires (as described above), the NII has concluded that boiler closure unit steel wires could also suffer from corrosion induced failure. Unlike the pressure vessel tendon wires, these boiler closure unit wires were not designed with an engineered facility for inspection and therefore are more difficult to inspect.

To address the NII's concern we have completed a limited inspection of the boiler closure unit tendon top anchorages and limited sections of the tendon wires at three of our Hartlepool and Heysham 1 reactors and have demonstrated as far as can be determined, that the tendon wires are intact and free from corrosion. The inspection programme is no longer impacting on the return to service of these reactors.

However, we may wish, or be required by the NII, to make further more detailed inspections at these three reactors. Such inspections would be complex and invasive and therefore could result in a substantial loss of output, which could adversely affect our profitability. Until any such inspections are completed we cannot give assurances as to the length of outages or the cost of work that may be required to complete the inspections or any repairs.

A significant engineering fault or a design flaw at one of our nuclear power stations, or one which is generic to a class of nuclear plants, could decrease our revenues and increase our costs.

A major engineering fault at one of our nuclear power stations for example, affecting gas circulators, reactor coolant pumps and pipework systems, could result in the closure of that station ahead of its expected closure date. Furthermore, engineering faults or safety risks arising from a design problem that is generic to a particular type of nuclear plant could result in the closure of all our nuclear power stations of the same nuclear plant design ahead of their expected closure dates. The early closure of one nuclear power station or any one type of nuclear power station would result in a loss of planned future output and result in costs associated with the closure of the affected nuclear power station or stations.

To deal with the potential of a major engineering fault we have extensive inspection and testing programs in place in order to evaluate the physical condition of our nuclear power stations. These programs periodically identify certain technical issues for resolution. However, there is no assurance that our inspection process will identify all significant problems and the identification of technical issues with respect to our nuclear power stations may require us to incur significant expenditure for repairs or replacement of parts or equipment. This may result in lost output due to the outages necessary to complete such repairs or replacements.

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There is also a risk that we may, through our ongoing review of our safety cases (i.e. PSRs) or our ongoing investigations and research activities, identify a significant shortfall. This may be in a safety case argument or supporting analysis or revised material properties or other plant performance aspect, which undermines a critical leg or legs of a safety case. The resolution of the issue may entail plant shutdown, reduced power operation or extensive plant modifications

Problems of graphite core brick cracking and reduced boiler life could negatively affect our profitability and the lifetime of our AGR power stations.

Graphite core brick cracking and reduced boiler life could lead to prolonged outages for testing and, potentially, early closures at certain of our AGR power stations. These risks are explained in greater detail below.

Graphite core brick cracking

The graphite cores in the AGRs are made up of a number of graphite bricks arranged in layers. Over the course of the nuclear generation process, the graphite bricks suffer from degradation.

Analysis has shown that this degradation can result in a significant number of the graphite bricks developing single or multiple cracks. We are not aware of any technique for eliminating the cracks. Such cracking can lead to the distortion of the core structure and the reduction of the AGRs operational capacity.

While our understanding of this issue continues to develop, there is uncertainty as to the level of tolerance of graphite bricks to multiple cracks that can be demonstrated and which may be acceptable to the NII. As such, the development of a safety case, and therefore the continued operation of the reactor, may not be possible. The potential impact of this risk is that currently assumed nuclear power station lifetime may not be achieved, particularly at Hinkley Point B, Hunterston B, Heysham 2 and Torness, and extensions to station lifetimes at those stations may not be possible.

We carry out periodic inspections on the AGR cores and continue to develop safety cases to attempt to demonstrate the tolerance of graphite core brick cracking. However, until we fully understand whether it is possible to devise ways to control or minimise further graphite core brick cracking (if at all), our plants may require more frequent inspection to support our safety cases, which could result in prolonged statutory or unplanned outages or a refusal by the NII to permit us to operate a particular reactor.

Boiler life

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The boilers at our AGR power stations consist of multiple steel tubes over which the hot reactor gas flows in order to boil the water that flows through the tubes. Actual or potential failure or fouling of any of the boiler tubes could result in prolonged outages in order to complete inspections or repairs or could lead to station closure. Outages may also arise as a result of inspections necessary to demonstrate the integrity of the boilers.

If a boiler tube were to fail, action would be taken to permanently seal-off the leaking tube from the incoming water supply. This may result in a permanent reduction in boiler performance and, consequently, our ability to generate electricity if a material number of tubes are sealed. If, ultimately, we are not able to repair the boiler tubes, it may not be possible for us to maintain a safety case for the continued operation of that reactor and the currently assumed station lifetimes may not be achieved.

In addition to the general problem of boiler tube leaks at each of our AGR power stations, specific design issues at some of our nuclear power stations could lead to further significant threats to boiler life. For Hartlepool and Heysham 1, the design adopted is unique in that a

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

central cylindrical segment called a spine supports the boiler. The spine construction incorporates the main water inlet and is fabricated from different materials selected to suit the specific operating conditions. The various elements that make up the spine are welded together to form one fabricated section. A small number of these welds are susceptible to high temperature re-heat cracking. Failure of these welds could result in collapse of the boiler with consequential damage to the reactor pressure vessel and other reactor internal components. The boiler spine design and layout makes physical inspection or repair of the vulnerable welds difficult. The safety case for boiler operations is therefore extremely complex and has required us to develop novel methods of analysis to establish the safety justification. If further material analysis and remote inspection fails to strengthen the current safety case, this could shorten station life at some of our nuclear power stations.

Our Hartlepool and Heysham 1 nuclear power stations are, at the date of this document, not operating pending safety case modifications. The return to service of these nuclear power stations is anticipated later this year although we may experience delays that would have an adverse impact on our profits.

Fire and flooding threats

The potential for turbine hall flooding events at our Hartlepool and Heysham 1 nuclear power stations resulting in consequential flooding of the reactor buildings was highlighted by the cast iron pipework failure at Heysham 1 in 2003.

It is possible that other unplanned incidents (in particular the possibility of turbine-alternator disintegration) could result in flooding and coincident fire in the turbine hall. At Hartlepool and Heysham 1 this flood and fire could move into the reactor buildings and may interfere with the electrical equipment that supports the gas circulators and other essential reactor cooling systems causing these systems to become inoperable.

Our Hartlepool and Heysham reactors are not operating at the date of this document and the fire and coincident flooding threats require to be addressed and significant modifications made to the safety case before we can restart these reactors.

We are presently engaged in modifications to the plant (including a barrier to prevent flood and fire from moving from the turbine hall into the reactor building) to enable a new safety case to be made. Additionally we are in the process of assessing the robustness of our safety cases against flood at our other nuclear power stations.

Graphite core brick cracking

Additionally, recent graphite brick inspections at our Hartlepool nuclear power station revealed double, axial cracking in two graphite bricks in one of the reactors. This type of cracking had not been anticipated by our analytical models. A revised safety case is required to support the return to service of the Hartlepool and Heysham 1 power stations (which are of a very similar

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design) and this safety case will place increased emphasis on inspection and monitoring of the graphite core. We have undertaken further inspections of graphite bricks at these power stations and safety case modification work is in progress but we cannot rule out a delay to the successful conclusion of this work.

The modified safety case will require longer than anticipated statutory and refuelling outages to enable further inspections of the graphite bricks in future years and this will adversely affect our profitability.

We anticipate that the revised safety cases (addressing flooding/fire and graphite brick issues) will be in place later this year but until we have completed the necessary plant modifications no guarantee can be given that the return to service of the Hartlepool and Heysham 1 reactors will not be delayed. Such delays would adversely affect our profitability.

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Obsolescence of some of our equipment, component parts and computer systems (for example, our data processing systems) that are required to operate our power stations and monitor plant stability could result in higher operating costs, unplanned losses or the closure of our power stations.

The first of our nuclear power stations became operational in 1976 and our Eggborough power station became operational in 1968. As a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult to source replacement parts for older equipment and to find engineers qualified to service certain equipment, in particular our aging computer and other information technology systems that were installed at or about the time the plants were constructed. We may not be able to maintain our older equipment on a cost effective basis or at all. We believe the increasing obsolescence of some of our parts and systems may result in an increase in unplanned losses, longer planned outages, significantly higher repair costs and/or the closure of our stations.

The condition of some of the plant, equipment and components at our power stations is subject to gradual deterioration over time.

The impact on the condition of some of the plant, equipment and components at our power stations of operations and natural processes such as erosion and corrosion tends to increase as such plant, equipment and components grow older. Whilst we attempt to implement inspection and maintenance practices such that we repair or replace such plant, equipment and components before they fail, there is no guarantee that we will be successful and consequently we may experience unplanned losses which will adversely impact on our profitability.

In addition, the Group's insurances contain standard exclusions and restrictions and the material damage and business interruption cover does not therefore provide cover for damage caused by, for example, losses due to erosion, corrosion, stress corrosion or cracking. Consequently we may not be able to claim under our material damage and business interruption cover in such circumstances.

The failure of our AGR fuel could result in decreases in our output and revenues.

Our AGR fuel is contained inside a stainless steel fuel can which acts as the primary barrier for any fission products produced by the fuel during operation. If the steel fuel can cracks, then the fission products will leak into the carbon dioxide gas that is used to cool the reactor. As many of these fission products are radioactive, any major leakage into the carbon dioxide gas will potentially contaminate large parts of the reactor which in turn will lead to major operational difficulties. It is therefore important to minimise fuel failures of this type.

We have experienced on average one fuel failure per year across our fleet of AGR power stations in the period 1975 to 2000. In 2001 and 2002, we experienced ten and nine failures respectively. Subsequently, the average failure rate has returned to the previously experienced level.

Depending on the cause of fuel failures we may have to shut down one or more of our nuclear reactors until we have determined the cause of such failures. In order to do so, we are, in certain cases, reliant upon services provided to us by BNFL. If they were unable or unwilling to provide such services, we may be unable to determine the cause of such failures. Any nuclear power station closure or prolonged outage could adversely affect our business and profitability.

Our business depends on equipment and service suppliers of a specialised nature. If they fail to provide necessary equipment and services on a timely basis, discontinue their products or services and/or seek to charge us prices that are not competitive, this could adversely affect our business and/or profitability.

We depend upon a small number of specialised suppliers for essential products and services which are unique or highly specialised to our industry. Consequently, if our suppliers are unable

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

or unwilling to deliver products and services on a timely basis and at reasonable prices, or if their products are found to be faulty or outside specification, this may impact negatively on our ability to continue to operate our power stations economically (or at all), and would have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, as our plants age, the costs associated with the sourcing of spare parts are likely to increase.

Our AGR fuel is fabricated by BNFL, the only supplier of AGR fuel in the world. To protect against any short term disruptions in supply, we maintain a stock of fuel elements at each of our sites. This, along with the fuel in our reactors, is sufficient to maintain normal operations for between three to six months. However, we cannot rule out a more extended disruption in fuel supply which could result in reductions in our output. The availability and quality of tie bars, CO₂ and other gasses is also important in maintaining output.

Our spent AGR fuel is delivered to BNFL which provides spent fuel management services. We are able to store approximately nine months arisings of spent fuel at each nuclear power station and, of that, have approximately three months additional capacity in the event of any short term interruptions in the movement of spent fuel to BNFL's Sellafield site. If a nuclear power station's spent fuel storage facilities became full, the station could theoretically continue to generate electricity but the volume of electricity produced would gradually reduce as the fuel in the reactor was consumed. It would not be possible to load additional fuel into the reactor until at least the equivalent quantity of stored spent fuel was despatched to Sellafield.

Further, our front-end and back-end fuel services contracts with BNFL envisage that BNFL may cease to carry on business in the relevant services or notify us that it is otherwise unwilling or permanently unable to provide the services it has contracted to provide. In those circumstances, notwithstanding our other rights under the relevant contract, if we cannot obtain the services from another party, BNFL will provide us with access and rights for us to use their relevant intellectual property and facilities necessary to procure such services and will seek to secure rights for us to utilise rights and licences that they may have with third parties which are reasonably necessary for the supply of the service. Further, if BNFL is unable for technical reasons at any stage to supply a service provided for under the relevant contract, BNFL is required to use its reasonable endeavours to secure such service from an appropriate alternative supplier.

In the case of certain of our contracts for the provision of services, the liability of the service provider is capped and consequential losses that may be suffered by the relevant Group company are excluded. Whilst these are not unusual contractual provisions, the consequences to the Group of a breach or non-performance by a service provider may be severe (for example certain agreements are required to be in place to meet nuclear site licence requirements and may be difficult to replace) and the Group would almost certainly not be able to recover the loss it may suffer as a result of breach or non-performance by these counterparties.

Our turbines, generators and certain other plant components are designed, manufactured and maintained by a small number of key suppliers. We are reliant upon certain of these suppliers for the supply of parts and for servicing and maintenance. If they fail to provide parts and/or perform servicing or maintenance to an appropriate quality, this could result in the shutdown or catastrophic failure of one or more of our turbines, generators or other plant components.

Certain of our office facilities are at risk from fire, flood and explosion which may lead to business interruption.

Certain of our offices contain concentrated groupings of suitably qualified and experienced staff and computer systems that are necessary for the efficient operation of our business. If these facilities were to be sufficiently damaged by fire, flood or explosion then we may experience difficulties in maintaining business continuity, for example in our trading operations and work management support, which could adversely affect our profitability and cash.

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We employ a large number of agency staff at our power stations and in our support functions.

We depend on a large number of agency staff to support our power stations and other corporate functions. Consequently if we are unable to employ an adequate number of suitably experienced staff as required or the employment agencies used by us seek to charge us prices that are not competitive, this could adversely affect our business and/or profitability.

The unavailability of component parts could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

The failure of certain components in use at our power stations could result in unplanned outages to affect repairs. The duration of the outage is influenced by, among other things, the lead-time required to manufacture and procure replacement components. Certain components (e.g. turbine rotors and transformers) are complex and may take several months to manufacture. To reduce the impact of the failure of such items we hold spare components at our nuclear power stations and in a central storage facility. We also participate in a spares club where the cost of holding expensive replacement components is shared with other parties. Although we aim to optimise our spares holdings we cannot guarantee that we will always have ready access to the required component in the event of a failure and we may incur extended unplanned outages while we obtain the required component.

We continue to face liquidity risks associated with the seasonality of our business and the provision of collateral to our counterparties.

The UK electricity market is characterised by lower demand in the summer months and therefore comparatively lower market prices, which leads us, where possible, to plan statutory outages in this period. Accordingly, positive cash flow is reduced through the combined effect of lower prices and output. In addition, the historic high volatility of market prices increases the liquidity risk as a result of collateral calls due to increases in market prices. We may also receive requests to provide collateral (or increased collateral) from counterparties who do not currently require collateral (or who have not exercised their contractual right to have contractual obligations fully supported by collateral). Whilst management closely monitor these risks and continue to adopt mitigation strategies through trading and procurement operations, it is possible that these strategies will not be as effective in minimising these risks as planned.

We have entered into a trading strategy that seeks to reduce the price risk associated with the cost of our electricity generation. However, this has reduced our ability to benefit from increasing market prices in the medium-term and may also result in an increase in collateral requirements as market prices rise. In addition, should various other unforeseen events occur which place demands on cash flow, our financial resources may prove to be insufficient.

We have entered into short term and medium term trading contracts with market counterparties and short term and medium term sales contracts with other industrial and commercial customers to hedge a significant proportion of our output against downward movements in market price. However, as a result of this, our cash flow benefits from market price increases are reduced while the level of collateral calls made by certain trading counterparties increases to cover their mark to market exposure.

We are reviewing our trading strategy to attempt to maintain an appropriate balance between the importance to us of maintaining a high degree of certainty of our revenues and collateral requirements, as well as continuing to take steps to identify and manage cash flow risks and manage cash resources.

Lack of liquidity in the wholesale market for electricity may adversely affect us or require us to alter our trading strategy.

Liquidity in the market for wholesale electricity market is dependent on there being a sufficient number of counterparties willing to trade actively. Changes to the market structure, and yet

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further consolidation of the existing generation and supply businesses, could result in a reduction in the number of active participants in the market with whom we are able to trade. This may affect our ability to sell all of our output.

This could also reduce the level of liquidity in the traded market to such an extent that we are no longer able to rely on wholesale market trading as a means of hedging our short-to-medium term exposure to wholesale electricity market prices and balancing our portfolio. We also rely on reported prices from a liquid traded market to deliver reliable reference prices which are used within a number of our indexed price contracts. Thus a lack of liquidity could result in us incurring higher hedging or balancing costs to achieve our trading objectives.

We may suffer financial loss as a result of parties to whom we supply under contracts defaulting due to bankruptcy or other financial hardship.

We are a net seller of electricity and receipts for electricity delivered are normally received about one month in arrears; consequently there is a risk of financial loss arising from the financial difficulties of our counterparties. In addition, movements in market price from the time a particular sale (or purchase) contract was agreed expose us to risks of loss in the event of default. Additional costs of having to replace these contracts at the prevailing market price will be incurred if market prices have fallen in the case of sales contracts (or risen in the case of purchase contracts).

Further changes to the regulatory environment in the UK market and introduction of the British Electricity Transmission and Trading Arrangements (BETTA) may adversely affect our cash reserves.

The introduction of BETTA is expected to result in changes to the terms and conditions that existing parties have in place for connection to or use of the transmission system and for trading electricity. In the main, the arrangements under BETTA will be based on those currently prevailing in England and Wales. As a consequence, the changes are likely to be particularly significant for those connected to/using the transmission system in Scotland. The introduction of BETTA may also require, among other things, an increase in the amount of cash collateral necessary to support our generation, supply and trading operations. Consequently, it is possible that our cash reserves may also be adversely affected.

Proposed arrangements governing the cost of electricity transmission in the UK could reduce our ability to trade profitably in the future.

In May 2001, GEMA proposed a number of possible reforms to the market arrangements governing electricity transmission system access and transmission losses in England and Wales. Transmission losses primarily occur from the electricity that is lost to the network in the form of heat as it is transmitted. If GEMA were to implement its proposals in the form originally proposed, this would result in a significant redistribution of transmission costs between electricity market participants. Under the proposals, some generators would pay for a proportion of transmission losses for which they were not previously responsible. The proposal would be unfavourable to generating plants located in the North of England and Scotland, which make up a significant portion of our generating capacity.

On 17 January 2003, GEMA directed that a modification should be implemented to the BSC, to introduce zonal marginal transmission losses, with effect from April 2004 in England and Wales. On 30 January 2003, the Government issued a consultation paper on whether these changes were appropriate for Great Britain as a whole, and concluded on 27 June 2003 that they were not minded to include zonal losses as part of the initial reforms to the BSC .

The original GEMA direction was subject to judicial review proceedings during 2003/2004 which resulted in the direction being quashed in January 2004. However, there is a risk that a new

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proposal to introduce zonal charging for losses will be made to take effect after BETTA is implemented (currently planned for April 2005). Therefore, there is a risk that, given the geographical distribution of our power stations, we might be significantly adversely affected by such a proposal. In addition, the charging arrangements for access to, and use of, the transmission network under BETTA are not yet finalised and there is a risk that, given the geographical distribution of our power stations, we might be significantly adversely affected by the finally approved arrangements.

There is also a risk that unfavourable changes to the regulatory environment including arrangements under the BSC, CUSC or the Grid Code, could be introduced that increase the costs or otherwise disadvantage our generation or supply activities relative to our competitors.

Our current sales contract for generation from our two Scottish nuclear stations will expire in April 2006 or, if earlier, upon the implementation of BETTA which may adversely affect our profitability and our available cash. A delayed introduction of BETTA (beyond 1 April 2006) may also adversely impact our profitability and our available cash.

We currently sell all the output from our Scottish nuclear power stations to Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy under the terms of the NEA. The NEA will continue in operation until whichever is the earlier of the introduction of BETTA and 1 April 2006. The extension of the NEA beyond its original expiry date of 1 April 2005 will be subject to regulatory approval and there is a risk that such approval may not be forthcoming. Upon the expiry of the NEA or in the event of a delayed introduction of BETTA, we will need to make alternative sales arrangements for this output and/or constrain output. We can give no assurance that alternative sales arrangements will be available at that time on similar financial terms to the current sales contract. This may also require an increase in the amount of cash collateral necessary to support our generation, supply and trading operations. Consequently it is possible that our cash reserves may be adversely affected.

Our trading contracts and certain of our other contracts may be subject to credit support obligations, such as the posting of collateral. Upon the implementation of the Restructuring, we are required to release the collateral provided to support our trading activities pursuant to the Government Facility and provide alternative credit support arrangements to counterparties. Certain counterparties may request credit support which may, if not provided, lead to such counterparties considering their willingness to trade with the Group.

As our credit rating is below investment grade we have needed to establish alternative credit support to a parent company guarantee in respect of our obligations under certain contracts (including our trading contracts) by posting collateral to support our obligations under these agreements.

In the case of a significant proportion of our contracts, the financial obligations to be covered by the credit support are generally related to the prevailing wholesale price of electricity. During a period of rising market prices, the amount of collateral that we are required to post will generally increase. In periods of rising market prices, the increase in the level of collateral that we could be required to post may result in us having to reduce expenditure in other areas, including capital expenditures and could exceed our available cash resources.

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The Company is required to ensure that the collateral provided pursuant to the Government Facility be released upon the Restructuring. There can be no assurance that the provision of alternative charge arrangements in satisfaction of our credit support obligations to counterparties will not result in counterparties seeking to obtain other forms of credit support. The Group may be restricted from providing certain forms of alternative credit support by the terms of the New Bonds (which may restrict the nature of third party financing available to the Group).

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If alternative types of credit support are sought but not provided, this may affect the willingness of certain counterparties to continue to trade with the Group. This may limit the number of counterparties with whom we may trade, and may adversely affect our financial results.

While our understanding of potential contaminated land liabilities at our power stations continues to grow, we have yet to fully implement risk management systems at all sites that will allow us to monitor liabilities at those sites and develop more informed assessments of any such liabilities. Consequently, we are currently unable to predict the likely cost of all our contaminated land liabilities.

With the exception of Dungeness B, where an extensive remedial operation in response to historic spillages of diesel to ground has now been completed, we currently have only limited data from physical site investigations to support our assessments of contaminated land liability at our power stations. However, an independent expert review was recently carried out to review the potential for any significant contaminated land at our nuclear power stations. This expert review, completed in January 2002, suggested that there were no obviously significant problems but it did highlight areas of vulnerability to contamination at a number of our sites and the need to establish groundwater monitoring networks and allied procedures at each.

Work is now underway to establish these networks and once complete they should further facilitate both our assessment of any such potential liability and any necessary review of local management procedures.

A ground contamination risk assessment carried out at the Eggborough power station has concluded that the site has significant potential to affect local groundwater quality and is vulnerable to contamination migrating from neighbouring landfill sites. Although no significant contamination problems have been observed at the Eggborough power station to date, we cannot be certain that none will occur in the future and therefore cannot exclude the risk of significant unforeseen clean-up costs.

Certain types of nuclear liabilities arising at our nuclear power stations will not be covered by the scope of the Nuclear Liabilities Funding Agreement (NLFA) or the Historic Liabilities Funding Agreement (HLFA).

These include, those which are adjudged to have arisen as a result of our compliance standards (including our safety and environmental standards) falling below those of the minimum performance standard or minimum contracting standard agreed under the NLFA or HLFA respectively, or by the implementation of operational changes made by us other than to meet current or reasonably anticipated legal or regulatory requirements or to comply with practices and procedures both considered by, and acceptable to, the relevant regulators and will thus remain for our account. While the definition of the minimum performance standard or minimum contracting standard may be known it is not currently certain how such minimum standards would be interpreted or applied. It may also be difficult to be certain whether the implementation of operational changes would be considered to meet reasonably anticipated legal or regulatory requirements or to comply with practices and procedures both considered by, and acceptable to, the relevant regulators. Consequently, the nature or quantum of these liabilities is uncertain.

The potential hazards of nuclear operations (including nuclear operations carried out by other operators in the UK and elsewhere in the world) could expose us to the risk of, amongst others, material liabilities, lost revenues and increased expenses.

Our operations use and generate radioactive and hazardous substances that have the potential to seriously impact human health and the environment. There are particular risks associated with the operation of nuclear power stations. These include accidents, the breakdown or failure of equipment or processes or human performance, including our safety controls, and other

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

catastrophic events such as earthquakes, fire and flood that could result in the dispersal of radioactive material over large areas, thereby causing injury or loss of life and extensive property or environmental damage. Certain of these events, including those arising as a result of third party acts, such as acts of terrorism or war, are not within our control. Liabilities we may incur, and interruptions in the operation of a nuclear power station caused by these events or associated with any of the radioactive or hazardous materials involved, could significantly reduce our revenues and increase our expenses. Insurance proceeds may not be adequate to cover all liabilities incurred, lost revenue or increased expenses. Analogous incidents occurring at other nuclear power stations elsewhere in the world may result in similar losses regardless of our having no control or influence over such incidents.

The continued operation of the Eggborough power station is subject to a number of factors which could increase our costs and decrease our revenues. In particular, the introduction of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD) are major environmental initiatives which will have an important impact on the Eggborough power station as they seek to reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions.

The Eggborough power station was constructed in the 1960 s and is approaching the end of its originally anticipated operating life. The Eggborough power station has been, and will continue to be, subject to routine and other maintenance and repair. In order to continue its economic operation, and to comply with environmental and other regulations, it has also been, and may in future be, necessary to make modifications to the Eggborough power station. We believe that we are likely to be required to make further repairs and/or modifications to the Eggborough power station as its age increases and, insofar as such requirements are currently understood, such requirements are already in our plans.

We cannot guarantee that we will be able to make any required repairs or modifications to the Eggborough power station either economically or at all (including pursuant to our legal obligations under the documentation entered into in connection with our Restructuring). Similarly, we cannot be certain that any such repairs or modifications will successfully rectify any problems and/or allow the continued operation of the Eggborough power station without interruption or at all. This may result in lost output and could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

The ETS is due to be implemented in January 2005 and will limit pollution by the Eggborough power station. The LCPD is due to become effective on 1 January 2008 and, in replacing the previous Large Combustion Plant Directive (1988/609/EEC), will further restrict the limits of permitted pollution by the Eggborough power station. The full extent of the possible implications of this legislation are not yet known and therefore we cannot be certain of: (i) the impact on output; (ii) the likely costs associated with any required engineering or structural changes to the Eggborough power station which may be required to ensure compliance; or (iii) how the legislation will affect the electricity generation market and, in particular, the price of electricity in the medium to long term.

Our business is subject to extensive and unique regulations.

As an owner and operator of nuclear power stations and the owner and operator of a coal-fired power station, we are subject to extensive governmental regulations. We are subject to, amongst others, nuclear safety, electricity market and environmental regulations of the UK, the EU and other governmental authorities. Unexpected or adverse changes in these regulatory regimes could adversely impact our business and profitability. Changes in regulations governing, and/or the personnel regulating, nuclear safety in the UK may result in the modification, suspension or revocation of our licences to operate nuclear power stations, or

require us to incur substantial additional cost for capital expenditure and/or services and labour.

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

A feature of the nuclear licensing regime is that we must conduct PSRs at each of our nuclear power stations which may affect how we operate our nuclear power stations and may result in significant additional costs. We must also obtain the approval of the NII to restart a nuclear power station after a statutory outage. In granting permission to re-start, the NII take comfort from the level of British Energy's knowledge and understanding of reactor performance. Consequently, wherever outage inspections indicate potential issues outside of the predicted norm, there is a heightened risk that delays to re-start may occur as a result of the regulator's intervention. The refusal of the NII to approve, or any delay in gaining approval from the NII, to continue or restart the operation of any of our nuclear power stations, would adversely affect future revenues and reduce our ability to trade profitably.

We are revising certain aspects of the safety cases at our AGR power stations in the light of developing regulatory standards. Whilst we are dedicating significant resources to resolving these outstanding safety case points, there can be no assurance that one of these issues may not lead the NII to refuse consent to restart one of our reactors following a statutory or unplanned outage or require it to communicate to us that it would oppose our restarting a reactor on its return from a refuelling outage. If the NII takes such action, this, too, would affect future revenues and reduce our ability to trade profitably.

Our operations are regulated and subject to audit by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS). The OCNS published its latest annual report (entitled: The State of Security in the Civil Nuclear Industry and Effectiveness of Security Regulation April 2003-March 2004) in July 2004. This report outlines the changes in the strategy for securing the safety of the UK's nuclear power stations. We are working with the OCNS, along with other nuclear operating companies, to introduce, where necessary, improvements to our security arrangements which may result in increased security costs.

We have agreed, in some cases informally, with most of our key suppliers to defer payments due to them.

We have reached, in some cases informal, agreements with most of our key suppliers to defer payments due to them from the summer months until later in the financial year. Cash balances are therefore likely to be higher for the remainder of the financial year as a result. The amount of our trade creditors will however continue to reflect the amount owed to these creditors and will accrue late payment interest in accordance with the terms of the underlying agreements with creditors. In cases where this has not been formalised, we can give no assurance that our creditors will not seek to enforce their respective contractual rights to have the amount due to them paid strictly in accordance with the payment terms of their respective agreements with us. Demands for payments to be made in advance of an agreed deferral schedule by a supplier may reduce the cash available to other parts of our business and may affect our investment, trading or operational decisions which may in turn affect our financial condition or profitability adversely. Since we have already sought deferrals from a number of our creditors this may reduce the likelihood of our being able to achieve further deferrals at other times in the financial year when our cash resources may benefit from some flexibility from our suppliers with regard to payment terms.

A failure to comply with, or the incurrence of liabilities under, environmental, health and safety, economic and competition laws and regulations to which we are subject, or a failure to obtain or maintain required environmental, health and safety regulatory approvals, could adversely affect our business or our ability to trade profitably.

We are subject to various environmental and health and safety, economic and competition laws and regulations governing, amongst other things: (i) the generation, storage, handling, release, use, disposal and transportation of hazardous and radioactive

materials; (ii) the emission and discharge of hazardous materials into the ground, air or water; (iii) decommissioning and

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

decontamination of our facilities and the health and safety of the public and our employees and (iv) the generation, trading and supply of electricity and electricity-related products, including the dealing in energy investments. Regulators in the UK, including the NII, EA, SEPA, GEMA, FSA and OFT administer these laws and regulations. Additionally, the EC administers European laws and regulations.

We are also required to obtain environmental and safety permits from various governmental authorities for our operations. Certain permits require periodic renewal or review of their conditions and we cannot predict whether we will be able to renew such permits or whether material changes in permit conditions will be imposed. Therefore, we may not have been, or may not at all times in the future be, in complete compliance with such laws, regulations and permits. In this regard, following a number of minor incidents in 2003, the Environment Agency have indicated that there will be increased scrutiny by them over us. Violations of these laws, regulations or permits could result in plant shutdowns, fines and/or litigation being commenced against us or other sanctions. Other liabilities under environmental laws, including clean-up of radioactive or hazardous substances, can be costly to discharge. Environmental liabilities or failure to comply with environmental laws could also lead to negative publicity and significant damage to our reputation.

While we cannot predict with any certainty the nature of developments in environmental regulation and control, we anticipate that the direction of future changes will be toward stricter controls. In view of the age and history of many sites we own or operate, we may incur liability in respect of sites that are found to be contaminated, together with increased costs of managing or cleaning up such sites. Site values could be affected and potential liabilities and clean-up costs may make disposal of potentially contaminated sites more difficult. It is possible that any clean-up costs would have an adverse effect on our business or our financial condition or results of operations.

Environmental and health and safety laws are complex, change frequently and have tended to become more stringent over time. Whilst we have budgeted for future capital and operating expenditures to comply with current environmental and health and safety laws, it is possible that any of these laws will change or become more stringent in the future. Therefore, our costs of complying with current and future environmental and health and safety laws, and our liabilities arising from past or future releases of, or exposure to, radioactive or hazardous substances, could adversely affect our business or our operating or financial performance.

Violations of economic or competition laws or regulations could result in the imposition of fines, the revocation of licences to operate within the UK electricity market or the voiding of agreements.

The proximity of certain of our nuclear power stations to Magnox stations could result in potentially harmful materials in the ground migrating across the boundary onto our own sites. UK law currently provides that, unless we can provide adequate evidence to the contrary, any liability associated with such material under our sites would belong to us even though its initial occurrence there is beyond our control. Radiological contamination from neighbouring Magnox plant may render one of our sites radioactive and could prevent its operation.

Each of Hunterston B, Dungeness B, Hinkley Point B and Sizewell B is located close to Magnox nuclear power stations operated by the British Nuclear Group (a division of BNFL) and its subsidiary companies. Groundwater monitoring networks are now in place at Hunterston B, Dungeness B and Sizewell B that should allow the migration of potentially contaminating material from the

neighbouring sites to be identified. Although the need has been identified, an equivalent network has yet to be established at Hinkley Point B.

The statutory regime governing contaminated land in the UK provides, broadly, that if the person who is alleged to have caused a contaminated land liability cannot be identified, the land owner/occupier will be held liable for the costs of remedying the problem. Therefore, we cannot

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

be certain that the costs of complying with this regime will not adversely affect our business or our operating or financial performance, as it may not always be possible to identify another operator as a responsible party.

We are involved in several disputes that if resolved or determined against our interests could adversely affect our profitability and our available cash.

Bruce Power

On 12 February 2004, the consortium that purchased our 82.4 per cent. interest in Bruce Power served a notice on us alleging a breach of certain warranties and representations relating to tax and to the condition of certain parts of the plant at the Bruce power station.

The tax claim relates to the treatment of expenditures at the Bruce power station during the period of our ownership which is currently under review by the Canadian tax authorities. While we have proposed a treatment that could result in a material tax rebate, the consortium claims that the allowance of the expenditures for that period would cause it to lose future deductions. The Company is confident that the amount of the claim should not, in any event, materially exceed the amount of the rebate, and that the claim should have no material cash flow impact on the Group.

The claim relating to the condition of the plant is based upon alleged erosion of certain parts of the steam generators including support plates through which boiler tubes pass. It is alleged that this erosion resulted in an extended outage at one unit at the plant in order to carry out repair works and loss of revenues and costs of approximately C\$64.5m. The consortium also claims that the alleged erosion may reduce the operating life of the unit and/or result in expenditures for further repairs. We have rejected the foregoing claims and intend to defend them if they are pursued further. In accordance with accounting standards, no provision has been made in the financial statements at 30 June 2004 for either claim.

AmerGen

We are involved in a dispute with Exelon arising in connection with the sale of our 50 per cent. interest in AmerGen to Exelon. Under the terms of the AmerGen sale agreement, we gave certain indemnities and guarantees in connection with the sale of our interest. As a result of an accounting adjustment made by Exelon to the value of nuclear fuel contained in AmerGen's balance sheet dated 21 December 2003, we may be required to make a payment to Exelon of up to US\$13.7m. British Energy disputes any such claim. British Energy served a dispute notice on Exelon on 4 June 2004 to preserve its rights and the parties are endeavouring to resolve the matter amicably. The agreement with Exelon for the sale of AmerGen requires that, prior to instituting any litigation or other dispute resolution procedure, the companies will in good faith seek to resolve any dispute. Furthermore, we are reviewing with Exelon the effect on the working capital adjustment resulting from a change to the estimated tax recoverable for prior periods made after the consummation of the sale, and this may result in an increase in the purchase price adjustment payable to Exelon. The increase in the purchase price adjustment resulting from the change in estimated tax recoverable is currently estimated to be in the range of up to US\$6.3m.

If either of the Bruce claims or the AmerGen dispute is resolved against us, it could have an adverse effect on our results of operation and our available cash. Further information on each of these claims is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 16.

Polygon/Brandes

On 3 September 2004, two groups of shareholders, together holding 10.22 per cent. of British Energy's Ordinary Shares, requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting (the Requisitioned EGM). Those groups of shareholders were Polygon Investment Partners LLP (Polygon), Brandes Investment Partners, LLC (Brandes) and their respective associates. British Energy was, as a result, obliged under the Companies Act 1985 (the Act) to call the Requisitioned EGM. One of

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

the resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes would have had the effect, if passed, of requiring British Energy to seek shareholder approval prior to applying for the cancellation of its listings in London and New York.

Further to the receipt of the requisition notice from Polygon and Brandes, British Energy announced on 21 September 2004 that it had made an application to the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, for an order against Polygon and its associates relating to its Schedule 13D filing (under the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934) in respect of British Energy, which British Energy considered was filed late and defective because it failed to include material information. Separately, the ad hoc committee of Bondholders (the ad hoc committee) commenced proceedings in the High Court in London against Polygon, Brandes and British Energy making different claims and seeking a variety of relief against the different defendants. For further details, see Part X: Additional information, paragraph 16.9.

British Energy announced on 23 September 2004 that the Requisitioned EGM would be held on 22 October 2004 and that as a result of this attempt to hinder the Restructuring agreed by British Energy in October 2003, it would be applying to the UKLA to cancel the listings of its Ordinary Shares and A Shares. As a consequence, and as announced on 23 September 2004, the NYSE suspended trading in British Energy's ADR's prior to the opening of trading on 28 September 2004. At that time, the NYSE also commenced delisting proceedings. At the request of British Energy, the UKLA cancelled the listings of the British Energy Shares from the Official List with effect from 8.00 a.m. on 21 October 2004 and the last day for dealings in British Energy Shares on the main market of the London Stock Exchange was 20 October 2004.

On 24 September 2004, British Energy announced: (i) the unanimous recommendation of the British Energy board to shareholders to vote against the resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes at the Requisitioned EGM; (ii) that it intended to seek an extension to the Creditor Restructuring Long Stop Date of 31 January 2005 for the Restructuring; and (iii) that, in accordance with the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, it would execute a business transfer agreement whereby the Company's assets would, conditional on the Restructuring becoming effective, be transferred to Holdings plc.

On 30 September 2004, Polygon announced that it would withdraw its support for the Requisitioned EGM. Polygon stated that, having considered British Energy's recent circulars, it believed there was no commercial logic for it to support the resolutions to be considered at the Requisitioned EGM and consequently confirmed that it would vote against the resolutions and not further oppose the Restructuring. The Requisitioned EGM took place on 22 October 2004 and the resolutions that had been proposed were defeated.

In connection with the withdrawal of support by Polygon, British Energy agreed to withdraw its action against Polygon in New York. British Energy, Polygon and others entered into an agreement to this effect on 30 September 2004 (Heads of Agreement), a summary of which is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1 (ww). Brandes is not a party to the Heads of Agreement which does not therefore prevent it from pursuing any further action, or further action being taken against it.

We do not currently own the rights of support for the land under the Eggborough power station.

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The Eggborough power station does not enjoy a protected right of support. As a result, there is presently no restriction on coal mining taking place in circumstances whereby the stability of the Eggborough power station could be affected. EPL has tried, without success, to negotiate an acceptable pillar of support agreement with UK Coal Mining Limited (UKC) (the holders of a licence from the Coal Authority to mine coal).

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

If UKC were to mine under or in proximity to the Eggborough power station in circumstances affecting its stability, then extensive liabilities would fall on UKC pursuant to the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991. Under this Act, the coal operator is required to make payments for the consequences of the mining damage.

We have submitted an application to the Secretary of State pursuant to the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act 1966 for restrictions to be imposed on the working of minerals under part of the land affecting the Eggborough power station, and land adjacent to it as may be necessary to secure sufficient support. If the Secretary of State is satisfied that a case has been established, the application will be referred to court. The court can only grant the application if it is considered to be in the national interest that restrictions on mining should be imposed. In order to limit our potential liability to pay compensation, we have only applied for the restriction on mine working to apply to the area covered by a previous notice served earlier in 2004.

There can be no guarantee that our application to the Secretary of State to refer this matter to the court will be successful or that if it is, that the court will find in our favour. We have received legal advice that if the court were to find in our favour, compensation is unlikely to be payable to UKC. If our application is not successful, or the court does not find in our favour, then the stability of the Eggborough power station may be adversely affected if the UKC were to mine under or in proximity to it. If this were to occur, it may not be possible to continue the operation of the Eggborough power station, or substantial repairs could be required, adversely affecting our financial condition.

Our right to title to certain ash and water pipelines which benefit Gale Common and the Eggborough power station is not registered with the Land Registry and is based solely on statutory declarations. In the event that we cannot establish title by long use of these pipelines, we would be unable to continue to benefit from them and the operation of Gale Common and the Eggborough power station would be adversely affected.

Title to the use of much of the ash pipeline at the Eggborough power station, the water pipeline from Gale Common to the River Aire and sections of the Eggborough cooling water pipes is not granted by deed nor referred to on the relevant registers at the Land Registry and is based solely on statutory declarations for a period from 1974 (in relation to the water pipelines) and from 1983 (in relation to the ash pipelines and cooling water pipes). The evidence contained in the statutory declarations will only be an effective step towards establishing title by long use provided that no contrary evidence comes to light which cannot be satisfactorily explained and no arguments are upheld based on lack of relevant knowledge of the existence of the pipelines by landowners. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to establish title by long use and therefore that if the pipelines were disconnected, that the work required to relocate them would not be detrimental to the operation of the Eggborough power station.

In addition, title to the use of the remainder of the ash pipeline is based on the grant of licences, many of which are terminable on notice of various lengths but frequently of six months or less.

The cost of providing pensions benefits to employees is subject to changes in pension fund values, changing demographics and changes to pension legislation, and might have a material adverse effect on our financial results.

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We operate two pension schemes that provide defined benefits to eligible members and beneficiaries. The preliminary reports on the actuarial valuations of the two pension schemes as at 31 March 2004 disclose funding deficiencies (on the actuarial bases used for the valuations) in the two schemes at that date of £375,800,000 and £8,800,000, respectively. The investment performance of our pension fund assets may have an adverse effect on our business. The cost of providing pension benefits could increase as a result of changes in pension fund asset values and changing demographics, including longer life expectancy of the schemes beneficiaries. As

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

we explain in Part I: Description of the British Energy Group and in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 9 headed: Pensions, we are required to pay increased pension contributions in accordance with obligations under the pension schemes and statutory regulations to address funding deficiencies as determined in accordance with the schemes and the regulations. It is possible that such increases in our pension contribution obligations in the future could have an adverse effect on our financial condition.

Additional contributions are required from us from time to time, as advised by the scheme actuary, to fund certain additional liabilities such as the additional costs of redundancy related early retirement benefits. These additional contributions could be significant in the years following closure of a station and no provision is currently made, as it is assumed that any such additional contributions would be funded from operational cash flows.

We have also granted the Secretary of State an option (under the Government Option Agreement, a summary of which is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (i)) to acquire our nuclear power stations in order to decommission them or extend their operating lives. The Option Agreement provides for, amongst other things, arrangements in respect of pensions of employees following the exercise of the option. This is a matter that is to be addressed at a date closer to the relevant nuclear power station's scheduled closure date. It is not possible to say what, if any, effect the arrangements, when agreed, will have on our financial position.

A high proportion of our pension schemes' investments are held in equities. One consequence of this investment policy, and the methodology and assumptions used for determining our pension schemes' liabilities under FRS17, is that the difference between the market value of the funds' assets and their FRS17 liabilities is expected to be volatile, resulting in potentially significant movements in the balance sheet position and the statement of total recognised gains or losses. The values of our pension schemes' assets and liabilities are likely to be high in relation to our market capitalisation and any FRS17 adjustment could have a material impact on the level of distributable reserves and our ability to pay dividends.

Certain reforms to pensions law are expected to come into force in April 2005 which could give rise to more onerous pension funding obligations for the Group in certain circumstances. In particular, under the proposed new legislation, substantial additional pension contribution obligations could arise: (i) should a member of the Group cease to participate as an employer in the Generation Group or the Combined Group of the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (as defined in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 9 headed: Pensions); and/or (ii) if the proposed new pensions regulator is of the opinion that such an employer (or a person associated or connected with such an employer) has been a party to an act, or a deliberate failure to act, one of the main purposes of which was to (A) prevent the recovery of a deficiency liability or, (B) otherwise than in good faith, prevent one arising or to reduce its amount. In addition, the proposed new pensions regulator is to be given powers, in certain circumstances, to require employers and certain associated or connected persons to put financial support in place for a pension scheme. If the Members Scheme does not become effective, we expect the Disposal will be made and British Energy plc will cease to be an employer before the introduction of these changes. We also expect BEGUK and BEG to remain employers following completion of the merger of their nuclear generation businesses and the hive out of the DSB from BEG in accordance with the compensatory measures imposed by the State Aid Approval. However, it is possible that by reason of a change of circumstances or otherwise the more onerous provisions would apply which would materially affect the Group's financial condition.

Further information on the pension schemes is set out in Part I: Description of the British Energy Group, Part III: Operating and financial review and prospects, Part IV: Financial information and Part X: Additional information.

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

Our inability to attract and retain senior management and employees could adversely affect our business.

The success of our operations depends largely on our ability to retain and attract senior management and employees who are suitably qualified in nuclear sciences, operating nuclear and fossil power plants and also individuals with a proven accounting background and strong commercial skills in trading with our sector. In addition, our internal restructuring and the implementation of PIP may require us to hire additional staff. It should be noted that there is a

limited pool of candidates with these credentials and competition amongst employers is intense. Some of the candidates may come from the international market, where total compensation payable to senior executives may be significantly higher than in the domestic market. We may not always be successful in hiring or retaining the best candidate. An inability to attract or retain the relevant people could have a significant impact on our ability to operate and could adversely affect our business.

We have a complex relationship with the Government documented by a number of detailed and structurally intricate agreements. These agreements have yet to come into effect fully and we may find that, once in effect, they inhibit the way we operate our business. If this is the case, our financial results and performance may be adversely affected.

The arrangements we have entered into, details of which are described in the Part VI, paragraph headed: Other material contracts relating to the Restructuring, are complex and intricate, including the way in which we are classified by the Government and have yet to be tested. If the arrangements as currently drafted prove to be onerous in practice this may inhibit our ability to operate our plant effectively and/or to maximise opportunities for revenue generation and/or output enhancement. The complexity of the arrangements and the possibility that they may prove to be cumbersome may also affect the morale of our employees and their willingness or ability to develop innovative solutions.

Furthermore, the Contribution Agreement may inhibit us from pursuing opportunities to enhance the value of our asset base, for example, by undertaking technical evaluations in relation to lifetime extensions or by improving the materiel condition of our plant.

Our business is affected by a number of restrictions which restrict our ability to develop new sources of income.

As a result of the compensatory measures undertaken in relation to the State Aid Approval, we undertook not to increase our existing operational nuclear generating capacity or fossil fuel generation capacity in the EEA and, not to acquire large scale registered hydro-electric generating capacity in the UK, prior to 23 September 2010. Furthermore, the arrangements we have entered into with the Government, details of which are described in the risk factor with the heading beginning: The decision of the Commission, prohibit us from making expenditure in certain circumstances without its consent. In addition, the restrictive covenants under the New Bonds and the Receivables Facility Agreement prohibit us from making, amongst other things, material acquisitions. These restrictions significantly limit our ability to develop new sources of income.

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Further information on restrictions affecting the Eggborough power station is set out below in Risk Factor: As part of the Restructuring we will enter into new agreements in relation to the Eggborough power station. These agreements place certain constraints on the funding of the Eggborough power station and grant the Eggborough Banks certain rights.

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

Our levels of debt could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under the New Bonds.

Our pro forma total consolidated gross debt as of 31 March 2004 (as set out in Part V: Pro forma financial information) would be £700m which is to be repaid by 2022. This level of debt could have important consequences, for example, it could:

- require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flows from operations to payments on our debt, which will reduce our cash flow available to fund capital expenditures, working capital, research and development and other general corporate purposes;
- place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors who may have less debt than we do;
- limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes to our industry;
- increase our vulnerability, and reduce our flexibility to respond to general and industry-specific adverse economic conditions; and
- affect our ability to borrow additional funds, increase the cost of any such borrowing and/or limit our ability to raise equity funding.

We require a significant amount of cash to make payments on the New Bonds and to service our debt. Our ability to generate sufficient cash depends on a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control.

Our ability to make payments on, and to refinance, our debt will depend on our future operating performance and ability to generate sufficient cash subject to the collateral requirements under our trading arrangements. We are therefore dependent, to some extent, on general economic, financial, competitive, market, legislative, regulatory and other factors, many of which are beyond our control, as well as the other factors discussed in these Risk Factors.

Historically, we have serviced our debt and met our other cash requirements with cash flows from operations and the refinancing of debt. Although we believe that our expected cash flows from operating activities, together with cash in hand and available borrowings, will be adequate to meet our anticipated liquidity and debt service needs, we cannot be sure that our business will generate sufficient cash flows from operating activities, or that future debt and equity financing will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our debts when due, including the New Bonds, or to fund our other liquidity needs.

If our future cash flows from operations and other capital resources are insufficient to pay our obligations as they mature or to fund our liquidity needs, we may be forced to:

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- reduce or delay our business activities, capital expenditures and research and development;
- sell assets;
- obtain additional debt or equity capital; or
- restructure or refinance all or a portion of our debt, including the New Bonds, on or before maturity.

We may not be able to accomplish any of these alternatives on a timely basis or on satisfactory terms, if at all. In addition, the terms governing the New Bonds and the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements will limit our ability to pursue any of these alternatives. If we obtain additional debt financing, the related risks we now face will increase.

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

We are subject to restrictive covenants.

The terms governing certain of our financing arrangements, in particular the New Bonds, the Receivables Facility and the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements, contain certain provisions that restrict our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to do, amongst other things, any of the following:

- make dividends, distributions, investments, and other restricted payments;
- enter into asset sales; and
- incur indebtedness, give guarantees or enter into lease-back transactions.

These limitations will be subject to exceptions and qualifications that may be important. These restrictive covenants could adversely affect our ability to finance our future operations or capital needs or engage in other business activities that may be in our best interests.

In addition to limiting our flexibility in operating our business, a breach of these covenants could cause a default under the terms of other financing agreements we may enter into or have entered into causing all the debt under those agreements to be accelerated. If this were to happen, it would adversely affect our financial condition and our ability to continue operating as a going concern.

Given our circumstances and the Restructuring, certain of our contracts may be capable of being terminated.

Given our circumstances and as a result of the Restructuring itself, certain contracts, including GTMAs, may be capable of being terminated. Although the Group and individual Group companies have faced financial difficulties for some two years, we continue to have trading relationships with a high proportion of our contracted counterparties from 2002 and our circumstances and the Restructuring have been widely known for many months. We would likely vigorously resist attempts by counterparties to terminate contracts on these grounds. However, no assurance can be given that counterparties will not successfully exercise termination or other default rights on these grounds even after completion of the Restructuring, in which case we may be liable for termination payments or payments may be withheld from us or supplies of goods or services to our business may be interrupted, any of which could have an adverse affect on our cash flows or our operations.

The amount of insurance cover we are mandatorily required to maintain in relation to nuclear liabilities by virtue of the NIA will increase significantly, and there is no assurance that cover for nuclear liability for acts of terrorism will be available from the Nuclear Pool in future.

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In early 2004 the Government signed an international treaty amending the existing international conventions dealing with third party liability in the field of nuclear energy with the effect that, amongst other things, the liability of nuclear operators for events involving nuclear material or ionising radiation which cause damage or personal injury is likely to be increased to £700m. Furthermore, the definition of nuclear damage is likely to be expanded to include, amongst other things, economic loss. It is likely that the NIA will be amended to increase the level of insurance cover we are required to maintain from the existing £140m to £700m. Whilst the Directors believe the insurance market will have sufficient capacity to offer cover for these increased limits, there is no assurance that such cover will be available when required nor that the cost of the insurance will increase in line with the increases in liability limit on a straight-line basis. Our insurers may also seek exclusions and/or higher levels of retention which may affect the ability to make a claim if required to do so.

Cover for nuclear liability sustained by acts of terrorism has been obtained for the year ending 30 March 2005 from the Nuclear Pool. The limit for this cover and the right of recovery by

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

insurers mirrors that under the NIA in respect of nuclear liability. The Nuclear Pool indicated following the terrorist attacks in the World Trade Centre in New York that it would not provide cover for nuclear liability without agreement from the Government that the Government would provide reinsurance cover. This arrangement is subject to annual review and has been forthcoming for the last three years. There is no assurance that the Government will be able to do so in the future.

As part of the Restructuring we will enter into new agreements in relation to the Eggborough power station. These agreements place certain constraints on the funding of the Eggborough power station and grant the Eggborough Banks certain rights.

The Restructuring imposes certain constraints on the funding of the Eggborough power station by the New British Energy Group in the period from the Restructuring Effective Date until 31 March 2010 including: (i) specifying the operating and maintenance costs that may be met; and (ii) imposing an approximately £70m cap (subject to certain *de minimis* exceptions) on capital investment (the Relevant Cap).

In the event that: (i) an operating and/or maintenance cost is not specified; or (ii) capital investment work over and above the Relevant Cap is required, such costs and/or investment will be treated as Restricted Payments (as defined in Part VII: Terms and conditions of the New Bonds, paragraph 8.2) under the New Bonds (as such costs and investment work would have to be funded by BEPET, which is a Restricted Subsidiary for the purposes of the New Bonds) unless the limitation on Restricted Payments in the New Bonds has been suspended (by reason of the New Bonds attaining an investment grade rating from Moody's and at least one other rating agency at the relevant time).

Post 31 March 2010, under the New Bonds any funding of EPL by the New British Energy Group is limited to amounts: (i) required for EPL to operate and maintain the Eggborough power station in accordance with the standards of a reasonable and prudent operator and comply with its obligations under the Amended Credit Agreement (and associated documentation); and (ii) to fund capital expenditure, the primary purpose of which is the maintenance (including non-recurring maintenance) and/or repair of a capital nature at the Eggborough power station. Any additional funding in this period will be treated as Restricted Payments under the New Bonds unless the limitation on Restricted Payments in the New Bonds has been suspended (by reason of the New Bonds attaining an investment grade rating from Moody's and at least one other rating agency at the relevant time).

In addition, under the Contribution Agreement capital expenditure at the Eggborough power station is limited to amounts the primary purpose of which is maintenance or repair or is otherwise required to enable output to continue at a level consistent with historical performance levels (unless our cash exceeds the thresholds set out in the Contribution Agreement). For further detail on the Contribution Agreement see paragraph headed: Contribution Agreement in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.

Inability to meet operating and/or maintenance costs and/or to fund capital investment at the Eggborough power station as a result of the restrictions described above may result in loss of output and could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

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As part of the Restructuring, the Eggborough Options will be granted to the Eggborough Banks. In addition, the Eggborough Banks will benefit from the Eggborough Security. As a result, the New British Energy Group may cease to own the shares in, or assets of EPL on: (A) where the Eggborough Options are enforced (i) 31 March 2010; or (ii) at any time prior to 31 August 2009, on or after the occurrence of an event of default that is continuing under the Amended Credit Agreement and (B) where the Eggborough Security is enforced, on or at any time after the occurrence of an event of default that is continuing under the Amended Credit Agreement.

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

(B) RISKS RELATED TO OWNERSHIP OF NEW SHARES, NEW BONDS AND WARRANTS

There is no prior market for the New Bonds, New Shares or Warrants.

The New Bonds, the New Shares and Warrants will be new securities for which there is no established trading market. Application has been made to the UK Listing Authority for admission of the New Bonds, the New Shares and Warrants to the Official List and to the London Stock Exchange for the New Bonds, the New Shares and the New Warrants to be admitted to the London Stock Exchange's market for listed securities. However, an active market for these securities may not develop. The trading price for the securities depends on many factors, including prevailing interest rates, general economic conditions, our performance and financial results, and the markets for similar securities. As such, the trading price for the securities may be subject to disruptions and to substantial volatility in their prices. Any disruptions may have an adverse effect on the holders of the securities.

The New Bonds, New Shares and Warrants are subject to restrictions on transfer.

Although it is our present intention that the securities will be listed on the Official List and traded on the London Stock Exchange, the securities are subject to certain restrictions on transfer in the United States. The securities have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act. New Shares issued pursuant to the Creditors' Scheme and New Shares and Warrants issued pursuant to the Members' Scheme will be issued pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act pursuant to Section 3(a)(10) of the Securities Act. The New Shares to be issued upon exercise of the Warrants will constitute restricted securities in the US and will not be issued in the US unless an exemption from the registration requirements under the Securities Act is available. Furthermore, to the extent that a person receiving New Shares is deemed to be an affiliate (within the meaning of Rule 144 under the Securities Act) of the Company or British Energy, the New Shares they hold will be restricted securities and may be transferred in the United States only in accordance with the provisions of Rule 144, Rule 145 and Section 4(2) of the Securities Act or outside the United States pursuant to Regulation S under the Securities Act or another applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The New Bonds will also be restricted securities and may be transferred in the United States only in accordance with the provisions of Rule 144, Rule 144A and Section 4(2) or outside the United States pursuant to Regulation S under the Securities Act or another applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act and in accordance with the transfer restrictions of the New Bonds. If the Disposal is approved, Warrants will not be issued in the US unless an exemption from the registration requirements under the Securities Act is available. To the extent an exemption is available, the Warrants will constitute restricted securities and may only be transferred in the US in accordance with the provisions of Rule 144 and Rule 144A or outside the US pursuant to Regulation S. It is the obligation of holders of the securities to ensure that sales of securities within the United States or other countries comply with applicable securities laws. The foregoing transfer restrictions could impact on the selling price of the securities and the ability of the holders of the securities to sell the securities received in the Restructuring.

The decision of the Commission that, as far as the Restructuring involves the grant of State Aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market and the objectives of the Euratom Treaty (the State Aid Approval) may be appealed against by interested third parties to the EC Court. If such an appeal is successful, it may result in the annulment of the whole or part of the State Aid Approval or the possible imposition of further conditions on the Group. Interested third parties may also seek an order from the EC Court for an order that the arrangements whereby the Government provides aid to the Group be suspended, provided that they can establish they have an interest in the case and that the suspension is urgent. Interested third parties may also complain to the Commission or bring actions in the courts in England or Scotland that the Group or the Government are not complying with one or more of the conditions to the State Aid Approval. Any of these events could adversely affect our business or profitability.

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

The State Aid Approval may be appealed to the Court of First Instance of the European Communities (the CFI) by any interested third party provided that it can show that it is directly and individually concerned by the State Aid Approval. A party will be directly and individually concerned by the State Aid Approval, where it can show, for example, that its competitive position in the market was or may be adversely affected by it. An interested third party whose competitive position is not adversely affected by the State Aid Approval may also be able to show in other ways it is directly and individually concerned by the State Aid Approval. The government of another Member State may also appeal against the State Aid Approval to the CFI. In each case the application for the appeal must be filed within two months and ten days from either: (i) the date when the interested third party or the government of the Member State receives a full copy of the non-confidential version of the State Aid Approval from the Commission; or (ii) from the date of the publication of the non-confidential version of the State Aid Approval in the Official Journal of the European Union, where the interested third party has not already received a copy of State Aid Approval directly from the Commission. An appeal to the CFI may result in the State Aid Approval being annulled in whole or in part on grounds of procedural or substantive issues. Any such appeal will be defended by the Commission. The Government and we may intervene to support the Commission in defending the State Aid Approval. The arguments raised by us and /or the Government must support the Commission's conclusions. The process that led to the State Aid Approval was conducted almost exclusively between the Government and the Commission; we were not directly involved in it except to a limited extent. Nevertheless, we believe that the State Aid Approval should not be annulled in whole or part on appeal, but we cannot give an assurance that that is the case.

The applicant may also request the CFI to suspend in whole or in part the State Aid Approval or apply for other interim measures pending the outcome of the appeal. The CFI may make such orders with or without conditions attached, where the applicant can show that: (i) it has an interest in the State Aid Approval and, when the point is raised, that its application for the annulment of the State Aid Approval is not manifestly inadmissible; (ii) there is urgency to suspend the State Aid Approval so as to prevent the applicant suffering serious and irreparable damage (the applicant needing to show that the damage is foreseeable with a sufficient degree of probability and cannot ultimately be financially compensated); (iii) it has a *prima facie* case for the annulment of the State Aid Approval; and (iv) the balancing of the interests of the different parties calls for the State Aid Approval to be suspended or other measures to be imposed. In light of the above, we do not believe that any interested third party would succeed in suspending, or obtaining any other interim measures against the State Aid Approval.

A decision of the CFI can be appealed to the European Court of Justice (ECJ), but only on points of law. In the event of an appeal against the State Aid Approval in the CFI or the ECJ being successful and the State Aid Approval being annulled in whole or in part, the Commission would have to issue a new decision taking into account the judgment(s). The effect of a successful appeal, the details of any subsequent decision and the impact that it might have on our business's profitability or financial position is impossible to predict.

An interested third party may also complain at any time to the Commission that either the Government or we are in breach of any of the conditions imposed by the State Aid Approval. There can be no assurance that the Commission may not, as a result of any investigation it makes into the complaint, order the recovery of any aid which has been unlawfully given as a result of a breach and/or modify the conditions of the State Aid Approval or impose additional ones.

An interested third party which can show sufficient interest (under English law) or both title and interest to sue (under Scottish law) can also bring an action in a court in the appropriate jurisdiction alleging that either the Government or we are in breach of any of the conditions imposed by the State Aid Approval. The court could decide to consult with the Commission or to refer questions to the ECJ in so far as it considers them to be necessary to interpret or apply the provisions of the State Aid Approval that may be in dispute. There can be no assurance that the court would not order that the arrangements whereby the Government provides aid to the

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

Group be suspended pending compliance with the State Aid Approval and the court could order any aid given in breach of the State Aid Approval to be recovered from the Group by the Government. However, we consider this to be unlikely in view of the fact that the court would have to consider the balance of convenience to the parties in the case as a whole and must have regard to the wider public interest which in this case would, in our view, be in favour of us.

Any such appeals or procedures may have an adverse effect on the Group, our shareholders, and holders of other kinds of securities issued by the Group.

The State Aid Approval may restrict the amounts the Government may be permitted to pay to us in respect of our liabilities under the Historic Spent Fuel Contracts and assumed by it under the HLFA. This may, in the longer term, adversely affect our financial position.

The State Aid Approval provides that the Government is permitted to fund the payment of: (a) liabilities related to the cost of management of spent fuel loaded into our AGRs prior to the Effective Date (historic spent fuel), up to £2,185 million (which is calculated in real terms as at March 2003 in December 2002 (money) values); (b) the costs of certain other liabilities set out in the Historic Liabilities Funding Agreement (the HLFA) which are not however taken into account to calculate the £2,185 million cap; and (c) any shortfall of the NLF as regards the payment of liabilities related to our nuclear assets decommissioning and un-contracted liabilities. The State Aid Approval states that as soon as expenditure corresponding to: (i) the nuclear decommissioning and un-contracted liabilities referred to above; and (ii) the costs of the certain other liabilities set out in the HLFA referred to under (b) above, exceed £1,629 million (in December 2002 (money) values), the Government shall submit enhanced additional reports (on an annual basis) to the Commission demonstrating that the Government payments are restricted to meeting these liabilities, and that proper steps have been taken to limit expenditure to the minimum necessary to meet those liabilities. (The £1,629 million reporting threshold requirement is more fully discussed in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1(o)).

Article 4 of the State Aid Approval provides that for the purposes of computing the £2,185 million cap and the £1,629 million threshold in December 2002 values, the Government shall use the reference and discount rate published by the Commission for the UK updating this rate every five years.

The historic spent fuel contracts between BNFL and BE provide for contractual payments to be subject to adjustment based on UK RPI. The Government therefore proposed to the Commission that UK RPI, together with a fixed discount rate, be applied in calculating whether payments under the HLFA reach the £2,185 million cap in (December 2002 money values). The Commission's position, reflected in its decision, is that the reference and discount rate it sets for the UK from time to time should be used in calculating whether the cap is reached. There is a risk that applying the Commission's reference rate to payments made under the HLFA may result in a greater figure than the method proposed to the Commission by the Government. If this were to occur, the Government's obligation to pay amounts under the HLFA would be limited by the cap unless and until the State Aid Approval were modified.

If the Restructuring is not implemented by 31 March 2005, the schedules of payments in the contracts relating to historic spent fuel are not specified in the absence of further agreement between the relevant contracting parties. Prior to that date the parties are required to use their reasonable endeavours to renegotiate these schedules, and any new schedule would require agreement

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between us, BNFL and (pursuant to the HLFA) the Secretary of State. This may affect whether the cap would, in practice, be reached.

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

The State Aid Approval imposes on the Government a requirement that by 1 April 2005 we undertake to extract our electricity supply business from BEG and incorporate it as a separate subsidiary company, and that we consolidate our nuclear generation business in a single company. We might be unable to obtain all the relevant regulatory and other consents required, to consolidate our nuclear generation activities by 1 April 2005.

The State Aid Approval imposes on the Government a requirement that, by not later than 1 April 2005, we undertake to: (a) extract our electricity supply business from BEG and incorporate it as a separate subsidiary company; and (b) consolidate its existing nuclear generation activities in a single company. There is no explicit guidance as to how this consolidation will be effected. The purpose of this measure is to assist the ring-fencing of British Energy nuclear generation activities to avoid the State Aid by the Government leaking to other parts of the Group.

Such consolidation requires British Energy to obtain various consents from regulatory and other bodies. In addition, we have agreed with the Government under the Deed of Undertaking (a summary of which is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.1(o)) that, if the relevant consents are not obtained in time, to put in place alternative arrangements which would have the same effect, whilst we continue to use our reasonable endeavours to obtain the relevant consents.

With regard to the consolidation of our nuclear generation activities, it is now unlikely that we will be able to obtain all the necessary consents by 1 April 2005 and we will need to implement the alternative arrangements we have agreed with the Government. The Government has informed the Commission of the potential delays and of the alternative arrangements referred to above and we do not foresee that an inability to perfect the consolidation of our nuclear generation activities represents a material risk to the business.

In the event of our insolvency the holders of our New Shares and Warrants are unlikely to receive any return and the New Bondholders will rank behind certain other creditors of the Group. In the event of an insolvency where there is a deficit to creditors our equity securities will be worthless.

In the event of an insolvency our New Bonds rank behind: (i) the Decommissioning Default Payment due to the NLF under the Contribution Agreement (a summary of which is contained in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e)); (ii) the monies owed to the bank which has provided our Receivables Facility (if any are outstanding at that time); and (iii) certain excluded nuclear liabilities which are not covered by the NLFA and which will likely be paid in priority to other creditors, details of which are set out below in Part VI, paragraph headed: Nuclear liabilities funding agreement. Furthermore, the Eggborough Banks retain security over, amongst other things, the shares in, and assets, of EPL and in the event of an insolvency of the Group these assets would not be available to New Bondholders. Accordingly, the return to New Bondholders in the event of insolvency may be less than the par value of the New Bonds together with accrued interest thereon. If such circumstances were to arise, there would be no return to Shareholders and the Warrants would be worthless.

New accounting rules are currently in the process of being introduced and will affect the reporting of New British Energy's results for the year commencing 1 April 2005. At this time, the rules have yet to be finally determined and we can give no assurance that these new rules will not adversely affect the way our results are reported in our financial statements.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) will become applicable for all companies from the first year end following 1 January 2005. The introduction of IFRS represents the most significant change in accounting standards for a considerable period of time. The standards themselves are still being finalised and it is not yet possible to determine what impact IFRS will

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PART II RISK FACTORS (Continued)

have on the way our results appear in our financial statements. Whilst this will not affect our underlying operations or our ability to generate cash, it may have a significant impact on our reported profitability which may impact on the level of distributable reserves available to the group. This in turn could adversely affect our ability to pay dividends to our shareholders at a time when we would be otherwise free from the constraints imposed by our arrangements with Government and under the New Bonds to do so.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS

This Part sets out an operating and financial review of the prospects of the Group. It should be read in conjunction with all other information relating to New British Energy and Holdings plc contained in this document. You should not rely on the information in this Part of the document only. Our cash and sales figures have been extracted from our underlying accounting and sales records used in the preparation of Part IV: Financial information and the information relating to PIP has been extracted from our own internal records regarding how we allocate our expenditure.

SECTION 1: CURRENT TRADING AND PROSPECTS

Trading at the time of the announcement of the Restructuring

At the time of the announcement of the outline terms of our Restructuring on 28 November 2002, we indicated that: if the formal agreements that needed to be reached with the Bondholders, RBS, the Significant Creditors and the Eggborough Banks could not be reached; or the required approvals from, amongst others, the Commission were not forthcoming in the timescale we had envisaged; or the assumptions underlying the outlined proposal were not fulfilled, we may have been unable to meet our financial obligations as they fell due and may have been required to take appropriate insolvency proceedings. Furthermore, we considered at that time that in the event of insolvency, distributions, if any, to unsecured creditors would represent only a small fraction of their unsecured claims and that it would be unlikely that there would be any return to shareholders.

The wholesale market price for electricity had been around £17.0 per MWh for delivery in 2003/2004 whilst average unit operating costs (including those in relation to the Eggborough power station) for the six months ended 30 September 2002 were approximately £19.9 per MWh. In short, as a result of our high fixed cost base (particularly the costs associated with our fuel), on a per MWh basis, our costs of producing electricity were exceeding our achieved selling price. We entered into the agreements with Creditors, BNFL and the Secretary of State in October 2003 in order to avoid administration in circumstances where no other viable option was available to the Group. The agreements provide the best that we could negotiate for shareholders at the time. We believe the only alternative would have been for us to take appropriate insolvency proceedings under which any distribution to shareholders would have been highly unlikely.

At the time of the announcement of the formal terms of the Restructuring on 1 October 2003, we had contracted to sell our electricity for the remainder of that financial year at what we estimated at that time would be an average price of £17.1 per MWh. At that time, we had entered into fixed price contracts for summer 2004 and winter 2004/2005 in relation to approximately 50 per cent. of our output for 2004/2005 at an average price of £18.3 per MWh and altogether had contracts to sell approximately 90 per cent. of our output for that period. Taken together with the partial hedge provided by the New BNFL Contracts (assuming the market price could fall below £21.0 per MWh), this meant we would only be 8 per cent. exposed to fluctuations in the wholesale electricity price. The prevailing market price at the time had been £21.6 per MWh for 2004/2005.

The wholesale market price for electricity has increased significantly compared to the price at the time that the Restructuring was announced. This increase in the wholesale price for electricity, together with key elements of the Restructuring, details of which are set out in summary in the bullet points on the second half of page 9 and on page 10 (and which are dealt with more fully in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring) mean that the outlook for the Group has improved since the announcement made on 28 November 2002, although this has been offset by declines in output.

Current, financial and trading prospects

Nuclear output was 15.0 TWh (a 72 per cent. load factor) for the three month period ended 30 June 2004, 28.7 TWh (a 68 per cent. load factor) for the six month period ended

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

30 September 2004 and 33.1 TWh (a 67 per cent. load factor) for the seven month period ended 31 October 2004. The UK nuclear output for the equivalent periods in 2003 was 17.0 TWh (a 82 per cent. load factor), 33.3 TWh (a 79 per cent. load factor) and 37.9 TWh (a 77 per cent. load factor). The reduction on the previous year, and in the second quarter of this year compared to the first quarter, has been primarily due to unplanned outages.

During the three-month period ended 30 June 2004 and six-month period ended 30 September 2004, investment expenditure on plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole Group, including incremental costs associated with PIP, totalled £32m and £64m respectively of which we estimate that £17m and £32m respectively may have been capitalised, with the main projects in the period including replacement of cast iron pipework, fuel route improvements and the implementation of the work management programme. As a result of the FRS11 impairment review in the financial year ended 31 March 2003, all expenditure of a capital nature has been expensed and will continue to be expensed until such time as it is possible to demonstrate that it results in an enhancement to the carrying value of fixed assets.

As previously indicated, the Company had already contracted to sell much of its planned nuclear output for the current year during the previous financial year and has had to buy back power. Therefore it has not seen the full benefit of the recent rises in electricity prices. These factors, as well as increased pension costs and an increased depreciation charge related to the impairment reversal made in March 2004 have had a significant adverse impact on our profitability and cash flow. In view of the recent unplanned outages and the delayed return to service of Hartlepool and Heysham 1, the Directors consider that the outlook for the Company's financial and trading prospects for the remainder of the financial year will be challenging.

The principal factors affecting the financial and trading prospects of the Group for the current financial year are: output, nuclear unit cash costs, sales, PIP and cash and liquidity:

Nuclear output

Following the unplanned outage at Heysham 1, as a result of cast iron pipework failure, we reviewed the implications for further cast iron pipework replacement at our other nuclear power stations and, accordingly, on 19 March 2004 we announced that our indicative target for nuclear output for 2004/2005 was reduced from 67.0 TWh to 64.5 TWh. We have suffered a number of unplanned outages since that date and following the evaluation of structural inspections carried out during a statutory outage at our Hartlepool power station, we decided that further work was required to demonstrate the integrity of certain boilers. This work entailed intrusive visual inspections of a number of boiler closure units. This also involved certain inspections being undertaken at Heysham 1. In addition, we are making modifications to our safety cases for Hartlepool and Heysham 1 to address flooding and fire threats and also to address graphite core brick cracking. On 30 July 2004, we announced that we had revised our target nuclear output for 2004/2005 to around 61.5 TWh. However, following discussions with the NII concerning our programme of works at Hartlepool and Heysham 1, we currently expect that Hartlepool and Heysham 1 will not return to service until later this calendar year and consequently we expect nuclear output of 59.5 TWh in the financial year ending 31 March 2005 (as we announced on 18 November 2004). Based on the Company's business plans, we further expect the average annual nuclear output over the next 3 financial years (including this financial year) to be approximately 61.8 TWh.

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Subject always to our continuing obligations as a listed company, we propose to publish information regarding our output on a quarterly basis at the same time as we publish the results for that quarter (rather than on a monthly basis) and we do not propose to make further forward-looking statements regarding our proposed annual output during a financial year.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)*****Nuclear unit cash costs***

Average unit costs for our nuclear power stations include maintenance, expenditure on nuclear plant and equipment and corporate overheads but exclude the impact of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment and working capital movements. In determining projected average nuclear unit cash costs, we make a number of assumptions relating to, amongst other things, output, fuel, operating costs (including staff and pension contributions), operational maintenance expenditure and capital expenditure, electricity prices and inflation. The resulting projections may change over time as a result of changes to one or more of these variables. Payments due to BNFL for fuel and ancillary services under the revised arrangements vary with electricity prices (as determined by the electricity reference price in the new arrangements) and movements in electricity prices may result in changes to our average nuclear unit cash costs. An illustration of this is provided below.

In October 2003, we announced our projected three year average nuclear unit cash costs per MWh for our nuclear power stations. These were costs based on an assumed level of output of 67.0 TWh per annum, levels of capital expenditure in the range of £85m to £90m and electricity prices ranging from £14.0 per MWh to £22.0 per MWh.

In June 2004, we announced an increase in our estimate for average nuclear unit cash costs to take account of increased investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole Group (which includes incremental PIP expenditure). Based on the financial resources we expect to have available to us, for the financial year ending 31 March 2005, this investment will be in the range of £140m to £170m including incremental PIP expenditure of approximately £20m. If our financial resources are otherwise required due to unforeseen outages or changes to electricity prices and collateral requirements, we may be required to adjust our investment plans accordingly. In addition electricity prices have risen substantially since October 2003 and as a result we are now making additional payments to BNFL as provided for under the new arrangements for back-end fuel services. This will continue for so long as electricity prices remain above £16.0 per MWh (in 2002/2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI). Taking both factors into account, average nuclear unit cash costs were estimated in June 2004 to be £18.1 per MWh at then current electricity prices and assuming average annual output of 67.0 TWh.

The Directors have conducted a review of the projections for the three year period ending 31 March 2007 and annual average nuclear output for the period is now expected to be on average around 61.8 TWh per annum. On this basis, our average nuclear unit cash costs are projected to be £19.1 per MWh at current price levels. The Directors expect that these average unit costs will remain unchanged whilst wholesale baseload electricity prices remain at or above £22.7 per MWh at 2003/2004 price levels (or £21.0 per MWh, at 2002/2003 price levels, indexed to RPI), and assuming we achieve our average annual nuclear output figure. However, should wholesale baseload electricity prices fall below this figure, our fuel costs will decrease in accordance with the provisions of our revised arrangements with BNFL.

Since the October 2003 announcement, nuclear unit cash costs have increased due to the higher level of projected investment and the costs of PIP, the increase in electricity prices and the reduction in projected output and inflation. The original nuclear unit cash cost of £14.5 per MWh was quoted at a reference electricity price of £16.0 per MWh (at 2002/2003 price levels) and an annual output level of 67.0 TWh. Rebased to current electricity prices, the nuclear unit cash costs would have been £16.4 per MWh compared with the current projection of £19.1 per MWh. Of this £2.7 increase, £1.1 is due to PIP, £0.2 is due to other cost increases, £0.4 is due to inflation and £1.0 is due to the output reduction.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)**

The table below shows how average nuclear unit cash costs vary as a result of the revised BNFL arrangements at different electricity reference prices assuming an average nuclear output for the three years starting 1 April 2004 of 61.8 TWh:

Average electricity reference price under the new BNFL arrangements £ per MWh*	Average nuclear unit cash costs £ per MWh*
16.2 and below	16.6
17.3	17.1
18.4	17.7
19.4	18.2
20.5	18.7
21.6	18.9
22.7 and above	19.1

* at current price levels

Source: British Energy

Sales

As of 22 November 2004, contracts were in place covering virtually all of the planned output for the financial year ending 31 March 2005, of which nearly all are at fixed prices. The average price for these fixed price contracts is £21.0 per MWh. For 2005/2006, contracts are in place for approximately two-thirds of planned generation, with approximately half of these being at fixed prices at an average price of approximately £25 per MWh. The market price for forward baseload contracts has continued to rise and the wholesale price for annual contracts with delivery in 2005/2006 has risen from around £24.5 per MWh at the end of March 2004 to over £30.0 per MWh by 22 November 2004, an increase of some 20 per cent. Whilst there is no guarantee that these prices will continue to prevail they are comfortably above our estimates of average nuclear unit cash costs.

PIP

Following an initial mobilisation phase which ended in July 2004 and which included an asset condition survey to develop a detailed plan of action, the next phases of PIP implementation will focus on staff organisation, prioritisation of work activities, human performance initiatives and investing in people, processes and the materiel condition of our plant (as described in more detail below

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in the paragraph headed: Business strategy). The final phases are targeted to complete, subject to necessary working capital headroom being available, by 31 March 2007. Certain aspects of remedial capital investment will, however, likely run beyond that into the financial year ending 31 March 2008.

By putting in place and implementing PIP which in essence, involves investing in our people, processes and plant, we are aiming to increase the reliability of our nuclear generating assets. PIP should also lead to a reduction in our maintenance backlog. We believe that as a result of PIP, if properly implemented, we will be better placed to play a role in any future review by the Government of UK energy policy.

However, because of PIP's wide ranging nature and the time and costs involved in implementing it, we do not expect to see the benefits of the hoped for improvement in operational reliability in the current or next financial year. The degree of improvement in operational reliability and the quantification of its impact on our financial results will depend on how the implementation of PIP progresses in the next 12 months but the Directors believe, on the basis of other improvement programmes implemented elsewhere in the world, that enhancements in output reliability should be capable of being achieved.

AGR power stations are unique to the UK and were built in the 1970s and 1980s by different design consortia to different design specifications. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

the improvement in reliability achieved in other nuclear power station improvement programmes, upon which PIP is based and which have been undertaken on newer fleets of nuclear power stations based on non-AGR technology, will be capable of being achieved in respect of our AGR power stations.

Based on our current expectations of future electricity prices and output, and therefore our financial resources, we believe that annual investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole New British Energy Group, which includes incremental PIP annual expenditure of £70m to £120m, will be in the range of £200m to £250m in each of the two years ending 31 March 2006 and 2007. This compares with the range of capital expenditure of £85m to £90m announced in October 2003 which did not include expenditure on PIP, major repairs or strategic spares. If our financial resources are otherwise required due to unforeseen outages or changes to electricity prices and collateral requirements, we may be required to adjust our investment plans accordingly.

We are also implementing changes to our trading operations which are designed to improve and extend existing skills and asset utilisation in our trading function. These changes will be largely implemented by April 2005 and further details are summarised below in the paragraph headed: Role of trading.

Cash and liquidity

On 30 June 2004 net debt was £382m with gross debt standing at £883m. We had cash and liquid resources of £501m of which £321m was deposited as collateral in support of our trading activities. At 31 October 2004 the amounts were £450m and £332m respectively. We also entered into a Receivables Facility Agreement on 25 August 2004 to provide additional liquidity. We have agreed to defer amounts due to certain suppliers in order to better match the profile of monthly expenditure with the receipt of income from the sale of electricity.

In an attempt to align our nuclear fuel costs with receipts from sales of electricity in a year more closely, we have deferred an agreed sum of £20m in this financial year under certain of our contractual arrangements with BNFL which we intend to pay in respect of July invoiced payments, on 1 February 2005 and in respect of August and September invoiced payments, on 1 March 2005.

In addition, we have agreed a further side letter with BNFL dated 10 November 2004 under which it has been agreed that certain other payments under our existing fuel arrangements may be deferred. These payments were due in August, September and October 2004 and aggregate approximately £35m. We have agreed to pay approximately £10m of this amount on or before 31 December 2004, and the balance in two tranches in amounts to be agreed on or before 31 January 2005 and 28 February 2005, respectively. The contractual late payment interest at the rate of LIBOR plus 2 per cent. has started to accrue in relation to the amounts outstanding. BNFL has agreed that these late payments will not constitute non-compliance with our payment obligations for the purpose of our June 2004 deferral arrangements described above, provided the additional deferred amounts are paid in accordance with the proposal set out above.

Business strategy

Our business strategy is constrained by, amongst other things, the terms of the Contribution Agreement, a summary of which is set in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e), the New Bonds, the Receivables Facility Agreement and the compensatory measures we have agreed to in connection with the State Aid Approval. Therefore, we expect to execute the following strategy:

- ***Improving reliability*** Our principal business objective is to improve operational reliability through: investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares; improving the way our plant is maintained and operated; and reducing human errors that have led to unplanned outages. In short, we aim to produce more electricity more reliably from our nuclear power stations and this will be the most significant element of our strategy by a considerable margin;

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

- ***Seek life extensions*** Progress on improving the material condition of our nuclear power stations may allow us to demonstrate safety cases that support the extension of their operating lives; and
- ***Input into wider UK energy debate*** In the longer term, we will seek to apply our skills, expertise and assets in playing a part in the evolution of the power market and in any future debate commenced by the Government regarding the UK's energy strategy.

Overall we are aiming to raise our standing in the worldwide nuclear community by demonstrating increasing capability to WANO and INPO as a basis of establishing our credentials as an operator and manager of choice.

As our nuclear power stations close, our ability to invest in new business development opportunities may be further restricted due to a lack of sufficient cash resources and this issue may be exacerbated should some of our nuclear power stations be required to close earlier than the estimated closure date used in our financial statements.

Trading

We have agreed a set of principles with the Secretary of State and the NLF (the Principles) although our detailed trading policies within this framework are a matter to be decided upon by the Board. Further details of the Principles are set out in the summary of the Contribution Agreement in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e).

The Principles

The overriding objective of the Principles is to ensure our ongoing viability. The key principles are set out below.

- Our trading activities will be limited to those appropriate or necessary to protect and enhance the value of our core assets;
- We will not undertake material new trading activities or engage in new markets which will incur significant additional risk of a shortfall of financial resources or of which the medium term risk-return profile of the activity or new markets supports value creation;
- We will have rigorous trading governance arrangements in place at all times, run by appropriately qualified and experienced staff;
- An independent expert will conduct an annual review of our governance, control and risk management systems; and

- We will seek to carry out our trading activities with the objective of ensuring that we have adequate working capital headroom.

Once a trading policy in accordance with the Principles has been adopted, we are under an obligation to endeavour to comply with such policy under the terms of the Contribution Agreement. The Board may however review and adopt other trading policies from time to time provided they are in accordance with the Principles.

Role of trading

Our approach to trading which we consider is in accordance with the Principles, seeks to use diverse routes to market to sell our output. These include bespoke contracts for supply over periods of varying durations, some of which are for the supply of electricity in excess of a year, over-the-counter transactions in the wholesale traded market, electronic power exchange trading, direct supply to industrial and commercial customers, and sales of balancing and ancillary services to the National Grid. We also sell forward in order to manage the risks of short to medium term price volatility in wholesale electricity market prices and because there is insufficient liquidity in the short term markets alone for us to be sure that we would be able to sell our generation at an acceptable price.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

Our trading strategy utilises these different routes to market with a view to reducing overall exposure to volatility in short and medium term wholesale electricity market prices whilst seeking to reduce the amount of credit support required. We aim to build a portfolio of wholesale trades and direct supply contracts (generally at fixed prices) to approximately match our planned generation output and to further mitigate the exposure to the wholesale market and, in particular, the risk of wholesale electricity market prices falling. This approach does however reduce, in the medium term, the benefit we receive from wholesale electricity market prices rising. As of the end of October 2004, we had in place contracts for volume equivalent to virtually all of our planned generation in 2004/2005, of which nearly all are at fixed prices. For 2005/2006, contracts are in place for approximately two-thirds of planned generation, with approximately half of these being at fixed prices at an average price of approximately £25 per MWh. This includes an element of the Centrica contract and DSB and structured trades fixed during the period the year ended 31 March 2004 or before. The average price under fixed price contracts for 2004/2005 was £21.1 per MWh as of the end of October 2004. This is substantially higher than the average realised price of £16.9 per MWh for the year ended 31 March 2004 but is lower than the prevailing wholesale electricity price for delivery in 2005/2006 which was in excess of £34.0 per MWh by the end of October 2004.

We propose to enhance the use of financial products (such as options) to better hedge against the impact of increased levels of collateral being required by counterparties to our energy sales contracts, as a result of sudden increases in price and/or decreases in output due to unplanned outages at our nuclear power stations.

In addition to our hedging activities we may also undertake non-hedging related trades from time to time within set limits and policies approved by the Board.

During 2003/2004 we undertook a comprehensive review of our trading capabilities and embarked upon a Trading Development Programme to improve and extend existing skills and asset utilisation. This programme involves strengthening the analysis, risk management and back office functions (including new risk measurement processes) and reviewing trading procedures and performance incentives. In addition we will be upgrading the IT systems used within trading. These changes should enable better risk management and control. The Trading Development Programme should be largely complete by April 2005.

Eggborough power station

As the Eggborough power station is operated primarily as a flexible mid-merit plant, its output level is influenced by market prices, our contracted trading position and the extent to which it is operated as cover for unplanned outages arising from our nuclear power stations. The revised NAP referred to in Part I, paragraph headed: Legislation affecting the Eggborough power station's output, gives an allocation of 4.9m tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions allowances under the ETS for each of the calendar years 2005, 2006 and 2007 for the Eggborough power station (equivalent to output of approximately 5.4 TWh) in each such year. This allocation is scheduled to be finalised in autumn 2004 but may change depending on the final allocations. Additional allowances may need to be acquired if the Eggborough power station is to maintain its output at 2003/2004 levels. The market for carbon dioxide emission allowances is growing and it is too early to give a meaningful indication as to what the carbon allocations required to operate Eggborough at current output levels would cost.

The Eggborough power station's future output will also be affected by the impact of the LCPD, which is intended to limit the emissions of sulphur and nitrogen from fossil fuel power stations. The FGD has been installed and commissioning tests are in

progress. Handover of the project has been delayed pending resolution of certain performance issues. We currently believe that the issues can be resolved without having a material adverse effect on our financial or trading position. Once operational, the equipment is designed to reduce emissions of SO₂ to the atmosphere from the units which have been fitted with FGD by approximately 90 per cent.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

Relationship with Government

The Secretary of State's statement to Parliament on 28 November 2002 set out the limits of the support which the Government was prepared to provide to the Restructuring in order to support its overriding objectives of securing the safety of British Energy's nuclear power stations and the security of electricity supply to the Grid and customers. For further details of the Government support to be provided, see the summaries of the NLFA, the HLFA and the Contribution Agreement set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 17.2 (c), (d) and (e).

As a result of these objectives, the Government, both directly and through the NLF, has availed itself of a number of rights granted to it under the Government Restructuring Agreement (pursuant to the immediately operative provisions of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements) to protect its significant financial interest in the Group. However, the Restructuring has been implemented on the basis that the Board will manage the business of the Group going forward, albeit within these constraints.

During the period prior to the signing of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, we kept and since then, have continued to keep the Secretary of State closely informed of, amongst other things, our financial and trading prospects. We also provide the Secretary of State with reports and other information as required under the Government Restructuring Agreement and the Creditor Restructuring Agreement. Post-Restructuring, New British Energy will be required to supply information to the Secretary of State and the NLF (see Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements). We are also required under the terms of the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements, amongst other things, to provide the Secretary of State with all the information she would reasonably need to monitor the financial health of the Group (including monthly cashflow information covering the period 18 months ahead) and to only adopt trading policies which are prudent in light of the Group's on-going financial resources and obligations and to comply with such trading policies. As a result of these requirements, the Company has agreed to provide the Secretary of State and Shareholder Executive with, amongst other things, periodic reports on its business performance and strategic and business plans and for there to be regular meetings and communication between the Secretary of State and senior executives and the Board on a range of topics. Over time, the frequency and content of the reporting may be reviewed.

ONS classification and the NAO conclusion

On 24 September 2004, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) announced that, for the purposes of production of the United Kingdom National Accounts (National Accounts), British Energy had been classified as in the public sector. As explained in the announcement, the National Accounts are produced to describe activities in a national economy, including transactions taking place between sectors of that economy. The ONS is responsible for the National Accounts which are compiled in accordance with international standards. In assessing the status of British Energy as a public sector body, the ONS stated that it took into account the powers conferred on the Government under the terms of the Government Facility and to be conferred on the Government as a result of the Restructuring.

The National Audit Office (NAO) has independently concluded, on the basis of the circumstances extant as at 21 September 2004, that British Energy should be accounted for post- Restructuring as a quasi-subsiary of the DTI.

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This classification of British Energy as a public sector body is relevant for the purposes of compiling the National Accounts but does not prevent the implementation of the Restructuring. Similarly, the NAO's opinion that the DTI should account for British Energy as a quasi-subsiary does not impact on the implementation of the Restructuring. The Company is a public limited company owned by its shareholders and managed independently by its Board who will be

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

subject to the normal private sector disciplines, fiduciary duties and Companies Act requirements. The Company is an independent entity and has control over a majority of its assets.

In the light of the level and type of interaction we will have with the Government post-Restructuring, the Company will need to conclude whether, for the purposes of FRS8, the Government constitutes a related party and if so, what level of disclosure will be required with regard to transactions with the Government, including transactions of a routine nature with parties such as the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise and local authorities, amongst others.

The NAO's conclusion does not change the position that the Group has adopted in relation to the application to it of the Utilities Public Procurement Rules.

Dividend and financial policy

The Board intend to distribute to Shareholders as much of the Company's available cash flow as prudently possible, but not until operational requirements of the business permit. In addition, under the terms of the Restructuring, there are certain restrictions on, or factors affecting, the Board's ability to pay dividends including:

- we are required to fund cash reserves out of our net cash flow in order to support the New British Energy Group's collateral and liquidity requirements post-Restructuring (the Cash Reserves). The initial target amount for the Cash Reserves is £490m plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200m (the Target Amount). Prior to paying any dividends, our cash needs to equal or exceed the Target Amount and certain amounts specified in the Contribution Agreement, a summary of which is set out in Part X: Additional information, paragraph 17.2 (e);
- the terms of the Contribution Agreement also require that once the Cash Reserves are funded to the Target Amount, we must make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment. Initially this is 65 per cent. (the Payment Percentage) of the New British Energy Group's adjusted net cash flow (calculated on the basis set out in the summary of the Contribution Agreement). The Payment Percentage may be adjusted for certain corporate actions but may never exceed 65 per cent. The requirement to make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment will greatly reduce the amount of cash that would otherwise be available for distribution to Shareholders. In addition, we may not pay any dividends without making an additional payment to the NLF if the result of paying such dividends would be that the aggregate amount of dividends paid to Shareholders in the period following the Restructuring would exceed the aggregate of our annual adjusted net cash flow in such period less the aggregate NLF Cash Sweep Payment payable in such period;
- the terms of the New Bonds contain certain covenants (which are described in detail in Part VII: Terms and conditions of the New Bonds), including a restriction that allows us to pay a dividend only if the Target Amount is met and no event of default has occurred; and
- we must have distributable reserves.

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As a result of these restrictions and after making a prudent allowance for collateral requirements the Directors consider that the earliest period for which a dividend may be declared is the financial year ending 31 March 2007.

Subject to these restrictions, the Board intends to distribute to Shareholders as much of the Company's available cash flow as prudently possible. Any such decision to make such a distribution will be made in the circumstances of the time. In relation to any financial year in respect of which the Company might otherwise be permitted to pay a dividend, the Directors might, for example, consider during the course of that year (or subsequent to it) whether it would be prudent to redeem or repurchase New Bonds (which in turn would require an Accelerated Decommissioning Payment to be made to the NLF), make additional contributions

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

to the Group's pension schemes, allocate cash to the Forecast Expenditure Reserve in accordance with the Contribution Agreement (for instance, to meet certain qualifying expenditure on PIP which is due in the following financial period, to acquire or fund a specific fixed asset or undertaking (expected to be from cash and not from borrowings)) or retain Cash Reserves in excess of the Target Amount.

Movements in the operational cash flow of the Group (prior to debt service and the adjustments referred to above) from one financial year to another are likely to be volatile, for example because of movements in the wholesale price of electricity and variability in our output.

Taking account of the constraints set out above, consideration of prudence and the likely volatility of operating cash flows, the Directors believe that any dividends paid by the Company may vary in size and frequency.

Under the terms of the Contribution Agreement, the Company may reduce the Target Amount if the New Bonds are rated investment grade by Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch. The Directors believe that even with the achievement of a low investment grade rating, the financial position of the Group would not likely allow any reduction of the Target Amount to enable any release of Cash Reserves.

Under the terms of the New Bonds, certain covenants, including in relation to dividends and debt incurrence, will be suspended if Moody's and one other rating agency rate the New Bonds as investment grade. However, in view of the feedback received from the ratings agencies which resulted in the announcement on 23 September 2004, of indicative non-investment grade ratings, the Directors consider that it will be difficult to meet this condition.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

SECTION 2: OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

You should read the following information in conjunction with the document as a whole and in particular our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes in Part IV: Financial information. You should not rely on the information in this section only. The financial information contained in the following discussion and analysis is extracted without material adjustment from our audited consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with UK GAAP. UK GAAP differs in a number of significant respects from US GAAP. A description of the differences between UK GAAP and US GAAP relevant to our audited consolidated financial statements and reconciliations of (loss)/profit after tax (or net (loss)/income) and deficit on equity shareholders funds is set out in section 5 of Part IV: Financial information.

In this Section 2 of Part III, except as otherwise specified, we , us or our refers to British Energy and/or its subsidiaries.

Overview of the Group

Our principal activities are the generation, sale and trading of electricity. We are the UK's largest generator of electricity, producing over one fifth of the UK's electricity and employing approximately 5,100 staff. We own and operate eight nuclear power stations and one coal-fired power station in the UK. Of our nuclear power stations, seven are AGRs (Dungeness B, Hartlepool, Heysham 1, Heysham 2, Hunterston B, Hinkley Point B and Torness) and the eighth (Sizewell B) is our sole PWR. Our nuclear power stations have a combined capacity of approximately 9,600 MW. The Eggborough power station has capacity of 1,960 MW. During the year ended 31 March 2004, our power stations produced total output of 72.6 TWh, which was comprised of output of 65.0 TWh from our nuclear power stations and 7.6 TWh from the Eggborough power station.

We made two significant divestitures: in February 2003, we disposed of our majority interest in Bruce Power, which operates the Bruce nuclear power station in Canada and in December 2003, we sold our 50 per cent. interest in AmerGen, a joint venture which operated three nuclear power stations in the United States.

We generated turnover (excluding turnover from discontinued operations) of £1,516m during the year ended 31 March 2004 resulting in operating profits of £57m (before net exceptional operating credits of £283m). During the year ended 31 March 2003, we generated turnover of £1,903m of which £1,528m was from continuing activities (£1,487m excluding exceptional items) and resulted in operating profits from continuing activities of £5m before exceptional income of £41m and exceptional operating costs of £3,845m. Operating profits from continuing activities (after exceptional operating credits) were £340m during the year ended 31 March 2004 as compared with an operating loss from continuing activities (after exceptional operating costs) of £3,799m during the year ended 31 March 2003.

The Restructuring

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We are currently in the process of a major financial restructuring. In October 2003, we announced that we had agreed the terms of the Restructuring. Completion of the Restructuring remains subject to the satisfaction of a number of important conditions. If the Restructuring is completed, our creditors will have agreed to compromise at least £1,199m in debt and other obligations. The Restructuring involves the Bondholders, the Eggborough Banks, RBS and the Significant Creditors compromising their claims against the British Energy Group in exchange for, amongst other things, the issue to those creditors of New Bonds of our subsidiary Holdings plc and New Shares of the Company. The Restructuring contemplates that the Bondholders and RBS will compromise their claims through a scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Act (referred to as the Creditors Scheme). The Significant Creditors will extinguish all, and the Eggborough Banks will extinguish part, of their existing claims against the British Energy Group pursuant to the various arrangements under the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and related documents.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

The Government Restructuring Agreement was also entered into in connection with the Restructuring and sets out new arrangements with the Secretary of State and the NLF regarding the funding of qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and the qualifying costs of decommissioning the New British Energy Group's nuclear power stations which will become effective on Restructuring (although we are currently obliged to comply with certain of their provisions. See Part VI: Further information in relation to the Restructuring, paragraph headed Nuclear liability arrangements, for further details.) The Secretary of State will fund: (i) qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs to the extent they exceed the assets of the NLF; and (ii) subject to certain exceptions, contracted liabilities for historic spent fuel (Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under paragraph headed State Aid). To the extent there is any surplus in the NLF, this amount will be paid to the Secretary of State. The New British Energy Group will be responsible for funding certain excluded or disqualified liabilities and will be, in certain circumstances, required to compensate or indemnify the NLF and the Secretary of State in relation to such liabilities. Our obligations under these arrangements with the Secretary of State will be guaranteed by each Material New British Energy Group Company. The excluded liabilities include, amongst others, employment and redundancy costs and certain environmental expenses. These excluded and disqualified liabilities include, amongst others, costs incurred as a result of our failure to operate in accordance with a minimum performance standard or introduction of certain operational changes at our power stations. The excluded and disqualified liabilities are described in greater detail in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements.

In consideration for the Secretary of State and the NLF assuming these liabilities, Holdings plc will issue £275m in New Bonds to the NLF and the New British Energy Group will make various payments to the NLF including the NLF Cash Sweep Payment. The NLF's entitlement to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment is convertible into Convertible Shares and on a full conversion, the NLF would hold up to 65 per cent. of the thereby enlarged equity share capital of the Company. However, the terms of the Convertible Shares include a limit on the voting rights attaching to such shares equal to the maximum amount which can be held by the NLF without triggering a mandatory offer under the Takeover Code, being currently 29.9 per cent. of the voting rights of the Company (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other ordinary shares in the Company held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF). This voting restriction applies for so long as the Convertible Shares are held by the NLF. The Convertible Shares will convert automatically into ordinary shares in the Company on transfer to a third party but are not convertible at the election of the NLF prior to such transfer. There are restrictions on the manner in which the NLF may convert its entitlement to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment or dispose of any of its shares in the Company.

For further information about the Restructuring, the NLF and the related agreements see Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring, paragraph headed: Nuclear liability arrangements.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)****Financial reporting requirements and format of the New British Energy Group**

New British Energy has agreed, in addition to UK reporting obligations, within the New Bond terms to adopt the following reporting to financial markets which will include in all cases Management's Discussion and Analysis:

Period ending	Document	Deadline after period end	GAAP
31 December 2004	UK quarterly results	45 days	UK GAAP
31 December 2004	10-Q	45 days	US GAAP
31 March 2005	UK annual results	Per US domestic* accelerated filers ⁽¹⁾	UK GAAP
31 March 2005 and annually thereafter	10-K	Per US domestic accelerated filers ⁽¹⁾	US GAAP
30 June 2005 and quarterly thereafter	UK quarterly results	45 days ⁽²⁾	IFRS
30 June 2005 and quarterly thereafter	10-Q	45 days ⁽²⁾	US GAAP
31 March 2006 and thereafter	UK annual results	Per US domestic* accelerated filers	IFRS

* Deadline driven by US GAAP filing deadline

⁽¹⁾ To be extended to 120 days for the year ending 31 March 2005 if approved by Consenting Creditors prior to the Issue Date of the New Bonds.

⁽²⁾ To be extended to 90 days for period ending 30 June 2005, and 75 days for periods ending 30 September 2005 and 31 December 2005, if approved by Consenting Creditors prior to the Issue Date of the New Bonds.

Compliance with Section 404 of Sarbox will require New British Energy to evaluate and report annually on the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting. The Audit Committee will oversee management's process, findings, and remediation actions arising in relation to its Section 404 compliance plan. New British Energy's external auditors will opine on management's assessment of Section 404 compliance as well as reporting their own opinion on New British Energy's internal controls over financial reporting. Sections 302 and 906 of Sarbox require a certification by Executive Officers of New British Energy as to the accuracy and completeness of financial statements and review of the disclosure controls process in relation to each financial reporting period.

The requirement noted above to provide comparatives will only however be required to the extent that the reporting entity post restructuring has relevant comparatives.

Critical accounting policies

UK GAAP requires our Directors to adopt those accounting policies which are most appropriate for the purpose of the preparation of the accounts. In preparing the accounts in conformity with UK GAAP, the Directors are required to make estimates and assumptions which impact on the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Certain of our accounting policies have been identified as the most critical accounting policies by considering which policies involve particularly complex or subjective decisions or assessments and these are discussed below.

Going concern

Our audited consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis because our Directors are currently seeking an alternative to liquidation or ceasing trading operations. The going concern basis assumes that we will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The validity of this assumption is dependent on completion of the Restructuring.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

If the remaining conditions and approvals to the Restructuring are not satisfied, we may no longer be considered to be operating as a going concern. Some of the conditions required to implement the Restructuring are beyond our control, such as Court approval of the Schemes. If for any reason we are unable to complete the Restructuring and cease to be a going concern, adjustments may have to be made to reduce the monetary values of our assets to their recoverable amounts, to provide for further liabilities that might arise and to reclassify our fixed assets and long-term liabilities as current assets and liabilities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets (other than assets in the course of construction) are stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Accumulated depreciation includes additional charges made where necessary to reflect impairment in value. Assets in the course of construction are stated at cost and are not depreciated until brought into commission.

The charge for depreciation of fixed assets is based on the straight line method so as to write off the costs of assets, after taking into account provisions for diminution in value, over their estimated useful lives.

The carrying values of fixed assets are reviewed for impairment where there has been a trigger event by assessing the present value of estimated future cash flows and net realisable value compared with net book value. The calculation of estimated future cash flows is based on the Directors' best estimates of future prices, output and costs and is therefore subjective.

British Energy performed an impairment review in 2003 which resulted in a £3,738m write-down of the fixed assets. This impairment review was reperformed in 2004 which resulted in a reversal of £295m of the amount previously impaired.

Since the impairment review in 2003, all expenditure of a capital nature has been expensed, and will continue to be expensed until such time as it is possible to demonstrate that it results in an enhancement to the carrying value of fixed assets.

Nuclear liabilities and decommissioning

Nuclear liabilities represent provision for the Group's liabilities in respect of the costs of waste management of spent fuel and nuclear decommissioning. The provisions represent the Directors' best estimates of the costs expected to be incurred. They are calculated based on the latest technical evaluation of the processes and methods likely to be used, and reflect current engineering knowledge. The provisions are based on such commercial agreements as are currently in place, and reflect the Directors' understanding of the current Government policy and regulatory framework. The Directors carry out an in-depth review of the adequacy of amounts provided on a five-yearly basis, and also review the amounts provided for significant change during the intervening years. Given that Government policy and the regulatory framework on which our assumptions have been based may be expected to develop and that the Directors' plans will be influenced by improvements in technology and experience gained from

decommissioning activities, liabilities and the resulting provisions are likely to be adjusted.

In matching the costs of generating electricity against the income from sales, accruals are made in respect of the following:

(a) Fuel costs - back-end

These accruals cover reprocessing and storage of spent nuclear fuel and the long term storage, treatment of eventual disposal of nuclear waste. They are based, as appropriate, on contractual arrangements or the latest technical assessments of the processes and methods likely to be used to deal with these obligations under the current regulatory regime. Where accruals are based on contractual arrangements they are included within creditors. Other accruals are based on long term cost forecasts which are reviewed regularly and adjusted where necessary, and are included within provisions.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

(b) Decommissioning of nuclear power stations

The financial statements include provision for the full cost of decommissioning the Group's nuclear power stations. Provision is made on the basis of the latest technical assessments of the processes and methods likely to be used for decommissioning under the current regulatory regime. The provision established at the commencement of a nuclear power station's operating life is capitalised as part of the costs of the station and depreciated over the station life, and is assessed for impairment.

The estimated costs of decommissioning are discounted to reflect the timescale before and during which the work will take place (following closure of the nuclear power station). As stated above, we anticipate that following the end of generation, dismantling the reactors will be deferred for a period of at least 85 years (for AGR power stations) and up to 50 years (for PWR power stations). However, the discounted costs of decommissioning prudently assume dismantling at 70 years (for AGR power stations) and 10 years (for PWR power stations).

The actual liability for decommissioning may vary significantly from our estimate, and as a result, the liabilities we report in our results may vary significantly if our assessment of these costs changes. Many of the factors that are integral to the determination of our estimate, such as governmental regulations and inflation, are beyond our control.

Accruals and provisions for back-end fuel costs and decommissioning are stated in the balance sheet at current price levels, discounted at a long-term real rate of interest of 3 per cent. per annum to take account of the timing of payments. Each year the financing charges in the profit and loss account include the revalorisation of liabilities required to discharge one year's discount from provisions made in prior years and restate these provisions to current price levels.

Onerous contracts

Following the introduction of NETA and the renegotiation of certain contracts, a number of our electricity trading contracts no longer hedged our physical output. As the status of these contracts changed under UK GAAP, a provision was made for the out of market element of the contracts under FRS 12 Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets. In arriving at the provision, the terms of the contract are considered along with our estimate of the expected future electricity prices over the period of the contracts. The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2004 reflect the claim amounts for these contracts which have been agreed in principle for the purpose of the Restructuring.

Decommissioning fund

The Group makes contributions into the NDF, an externally administered fund to cover certain longer-term decommissioning costs. The Group's annual contributions to the fund are assessed by qualified actuaries, taking into account the timing and expected decommissioning costs and the period until station closures. The value of the asset in the balance sheet represents the contributions made by the Group, together with an estimated actuarially determined long term rate of return on the fund. The

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change in value arising from applying the estimated long term rate of return is taken to the profit and loss account and disclosed as part of revalorisation.

The revalorisation of the decommissioning fund, which has been taken through the profit and loss account, is not a realised profit for the purposes of the Act because the income is unrealised until the Group receives the related cash from the fund to reimburse decommissioning expenditure. The inclusion of this profit in the profit and loss account is a departure from the requirements of the Act. Revalorisation of the accrued decommissioning provision is charged to the profit and loss account each year and accordingly, in the opinion of the Directors, it is necessary to include the estimated annual long term rate of return of the fund

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

in the Group's profit and loss account in the order for the financial statements to give a true and fair view. In the event that the net realisable value as indicated by the market value of the fund is lower than the value determined under the accounting policy set out above, the lower value is included in the Group accounts.

Impact of the Restructuring

The material accounting policies set out above will continue to be applied to the business of the New British Energy Group if the Restructuring is successfully implemented. In addition, upon Restructuring we will enter into a number of new contractual arrangements that will have a material impact on the results and financial position of the New British Energy Group, and given that these new contractual arrangements are future events, can only be adopted in the preparation of our post-Restructuring financial statements. The pro forma financial information in Part V, which has been prepared using the current accounting policies of the Group, reflects new contractual terms and, with the exception of fair value adjustments, as they cannot be accurately calculated at this date as they will require an assessment of the circumstances prevailing at the time of the Restructuring, shows the illustrative impact on the net asset position as at 31 March 2004 and the profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2004 as if the Restructuring had occurred at that date.

The Company will include a table detailing the assets and liabilities acquired pursuant to the Restructuring, as well as the fair value adjustments made, in the next set of annual accounts to be published following the Restructuring Effective Date. The narrative attached to the table will set out the basis for the fair value adjustments and will also explain the reason for any significant differences from the values or approach included in the pro forma consolidated net asset statement set out in Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information. Should a material adjustment to the value of our assets arise as a result of a fair value adjustment exercise undertaken prior to our next set of annual accounts, we would announce the results of such an exercise in accordance with our continuing obligations as a listed company.

Significant matters which involve either complex or subjective decisions or assessments are set out below.

Acquisition accounting

The accounting for the Restructuring is expected to follow the principles of acquisition accounting owing to the significance of the change in ownership of the Group. Accordingly, in accordance with UK GAAP, all of the Group's assets and liabilities are required to be fair valued at the Restructuring Effective Date. Significant adjustments are expected to result from fair valuing the fixed assets, liabilities which are compromised under the Restructuring, the pension deficit, the British Energy Group's electricity trading and supply commitments, and the deferred tax asset. The impact of the changes in values will in turn have an impact on future amounts charged to the profit and loss account, for example in respect of depreciation of fixed assets.

Positive or negative goodwill will arise on consolidation in the event that the market price of the New Shares on Admission differs from the fair value of the assets and liabilities. Any goodwill arising will be required to be assessed for impairment at the Restructuring Effective Date.

Compromise of indebtedness and certain onerous contracts

The Restructuring involves the Bondholders, the Eggborough Banks, RBS and the Significant Creditors compromising their claims against the British Energy Group in exchange for, among other things, the issue to those Creditors of New Bonds of Holdings plc and New Shares of New British Energy. The reduction in creditors will be reflected in the acquisition accounting. Thereafter there will be a periodic charge to profit for the interest cost on the New Bonds which is expected to be lower than amounts charged on the liabilities compromised.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

NLF or Secretary of State undertaking

Under the terms of the Restructuring, the NLF will fund qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs. The Secretary of State has provided an undertaking to fund any future shortfall in the NLF's ability to fund these qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs and also to meet certain qualifying contracted liabilities in relation to historic spent fuel. (Further information regarding the implications of the State Aid Approval on the liabilities of the Secretary of State under these agreements is set out in Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring under paragraph headed State Aid.)

We will continue to recognise a provision for our best estimate of nuclear liabilities and decommissioning costs as in the past and recognise a receivable from the NLF or Secretary of State for the amount of qualifying nuclear liabilities. Any future movements in qualifying nuclear liabilities would result in an equal and opposite movement in the NLF or Secretary of State receivable. Accordingly, the revalorisation charge recognised in prior years in respect of the unwinding of the discounted provision for nuclear liabilities will be offset by an equal and opposite credit from the movement of the NLF or Secretary of State receivable.

Spent fuel management of AGR fuel loaded post-Restructuring

Under the proposed New Spent Fuel Agreements, ownership of the new spent fuel (ie. spent fuel arising from AGR fuel which is loaded into our reactors on or after the Effective Date) reverts to BNFL such that New British Energy is no longer directly responsible for storage, reprocessing and disposal costs beyond those paid under the agreements. Going forward, the Group's AGR back-end fuel costs for these services will be paid in advance (at the time of loading fuel into the reactor) based on an amount per tonne of uranium in the fuel loaded. Accordingly, the New British Energy Group will no longer build a provision for this liability as it consumes the fuel but will treat this as a prepaid operating expense and amortise over the period that the fuel is consumed.

The NLF Cash Sweep Payment

As part of the Restructuring, the New British Energy Group will make certain payments to the NLF including the NLF Cash Sweep Payment. Following the Restructuring Effective Date, the Group is required to retain a minimum amount of cash in reserve, initially set at a target of £490m, which will be adjusted for any incremental collateral requirements above £200m, prior to the proposed NLF Cash Sweep Payment being made, to support collateral and liquidity requirements post Restructuring.

A liability for 65 per cent. of the Group's cash and liquid funds balance, as well as its net financial working capital (being short term debtors less creditors expected to crystallise into cash in less than one year), will be established as part of the acquisition accounting at the Restructuring Effective Date. Thereafter, movements in this liability will be expensed as an operating expense in the year that the movement in cash or working capital arose. This operating expense will not be tax deductible.

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The NLF's entitlement to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment is convertible into Convertible Shares (the NLF Conversion Right). On a full conversion, the NLF would hold up to 65 per cent. of the thereby enlarged equity share capital of the Company. However, the terms of the Convertible Shares include a limit on the voting rights attaching to such shares equal to the maximum amount which can be held by the NLF without triggering a mandatory offer under the Takeover Code, being currently 29.9 per cent. of the voting rights of the Company (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other ordinary shares of the Company held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF). This voting restriction applies for so long as the Convertible Shares are held by the NLF. The Convertible Shares will convert

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

automatically into ordinary shares in the Company on transfer to a third party but are not convertible at the election of the NLF prior to such transfer. There are restrictions on the manner in which the NLF may exercise the NLF Conversion Right or dispose of any of the shares arising from such exercise. The implications of the conversion will only be recognised if the NLF Conversion Right is exercised.

NLF fixed annual commitment

In addition to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment and the pre-paid reprocessing services, the Group will undertake to make an annual fixed payment to the NLF of £20m per annum (stated in March 2003 monetary values, indexed to RPI) and tapering off as our nuclear power stations are currently scheduled to close. The Group will recognise as a fair value adjustment a provision for the present value of the total amount payable based on the contracted payment schedule. The provision will be utilised for the annual payment and the effect of the discount unwound through the interest line of the profit and loss account.

£150,000 per tonne of uranium in PWR fuel loaded payable under the Contribution Agreement

Under the Contribution Agreement, £150,000 (stated in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) per tonne of uranium in PWR fuel is payable on loading of the fuel and will be charged as a part of operating costs as the fuel is consumed.

Deferred taxation

As at 31 March 2004, the Group had an unrecognised deferred taxation asset of £375m (£291m discounted) which was not recognised due to uncertainty over the level of future taxable profits. It is the Group's policy to recognise deferred taxation assets when the Directors consider that it is more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted. An assessment as to appropriateness of recognising a deferred taxation asset will be made in future periods based on circumstances at that time.

Fixed assets

As at 31 March 2004, British Energy's fixed assets are held at historic cost, adjusted for impairments recognised previously. The carrying value of the nuclear power stations as at 31 March 2004 was based on a value in use calculation of the net present value of estimated future cash flows from those assets under the contracts in place at that time, and uses assumptions for future electricity prices and operational performance.

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The Restructuring will be implemented following the principles of acquisition accounting which requires all assets and liabilities to be fair valued. At the Restructuring Effective Date, the fair value of the fixed assets is expected to be assessed on a value in use basis as the net present value of estimated future cash flows from the fixed assets under the revised contracts. Those estimates will require judgments on a number of significant variables including electricity prices, operating costs and output projections. To the extent that cash flows are recognised in the fair value of other assets or liabilities (for example, in the fair value of the pension scheme deficits) they would be omitted from the fair value assessment of the fixed assets.

A consequence of the change in estimates and the changes in cash flows attributable to fixed assets following implementation of the Restructuring and consequent changes to payments for fuel and nuclear liabilities, as well as potential changes in discount rates, is that the fair values of fixed assets may, or may not, be significantly different from the carrying values of those fixed assets as included in the financial statements of the British Energy Group at 31 March 2004.

The change to the fair value of fixed assets will be recognised as part of the acquisition accounting. Thereafter, the fair values of the fixed assets will constitute the cost to the New British Energy Group and depreciation will be calculated based on that cost, and any subsequent expenditure capitalised, and charged over the remaining useful lives of the assets. Any further impairment reviews will be assessed against the resultant carrying value.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)****Factors affecting our results of operations**

Our results of operations during the periods under review were affected by operational and other factors. Operational factors include changes in plant output, achieved electricity prices, operating costs and capital expenditures. Other factors that affected our results of operations include the impact of accounting for discontinued operations and revalorisation charges. Our results of operations during the year ended 31 March 2004 have been affected by the implementation of the New BNFL Contracts and the standstill arrangements with BNFL. Furthermore, results of operations during the periods under review were also affected by a change in the manner in which we accounted for turnover and certain operating costs to reflect the new trading arrangements in England and Wales as a result of NETA. Each of these factors is discussed below.

*Operational factors affecting our results of operations**Nuclear output*

The electrical output that our nuclear power stations can achieve is affected by a number of factors, including plant operating conditions and operating strategies, and the frequency and duration of outages. The principal factor affecting our nuclear output (assuming the overall generating capacity and output level at which we run our nuclear power stations is broadly constant) for any given period is the number and duration of outages. The table set out below shows our nuclear output from continuing operations for the periods under review:

Output	Year ended 31 March			Variance	
	2004	2003	2002	2003-2004	2003-2002
	<i>(in TWh)</i>				
Nuclear output	65.0	63.8	67.6	1.9%	(5.6)%

Source: British Energy

The nuclear regulatory regime in the UK requires each nuclear power station to be shut down periodically for maintenance and inspection as a condition of that power station's nuclear site licence. We refer to such a shut down as a statutory outage. Certain of our nuclear power stations must also be shut down to allow for refuelling, which we refer to as a refuelling outage. Nuclear power stations must also be shut down for maintenance and testing or to address an unplanned technical malfunction or engineering failure, which we refer to as an unplanned outage.

Our level of unplanned outages in recent years has significantly affected our operating and financial performance. Nuclear output for both the years ended 31 March 2003 and 2004 was adversely affected by a number of unplanned outages. In particular, we

experienced unplanned outages at both reactors at Heysham 1 in 2004. We estimate that this loss of output at Heysham 1 equated to approximately £71m in lost profits after considering imbalance costs and associated fuel savings. Since 2002, the proportion of unplanned outages arising from incidents other than major plant failures has gradually increased during the periods under review. To date these unplanned outages have been caused by a variety of technical issues, the most significant of which are: problems with our refuelling equipment and processes; turbine-generators; tendons; boilers; boiler feed pumps; gas circulators (which are used to pump carbon dioxide coolant gas around the reactor core); and the seawater coolant system. We believe that the loss of output arising from these outages is indicative of a deterioration in the materiel condition of our plant over time, caused by: (i) inadequate investment when compared with international benchmarks for spending at nuclear power stations; (ii) by a failure to perform required maintenance on a timely basis; and (iii) human errors in the operation and maintenance of our plant including conducting our operations and maintenance functions on a station by station basis rather than fleet wide basis. This conclusion is consistent with the findings of WANO corporate review carried out in 2001.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)****Total unplanned outages (TWh)/Year to 31 March**

2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
10.7	10.6	9.1	12.8	12.4

Source: British Energy

In recent years, we have sought to reduce the impact of refuelling outages through the introduction of low power on-load refuelling (that is, refuelling while the reactor is still on) at four of our seven AGR power stations as well as scheduling refuelling outages to coincide with statutory outages. (PWRs are not designed to refuel on-load and must be shut down for refuelling.) We have reached an agreement with the NII which has allowed us to extend the period between statutory outages at all of our AGR power stations to three years and to extend the period between statutory outages to 18 months in the case of our PWR power station. We seek to reduce the impact of statutory outages on revenue by timing such outages to occur during periods of lower demand for electricity when prices are lower (generally between March and October). We also seek to reduce the duration of any statutory outages by improving the efficiency with which we conduct the required programme of work. For additional information regarding outages, see Part I: Description of the New British Energy Group, paragraph headed: Operating regime.

Coal output

Output from the Eggborough power station for the periods under review was as follows:

Coal Output	Year ended 31 March			Variance	
	2004	2003	2002	2003-2004	2003-2002
	<i>(in TWh)</i>				
Total output	7.6	5.7	7.1	33.3%	(19.7)%

Source: British Energy

The Eggborough power station is operated at various output levels rather than at constant levels in the manner of our nuclear power stations. We operate the Eggborough power station principally to take advantage of favourable electricity prices, to generate additional power during unplanned outages at our nuclear power stations and to change output in response to changing requirements. As such, prevailing electricity prices, our contracted trading position and unplanned outages at our nuclear plants are the primary factors driving our total output for each of the periods under review.

Electricity prices

Our realised price for electricity is critical to our profitability. During the year ended 31 March 2004, our realised price, which is calculated by dividing total UK turnover (net of energy supply costs and miscellaneous and exceptional income) by total output during the period, was £16.9 per MWh. The average forward price for baseload power which we consider to represent a market price for wholesale electricity sales for 2003/2004 delivery was £16.7 per MWh. During the year ended 31 March 2003, our realised price was £18.3 per MWh as compared with a market price of £18.6 per MWh. The difference between our realised price and the market price (as defined below) primarily reflects the impact on turnover of fixed price contracts entered into prior to the period of delivery when, during the intervening period the wholesale electricity prices were rising. However, while these contracts reduce our exposure to potential falls in market prices, it also means that we are not able to fully benefit from rising electricity prices. We currently have contracts in place for virtually all our planned output for the financial year ended 31 March 2005. Nearly all of these contracts are fixed price contracts and as of 22 November 2004 were at an average price of £21.0 per MWh for 2004/2005 delivery. As at 31 March 2004, the forward price for baseload power for 2004/2005 delivery was approximately £20.3 per MWh. As a result of these contracts, our realised price for electricity may differ from the average market price for the year.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)**

For further information on the Group's current prospects, see the paragraph headed: Current prospects in Section 1 of this Part III.

Our realised price for the years ended 31 March 2002 and 2003 also reflects the effect of several changes to the manner in which we account for turnover and certain operating costs as a result of the introduction of new trading arrangements brought about by the commencement of NETA. Turnover for the year ended 31 March 2002 includes £41m in respect of sales made in Scotland in earlier years in accordance with normal settlement arrangements. On a comparable basis, adjusted to reflect the trading arrangements in place prior to the commencement of NETA, our realised price for the periods under review were as follows:

	Year ended 31 March		
	2004	2003	2002
Realised Price	£ 16.9/MWh	£ 18.3/MWh	£ 20.3/MWh
Market Price ⁽¹⁾	£ 16.7/MWh	£ 18.6/MWh	(2)

Source: British Energy

⁽¹⁾ The Market Price quoted is the average of the mid-point of the closing prices for annual baseload contracts during the year prior to delivery as reported on European Daily Electricity Markets, published by Heren Energy.

⁽²⁾ An equivalent market price for contracts traded in 2001/02 is not available because of limited liquidity immediately before the introduction of NETA on 27 March 2001.

Operating costs

In general, the operation of nuclear power stations is characterised by high fixed costs. Fixed costs include costs of decommissioning our power stations and other costs that are unique to the nuclear power generation industry. Fuel costs represent our most significant operating cost and reflect not only the amount of fuel burnt during the period (based on total output) and the efficiency of our fuel utilisation (the percentage of nuclear fuel used before it is removed from the reactor) but also including the cost of reprocessing and storage of spent fuel and storage and disposal of nuclear waste, collectively referred to as back-end fuel costs.

Rateable values

The rates that are assessed on our power stations represent a significant cost of our business (£74m in the year to 31 March 2004). Rateable values are set by the Valuation Office Agency in England and Wales and by the Scottish Assessors in Scotland and recalculated once every five years. Phasing provisions moderate the impact of significant changes in value. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is presently consulting on the phasing mechanism for the next revaluation cycle. We, and other

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generators, are participating in this consultation and arguing that reductions in rates should be implemented immediately whilst significant increases should continue to be phased in. The ODPM is expected to reach a decision on the phasing later this year. The new assessed rates will take effect from 1 April 2005.

New BNFL Contracts

On 31 March 2003 and 16 May 2003 respectively, we exchanged contracts covering front-end and back-end fuel services, which give effect to the non-binding heads of terms which we entered into with BNFL on 28 November 2002 (the New BNFL Contracts). The revised and amended front-end and back-end fuel arrangements provide for elements of the amounts paid to BNFL to reflect changes to wholesale electricity prices within certain agreed parameters, thereby partially hedging our fuel costs against market price movements. The amendments to the Existing AGR Fuel Supply Agreements (which are set out in the March 2003 Deeds of Amendment) became effective on 1 April 2003 but (except in relation to the supply of uranium by BNFL to BEG until 31 March 2006) may be terminated if the Restructuring is not completed. The Post 2006 AGR Fuel Supply Agreements, and the amendments to the existing back-end

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

contracts (which will become the BNFL Historic Contracts) and the New Spent Fuel Agreements are also conditional on completion of the Restructuring. Under the terms of the New Standstill Agreement, pending implementation of the Restructuring and the effectiveness of the New Spent Fuel Agreements, our payments to BNFL for back-end fuel services are being made as if the New Spent Fuel Agreements had become effective on 1 April 2003.

The profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2004 was prepared on the basis of the existing BNFL contracts in respect of back-end fuel costs, pending satisfaction of the BNFL Conditions. The accounting treatment has taken this approach, as this element of the Restructuring will have a retrospective impact. Consequently, our results of operations for the year ended 31 March 2004 do not reflect the profit and loss account savings that will arise under the New BNFL Contracts, which we estimate would have amounted to £58m for the year ended 31 March 2004 (see note 4 to the unaudited pro forma income statement in Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information). This amount will be recognised on the completion of the Restructuring, together with other restructuring adjustments. The saving has been calculated using an average electricity price, as defined in the New BNFL Contracts, of £17.6 per MWh.

As noted above, and as part of the standstill arrangements, we have made payments during the year ended 31 March 2004 to BNFL as if the New Spent Fuel Agreements were in place. The difference in the cash payments, taken together with the profit and loss account savings under the New Spent Fuel Agreements, means that included within current liabilities are amounts due to BNFL which will never be paid, provided the Restructuring is completed. These amounts totalled £306m as at 31 March 2004 and £113m as at 31 March 2003.

The pricing provisions in the New BNFL Contracts are intended to enable us to reduce the proportion of our fuel costs which are fixed by providing for a discount when the wholesale market price of electricity is below a specified amount and a surcharge when above this amount. In this way the amended provisions are intended to mitigate our exposure to variations in the wholesale electricity markets within specified parameters.

Impairment of fixed assets

During the period we have undertaken annual reviews of the carrying value of our fixed assets compared with the economic value and net realisable value of those assets. In carrying out the economic valuations, significant estimates are made of the future cash flows being generated by the assets, taking into account current and expected future market conditions and the expected lives of our power stations. The assessment of future market conditions including expectations of electricity prices, which requires, for example, a view of likely over capacity in the market over a number of years and the likely timing of the market returning to new entrant prices. The actual outcome can vary significantly from our forecasts, thereby affecting our assessment of expected future cash flows. The expected future cash flows are discounted at a rate approximating to our weighted average cost of capital as this is the rate most representative of those assets. The impairment reviews resulted in the value of our fixed assets being written up by £295m for UK GAAP during the year ended 31 March 2004, and written down by £3,738m and £300m in the years ended 31 March 2003 and 2002 respectively.

Capital expenditures

Following the substantial write down of our fixed asset carrying values with respect to our power stations during the year ended 31 March 2003, it has not been possible to demonstrate that expenditure of a capital nature has enhanced the value of our fixed assets. Accordingly, the cost of non-recurring expenditures as well as expenditures on strategic spares during the year ended 31 March 2004 has been recognised as an operating cost in our profit and loss account. We estimate that, of the total investment in power stations of £92m during the year ended 31 March 2004, approximately £70m would have been capitalised as capital expenditure but for the impairment review. The principal determining factor in the recommencement of the

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capitalisation of such expenditure will be a demonstrable and sustainable improvement in reliability of output arising as a result of incurring such expenditure. There is no certainty as to when this will occur and the accounting treatment for future capital expenditure will be assessed when it is incurred.

Nuclear power station accounting lives

Accounting lifetimes of our nuclear power stations reflect our current assessment of potential life-limiting technical factors and independent engineering assessments. The operating lifetime of a nuclear power station is limited principally by the lifetime of items which are uneconomical to replace such as the graphite core, the boiler (in AGRs) and other components inside the reactor pressure vessel. The methodologies and technology used to evaluate the expected lifetimes of nuclear stations are dynamic, resulting in progressively improved measurement capabilities that allow us to determine whether the safety case for an extended accounting life of a nuclear power station can be supported. The estimates of nuclear power station accounting lives are therefore subjective. The extension of a nuclear power station's life may improve our results, in light of the incremental income and the largely fixed cost base. We have not considered it appropriate to extend the accounting lives of any of our nuclear power stations in the financial year ended 31 March 2004. As noted in Part I: Description of the New British Energy Group under the paragraph headed: Extension of operating lifetimes, the consent of the NDA pursuant to the terms of the NLFA is required, in certain circumstances, for station lifetime extension.

*Non-operational factors affecting our results of operations**Revalorisation*

In each financial year during the periods under review, we recompute our back-end fuel costs and decommissioning costs to reflect the impact of inflation during the year and to remove the effect of one year's discount to the estimated costs of decommissioning (which is capitalised at the commencement of commercial operation of a nuclear power station) and depreciated over the life of the station as the estimated payment date moves a year closer. These two effects combined, known as revalorisation, are accounted for as part of the financing charge in our profit and loss account. The charge in respect of the revalorisation of decommissioning liabilities is partially offset by a credit in respect of the actuarially determined value of the NDF on an assumed long term real rate of return of 3 per cent. on investments. The amount of the revalorisation charge in any given year will be affected, principally, by the rate of inflation in the UK. For the periods under review, the rate of inflation has fluctuated from 1.7 per cent. in 2002 to 2.6 per cent. in 2004.

Under the Restructuring, the existing NDF will be enlarged into and renamed the NLF. New British Energy Group will make periodic contributions to the NLF as well as an initial contribution of £275m in New Bonds. In addition, the NLF will be entitled to receive the NLF Cash Sweep Payment, which is convertible into Convertible Shares at its option. Following the Restructuring, therefore, we will continue to recognise a revalorisation charge. However, we anticipate that this expense, so long as it stems from qualifying nuclear liabilities, will be offset by an equal and opposite credit as the discount on the NLF or Secretary of State receivable is unwound. For further information on revalorisation, see Note 6 of Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information, Notes to the unaudited pro forma consolidated income statement.

Discontinued operations

During the periods under review, we disposed of our interests in Bruce Power, our Canadian operations, and of our interest in AmerGen, a joint venture in the United States. The results of operations of Bruce Power and the share of joint venture turnover from AmerGen during the periods under review were recognised as discontinued operations.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

Disposal of Bruce Power

In May 2001, our 82.4 per cent. owned Canadian subsidiary, Bruce Power, leased the two nuclear power stations at the Bruce nuclear site in Canada from the Ontario Provincial Government (OPG). In the period of 1 April 2002 to 14 February 2003, Bruce Power generated 19.2 TWh and made an operating profit contribution before minority interest of £97m.

On 14 February 2003, we sold our entire interest in Bruce Power to a consortium consisting of Cameco Corporation (an existing partner in Bruce Power), BPC Generation Infrastructure and TransCanada Pipelines Limited. At completion of the disposal, we received initial consideration of C\$627m (after minor closing adjustments), and a payment of C\$51m in recognition of our earlier capital contributions paid to Bruce Power. On 28 April 2003, we announced that we had received a further C\$20m that had been retained upon completion of the sale for a possible price adjustment relating to pensions, following confirmation that no such adjustment was required within specified time periods.

In addition to the consideration received at the time of the disposal of our interest in Bruce Power, we are entitled to receive up to C\$100m, contingent on the restart of Units 3 and 4 at the Bruce plant within specified time periods. On 22 March 2004, we received C\$20m for the restart of Unit 4 and, on 25 May 2004, we received a further C\$10m in respect of the restart of Unit 3. While discussions are continuing with OPG regarding the release of further amounts, if any, the total amount that may be released will be substantially less than C\$100m.

Pursuant to the terms of the sale of Bruce Power, a further C\$20m was retained as security against any representation and warranty claims. On 12 February 2004, we received a notice of warranty claims from the purchasers alleging breach of certain warranties and representations relating to tax matters and the condition of the Bruce Power station. We expect that the C\$20m will remain in trust pending resolution of the dispute. For additional information regarding these claims, see Part X: Additional information, paragraphs 16.2 and 16.3.

Disposal of AmerGen

On 23 December 2003, British Energy Investment Limited (BEIL) announced the completion of the disposal of our 50 per cent. interest in AmerGen to Exelon, our equal joint venture partner in AmerGen. AmerGen operates three nuclear power stations in the United States. AmerGen contributed an operating profit of £43m during the year ended 31 March 2003 and £21m during the year ended 31 March 2004.

At closing, consideration of approximately US\$277m was received prior to adjustments relating to working capital levels, unspent nuclear fuel, inventory, capital expenditures and low-level waste disposal costs which were to be determined as at the time of closing. Finalisation of these adjustments is still outstanding. Approximately £94m of the consideration was used to pay down outstanding amounts under the Government Facility and the balance was used to fund ongoing working capital requirements.

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Prior to the disposal of our interest in AmerGen to Exelon, we entered into a conditional agreement to dispose of our interest in AmerGen to the FPL Group Inc., subject to Exelon's right of first refusal to purchase our interest on the same terms and conditions as those offered by FPL. Exelon exercised its right of first refusal and, as a result, the original agreement with FPL terminated on 13 October 2003. As a consequence, on 24 December 2003 we paid a break fee of US\$8.3m to FPL.

In connection with the disposal of our interest in AmerGen, we gave certain indemnities and guarantees. As a result of an accounting adjustment made by Exelon to the value of nuclear fuel contained in AmerGen's balance sheet dated 21 December 2003, we may be required to pay Exelon up to US\$13.7m. We are disputing the claim and have served a dispute notice on Exelon on 4 June 2004 to preserve our rights.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)****Exceptional operating and financing items**

During the three years ended 31 March 2004, our financial results have been significantly impacted by a number of exceptional operating and financing items. The table below summarises the impact of exceptional operating and financing items (before tax) for each of the three prior financial years.

	Year ended 31 March		
	2004	2003	2002
	<i>(pounds in m)</i>		
(Reversal of write-down)/write-down of fixed asset carrying values	(295)	3,738	300
UK decommissioning fund (credit)/charge	(13)	13	
Provision for slow moving stocks		57	
Restructuring costs	43	35	
Onerous trading contracts		2	209
Siemens settlement	(18)		
Nuclear Energy Agreement		(41)	
Exceptional (credits)/charges included within operating results	(283)	3,804	509
UK/AmerGen decommissioning fund (credit)/charge	(68)	159	27
(Credit)/charge for interest rate swap provision	(5)	56	
Write-off of capitalised borrowing costs		6	
Exceptional items included within financing costs	(73)	221	27
Exceptional (gain)/loss on sale of joint venture and businesses	(47)	35	(4)
Total net exceptional (credits)/charges	(403)	4,060	532

We recognised net exceptional operating and financial credits of £403m for the year ended 31 March 2004, and net exceptional operating and financial charges of £4,060m for the year ended 31 March 2003 and £532m for the year ended 31 March 2002. These exceptional items were comprised of:

For the year ended 31 March 2004:

- An exceptional credit of £295m following the review of the carrying value of our fixed assets to reflect the partial reversal of previous impairment losses. At 31 March 2004, we reassessed the fixed asset carrying values of our nuclear power stations, determining that revisions to the impairment of their fixed asset carrying values were appropriate principally due to an expectation of higher electricity prices. The carrying value of our nuclear stations was calculated by discounting the expected future cash flows from the continued use of the assets.

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- An exceptional charge of £43m relating to advisory fees and other costs associated with the Restructuring.
- An exceptional credit of £18m from the settlement of a dispute with Siemens Power Generation Limited in connection with work carried out relating to the design and manufacture of turbines at Heysham 2.
- Total NDF and AmerGen decommissioning fund exceptional credits of £81m (NDF: £59m; AmerGen: £22m):
 - At 31 March 2004, the market value of the NDF had increased to £440m compared with £334m for the year ended 31 March 2003 thereby necessitating an exceptional credit of £59m for the year ended 31 March 2004. The £59m included a £13m exceptional credit to reverse the write-down on non-operational assets made in the year ended 31 March 2003. The remaining balance of the restatement to market value of £46m has been dealt with as an exceptional financing credit to reverse previously written-down revalorisation amounts.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

- The market value of the AmerGen decommissioning fund had also increased and our share of the exceptional credit was £22m in the year 31 March 2004.
- At 31 March 2004, the value of interest rate swaps were marked to market and the resultant valuation was lower than the book value. The exceptional credit is £5m for the year ended 31 March 2004.
- An exceptional credit of £47m related to the gain on the sale of our investments in AmerGen and Offshore Wind and receipts in relation to the re-start of the Bruce A reactor.

For the year ended 31 March 2003:

- An exceptional charge of £3,738m (which was reversed in part in the year ended 31 March 2004 as described above) resulted from the write-down of our fixed assets. This is explained below:
 - The carrying value of the nuclear stations was calculated by discounting the expected future cash flows (on a pre-Restructured basis) from continued use of the assets, having made appropriate assumptions regarding future operating performance, including in relation to electricity price assumptions. The valuation of the Eggborough power station was based on an assessment of net realisable value.
 - The electricity price assumptions were a significant component of the asset value calculation. We considered the market's views on future prices of wholesale electricity and also specifically commissioned and commercially available forecasts. We considered the potential for rationalisation of generation capacity in the UK and the potential effect on the market of changes in Government policy on renewables generation and of any potential changes to that policy. In determining the price assumptions, we also took account of the effect on the market as a result of the dramatic fall in prices over the two years ended 31 March 2003 and took a cautious view on there being a significant recovery in prices.
- At 31 March 2003, the market value of the NDF at £334m was lower than the value of £458m that would have been derived from revalorising the amounts contributed. As a result, an exceptional charge of £124m was recognised to record the fund at market value of which £111m relates to the write-off of previous revalorisation and £13m has been classified as a write-off of non-operational assets.
- The market value of the AmerGen decommissioning fund was also lower than the value that would have been derived from revalorising the amounts contributed. Our share of the adjustment required to restate the value of the fund to market value is £48m, all of which relates to previous revalorisation.
- The total of the decommissioning funds' exceptional revalorisation charges amounted to £159m.
- An exceptional charge of £57m related to a provision for slow-moving and obsolete stocks.

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- An exceptional charge of £35m related to advisory and other costs associated with the Restructuring.
- A £2m charge when two trading contracts were terminated, thus giving rise to claims for certain amounts which became payable. The amounts reflect the claimed amounts that have been agreed in principle with the three relevant counterparties for the purposes of Restructuring.
- An exceptional credit of £41m related to the revised terms for the electricity supply agreement with ScottishPower and Scottish and Southern Energy. Under the terms of the agreement, we released a balance of £41m in respect of cash previously received.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

- An exceptional charge of £56m related to interest swap provisions in respect of interest rate swap contracts which are no longer effective as hedges.
- An exceptional charge of £6m related to borrowings that are now part of the Restructuring. These costs had been capitalised and were being amortised over the duration of the borrowings.
- An exceptional charge of £35m related to a loss on our disposal of Bruce Power and Huron Wind. The calculation of the loss on disposal incorporates receipt of the C\$20m retention relating to pensions.

For the year ended 31 March 2002:

- An exceptional charge of £300m resulting from the write-down of our investment in the Eggborough power station. This write-down arose as a result of lower than anticipated electricity selling prices in England and Wales and our assessment as to the effect of continued over-capacity in the UK electricity market on the value of similar coal-fired power stations.
- An exceptional charge of £209m arising as a result of a provision for three significant out-of-the-money trading contracts due to lower than anticipated electricity prices in the UK. These contracts had previously been accounted for as a hedge against our electricity output in the UK. However, since the introduction of NETA, these contracts were no longer accounted for as hedge contracts and, because they were out-of-the-money, they were provided for as onerous contracts under UK GAAP.
- An exceptional charge of £27m related to the market value of the NDF.
- An exceptional credit of £4m related to the gain on the sale of our investment in Humber Power Limited. We acquired a 12.5 per cent. interest in Humber Power Limited, the operator of a 1,260 MW combined cycle gas fired power plant in 1997.

Results of operations for the year ended 31 March 2004 compared with the year ended 31 March 2003

Turnover

Turnover and our share in turnover from the AmerGen joint venture for the year ended 31 March 2004 was £1,660m. Turnover from continuing activities for the year ended 31 March 2004 was £1,516m, a decrease of £12m compared with turnover from continuing activities of £1,528m for the year ended 31 March 2003. Turnover from discontinued activities for the year ended 31 March 2003 was £375m and represented sales by Bruce Power prior to its disposal on 14 February 2003. The principal factors resulting in the decrease in turnover from continuing activities are set forth in the table below.

	Changes in Turnover from 2003
	<u>(pounds in m)</u>
Increased/(Decreased) Turnover:	
Due to increased output	57
Due to lower achieved electricity prices	(103)
Due to increased energy supply costs recharged to customers	76
Decrease in miscellaneous sales	(1)
Decrease in exceptional turnover	(41)
	<hr/>
Total decrease in turnover	(12)
	<hr/>

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The decrease in turnover was primarily due to lower realised prices for our electricity. Our realised price¹ for the year ended 31 March 2004 was £16.9 per MWh compared with £18.3 per MWh for the year ended 31 March 2003, a 7.7 per cent. decrease. For a discussion on the movement of prices and our strategy on trading, see the paragraph headed: Role of trading.

The decrease in realised prices for electricity was partially off-set by the growth in our DSB and increases in output. Our DSB has become one of our more important routes to market. Our target customer base is predominantly amongst the energy intensive industrial and commercial users, with electricity demands of over 1,000 MWh per annum. In the year ended 31 March 2004, we had contracts in place to supply some 1,350 direct supply customers at 7,500 sites. Our DSB has increased by almost 30 per cent. in volume terms in the year to 31 March 2004, to 29.1 TWh. The volume of power sold directly to customers through the DSB is now equivalent to 40 per cent. of total output. This follows an increase of 20 per cent. in volume terms in the year to 31 March 2003. The table below sets forth the turnover generated by our each of our wholesale and direct supply routes to market.

	Year ended 31 March	
	2004	2003
	<i>(pounds in m)</i>	
Turnover analysis		
Wholesale generation	703	852
Direct supply (including energy supply costs)	782	603
Total turnover	1,485	1,455
Less: energy supply costs	(260)	(184)
Total turnover excluding energy supply costs	1,225	1,271
Per cent. split excluding energy supply costs		
Wholesale generation	57%	67%
Direct supply	43%	33%

Total output from our plants in the UK for the year ended 31 March 2004 was 72.6 TWh, representing an increase of 3.1 TWh as compared with total output of 69.5 TWh for the year ended 31 March 2003. This increase was the result of output increases of 1.2 TWh from our nuclear plants and 1.9 TWh from the Eggborough power station. Our nuclear output was nevertheless affected by a number of unplanned outages. In particular, the major outage in both reactors at Heysham 1 resulted in the loss of 3.2 TWh due to cast iron pipe-work failure. The outages at Heysham 1 were equivalent to some £71m of lost profit contribution inclusive of imbalance costs and associated fuel savings. Output at the Eggborough power station increased in 2004 compared to prior years in order to take advantage of higher electricity prices and to provide cover for the unplanned outages at our nuclear plants during the year.

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- ¹ Realised price is calculated by dividing UK turnover, net of energy supply costs and miscellaneous and exceptional income, by total output during the same period.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)***Operating costs*

Total operating costs (including exceptional items) for continuing activities for the year ended 31 March 2004 were £1,176m compared to £5,327m in the year ended 31 March 2003. Operating costs from continuing activities (excluding exceptional items) were £1,459m for the year ended 31 March 2004, a reduction of £23m compared to £1,482m for the year ended 31 March 2003. The following table sets forth the various components of our operating costs for the years ended 31 March 2004 and 2003.

	Year ended 31 March	
	2004	2003
	<i>(pounds in m)</i>	
Continuing activities excluding exceptional items:		
Fuel	413	371
Materials and services	512	425
Staff costs	224	229
Depreciation charges	50	273
Energy supply costs	260	184
	<u>1,459</u>	<u>1,482</u>
Continuing activities exceptional items:		
Materials and services	25	94
Depreciation (credits)/charges due to impairment review	(295)	3,738
Amounts (credited)/charged to non-operational assets	(13)	13
	<u>(283)</u>	<u>3,845</u>
Continuing activities total costs:		
Fuel	413	371
Materials and services	537	519
Staff costs	224	229
Depreciation (credits)/charges	(245)	4,011
Energy supply costs	260	184
Amounts (credited)/charged to non-operational assets	(13)	13
	<u>1,176</u>	<u>5,327</u>
Total operating costs continuing activities	<u>1,176</u>	<u>5,327</u>

Fuel costs

Total fuel costs for the year ended 31 March 2004 amounted to £413m, an increase of £42m compared with £371m for the year ended 31 March 2003. Nuclear fuel costs were £318m for the year ended 31 March 2004, representing an increase of £20m as

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compared with £298m for the year ended 31 March 2003. Coal costs were £95m for the year ended 31 March 2004, representing an increase of £22m as compared with £73m for the year ended 31 March 2003.

Of the £20m increase in the cost of nuclear fuel, £7m was attributable to increased output from our plants, offset by savings and efficiencies of £1m. The main increase, however, was due to costs in 2003 being £14m lower following a one-off review of contract cost schedules with BNFL in 2003. The £22m increase in coal costs related primarily to the increase in output from the Eggborough power station for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Materials and services

Materials and services costs comprise the operating expenses of the power stations and support functions (such as administrative, engineering and maintenance costs), excluding fuel costs, staff costs and depreciation. The costs of materials and services for the year ended 31 March 2004, excluding exceptional items, were £512m compared with £425m for the year ended 31 March 2003, an increase of £87m. The increase in materials and services costs was largely the

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

result of capital investment expenses of £92m that were expensed as operating costs for the year ended 31 March 2004. This arose because it was not possible to demonstrate that this expenditure enhanced the value of our fixed assets after taking account of the impairment review. We have reviewed the capital investment expenditure of £92m incurred, primarily on our power stations, and concluded that of this amount, £70m may have been capitalised in the absence of the impairment review. The balance of capital investment expenditure of £22m has been classified as refurbishment costs within materials and services.

Staff costs

Staff costs decreased by £5m from £229m for the year ended 31 March 2003 to £224m for the year ended 31 March 2004 mainly due to reduced severance costs of £11m but this was partly offset by salary inflation and an increased head count.

Depreciation

Depreciation charges (excluding exceptional charges) were £50m for the year ended 31 March 2004 compared to £273m for the year ended 31 March 2003. The charges for depreciation for the year ended 31 March 2004 were significantly affected by the fixed assets write down of £3,738m at 31 March 2003. For additional information regarding the writedown of these assets, see Note 12 in Section I of Part IV: Financial information.

Energy supply costs

Energy supply costs mainly comprise the costs incurred by our DSB for the use of the distribution and transmission systems. These costs, however, are passed on to our customers and are fully recovered through turnover.

For the year ended 31 March 2004, energy supply costs also included costs of £36m related to meeting the cost of compliance with the Renewables Obligation. We are required to comply with the Renewables Obligation as part of the regulations introduced by the Government which are intended to address climate change. The costs for the year ended 31 March 2004 were £260m compared with £184m for the year ended 31 March 2003, an increase of £76m. This increase reflects the inclusion of Renewables Obligation costs and growth in the DSB since 31 March 2003 as discussed above.

Discontinued activities

Operating costs from discontinued activities for the year ended 31 March 2003 were £278m and represented the costs of Bruce Power prior to its disposal on 14 February 2003.

Operating profit/(loss)

The following table sets forth certain summary operating information and the variance from period to period as indicated.

Operating profit/(loss):

	<u>Year ended 31 March</u>		<u>Variance</u>
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>
	<i>(pounds in m)</i>		
Operating profit before exceptional items continuing activities	57	5	52
Exceptional items	283	(3,804)	4,087
Total operating profit/(loss) continuing activities	340	(3,799)	4,139
Operating profit discontinued activities		97	(97)
Group operating profit/(loss)	<u>340</u>	<u>(3,702)</u>	<u>4,042</u>

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)**

The increase of £52m in operating profit before exceptional item for continuing activities, over the results for the year ended 31 March 2003 is explained as follows:

	<i>(pounds in m)</i>
Increased/(decreased) operating profit due to:	
Output increases turnover	57
Output increases operating cost impact	(31)
Price movements	(103)
Capital investment expenditure now expensed	(92)
Depreciation decrease	223
Other	(2)
	<hr/>
Variance	52
	<hr/>

Share of operating profit of discontinued joint venture

On 22 December 2003, we sold our 50 per cent. share in AmerGen to Exelon for US\$277m. Our share of the operating profit of AmerGen prior to the date of disposal was £21m. Our share of operating profit was £43m for the year ended 31 March 2003. This reduction of £22m was due to an extended outage at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station and the contribution of only a part-year result within the period.

Financing charges, net interest and revalorisation

The total financing charges were £176m, consisting of revalorisation and net interest of £249m, exceptional financing credits of £5m and exceptional revalorisation credits of £68m. This compares with total financing charges of £498m for the year ended 31 March 2003 made up of revalorisation and net interest of £277m, exceptional financing charges of £62m and exceptional revalorisation of £159m.

The total financing charges are analysed below:

Year ended 31 March

2004	2003
<hr/>	<hr/>

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	<i>(pounds in m)</i>	
Revalorisation of nuclear liabilities	215	228
Revalorisation of decommissioning fund	(28)	(29)
Revalorisation of other provisions		10
Share of revalorisation of joint venture	(2)	(4)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total revalorisation	185	205
Net interest expense	64	72
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Financing charges before exceptional items	249	277
Exceptional interest (credit)/charge	(5)	62
Exceptional revalorisation (credit)/charge	(68)	159
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total financing charges	176	498
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The net revalorisation charge (excluding exceptional items) was £185m, a decrease of £20m from the year ended 31 March 2003 principally due to a reduction in inflation and discontinuation of revalorisation of onerous contract provisions. The weighted average of RPI and RPIX used to revalorise our nuclear liabilities was 2.4 per cent. compared with 3.0 per cent. for the year ended 31 March 2003.

The net interest expense charge of £64m for the year ended 31 March 2004 was £8m lower than the charge for the year ended 31 March 2003. The principal reasons for this decrease were due

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

to lower charges in relation to the interest rate swaps and additional interest earned on deposits. These increases were offset by an increase in standstill interest due to a full year charge in the year ended 31 March 2004.

In the year ended 31 March 2003, there were exceptional interest charges of £62m resulting from the provision for the out-of-the-money element of interest rate swaps which were no longer considered to be effective as hedges and the write-off of borrowing costs. The borrowing costs had been previously capitalised and were being amortised over the expected duration of loan financing in respect of the acquisition of the Eggborough power station. For the year ended 31 March 2004, there were exceptional interest credits of £5m reflecting a partial reversal of the provision for interest rate swaps.

Profit/(loss) before tax

The profit before taxation was £232m compared with a loss before tax of £4,192m in the year ended 31 March 2003. The main reason for the movement of £4,424m is the exceptional costs in the prior year, some of which were partially reversed in the period.

Taxation

There was a £2m taxation credit on ordinary activities for the period relating to the release of an over provision for foreign tax in prior years. The share of taxation for the discontinued joint venture was £nil, comprising a tax charge on trading results to the date of the AmerGen disposal of £9m, offset by credits for overprovisions of £9m in earlier years.

In the year ended 31 March 2003, there was a net tax credit of £368m, comprising tax charges of £18m on North American activities, £10m share of taxation for joint venture and a £396m credit for release of UK deferred tax provisions. The deferred tax credit in the year ended 31 March 2003 arose as a result of the exceptional charges.

The deferred tax assets of £291m and £150m at 31 March 2004 and at 31 March 2003 respectively were not recognised because there is insufficient certainty of recovery within the foreseeable future.

Earnings per share

The earnings per share in the period was 38.9p compared to a deficit of 638.0p for the year ended 31 March 2003, being an improvement of 676.9p.

Results of operations for the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with the year ended 31 March 2002*Turnover*

Turnover in the year ended 31 March 2003 was £1,903m, a decrease of £146m compared with turnover of £2,049m for the year ended 31 March 2002. The principal factors resulting in this decrease are set forth in the table below.

	Changes in turnover from 2002
	(pounds in m)
Decreased UK turnover	
Due to decreased output	(118)
Due to lower achieved electricity prices	(111)
Due to exceptional NEA income	41
Increase in miscellaneous income	15
	<hr/>
Decrease in turnover from continuing activities	(173)
	<hr/>
Increase in Bruce Power turnover	27
	<hr/>
Total decrease in turnover	(146)
	<hr/>

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Our output in the UK was 69.5 TWh in the year ended 31 March 2003 as compared with 74.7 TWh in the year ended 31 March 2002. Nuclear generation output was 63.8 TWh in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with 67.6 TWh in the year ended 31 March 2002. Eggborough power station output fell from 7.1 TWh to 5.7 TWh in the year ended 31 March 2003. Decreased output from our UK power stations resulted in reduced turnover of £118m.

Our realised price during the year ended 31 March 2003 was £18.3 per MWh, a decrease of 10 per cent. as compared with the prior year, resulting in a decrease in our UK turnover of £111m. UK turnover increased by £41m in respect of the exceptional credit relating to the release of the balance that had been held awaiting settlement of our dispute with Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy for the Nuclear Energy Agreement. Miscellaneous income increased by £15m, mainly due to insurance receipts relating to outages at Torness. The increase in turnover at Bruce Power was mainly due to increased electricity prices, offset to some extent by a reduction in output.

	Year ended 31 March	
	2003	2002
	<i>(pounds in m)</i>	
Turnover analysis		
Wholesale generation	852	1,162
Direct supply (including energy supply costs)	603	522
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total turnover	1,455	1,684
Less: energy supply costs	(184)	(171)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total turnover excluding energy supply costs	1,271	1,513
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Per cent. split - excluding energy supply costs		
Wholesale generation	67%	77%
Direct supply	33%	23%

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)***Operating costs*

Operating costs were £5,605m in the year ended 31 March 2003, an increase of £3,285m compared with £2,320m in the year ended 31 March 2002. Excluding exceptional items, operating costs decreased by £51m to £1,760m in the year ended 31 March 2003 from £1,811m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The following table sets forth the various components of our operating costs for the years ended 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2002.

	Year ended 31 March	
	2003	2002
	<i>(pounds in m)</i>	
Continuing activities excluding exceptional items:		
Fuel	371	467
Materials and services	425	395
Staff costs	229	202
Depreciation charges	273	280
Energy supply costs	184	171
	1,482	1,515
Continuing activities exceptional items:		
Materials and services	94	209
Depreciation charges due to impairment review	3,738	300
Amounts charged to non-operational assets	13	
	3,845	509
Continuing activities total costs:		
Fuel	371	467
Materials and services	519	604
Staff costs	229	202
Depreciation charges	4,011	580
Energy supply costs	184	171
Amounts charged to non-operational assets	13	
	5,327	2,024
Discontinued activities		
Fuel	17	23
Material and services	143	149
Staff costs	111	119
Depreciation	7	5
	278	296

Total operating costs	5,605	2,320
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Fuel costs for our continuing UK activities were £371m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £467m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The reduction reflects decreased output by our UK power stations, fuel efficiencies, price variances and changes in accounting estimates.

Materials and services costs comprise the operating expenses for the power stations and support functions (such as administrative, engineering and maintenance costs) excluding fuel costs, staff costs and depreciation. Materials and services costs for our continuing UK activities in the year ended 31 March 2003 were £519m, a decrease of £85m compared with the year ended 31 March 2002. These figures include exceptional charges in the year ended 31 March 2003 of £57m in respect of a write down of slow moving stocks, £35m in respect of Restructuring costs and £2m in respect of additional provisions for onerous trading contracts. They include exceptional charges of £209m in the year ended 31 March 2002 in respect of provisions for onerous trading contracts. Excluding these exceptional items, materials and services costs for our continuing UK activities increased by £30m to £425m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £395m in the year ended 31 March 2002. This increase was primarily due to the costs associated with a higher number of outages in the year ended 31 March 2003.

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Staff costs

Staff costs for our continuing UK activities in the year ended 31 March 2003 were £229m, an increase of £27m compared with the year ended 31 March 2002. The main reason for the increase was additional severance costs of £8m.

Depreciation

Depreciation charges for our continuing UK activities were £4,011m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £580m in the year ended 31 March 2002. These figures include exceptional charges associated with the write down of our fixed assets amounting to £3,738m in the year ended 31 March 2003 and £300m in the year ended 31 March 2002. Excluding these exceptional charges, the depreciation charges for our continuing UK activities decreased by £7m to £273m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £280m in the year ended 31 March 2002.

Amounts written off as non-operational assets in our continuing activities amounted to £13m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared to £nil in the year ended 31 March 2002. This amount consists of an exceptional item relating to the write down of the UK decommissioning fund receivable.

Energy supply costs

Energy supply costs in the UK were £184m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £171m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The increase primarily reflects the increase of sales through our DSB.

Discontinued activities

Operating costs in our discontinued Canadian activities were £278m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £296m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The decrease was partly attributable to reduced fuel costs arising from the reduction in output and partly attributable to operational efficiencies.

Our share of the operating profit of AmerGen increased by £6m to £43m in the year ended 31 March 2003. The output from the three AmerGen power stations totalled 20.2 TWh in the year ended 31 March 2003, an increase of 1.5 TWh compared with 18.7 TWh in the year ended 31 March 2002.

Operating loss

The following table sets forth certain summary operating information and the variance from period to period as indicated.

Operating profit/(loss):

	Year ended 31 March		Variance
	2003	2002	2002-2003
	(pounds in m)		
Operating profit before exceptional items continuing activities	5	186	(181)
Exceptional items	(3,804)	(509)	(3,295)
Total operating loss continuing activities	(3,799)	(323)	(3,476)
Operating profit discontinued activities	97	52	45
Group operating loss	(3,702)	(271)	(3,431)

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The decrease of £181m in operating profit before exceptional items for continuing activities, over the results for the year ended 31 March 2002 is explained as follows:

	(pounds in m)
Increased/(decreased) operating profit due to:	
Output decreases turnover	(118)
Output decreases operating cost impact	52
Price movements	(111)
Depreciation decrease	7
Other	(11)
	<hr/>
Variance	(181)
	<hr/>

The operating loss in the year ended 31 March 2003 was £3,702m compared with an operating loss of £271m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The operating loss of our continuing activities was £3,799m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with an operating loss of £323m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The operating profit of our discontinued activities was £97m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with an operating profit of £52m in the year ended 31 March 2002.

Excluding exceptional items, operating profit in the year ended 31 March 2003 was £102m, compared with an operating profit of £238m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The operating profit of our continuing activities was £5m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with an operating profit of £186m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The operating profit of our discontinued activities was £97m in the year ended March 2003 compared with an operating profit of £52m in the year ended 31 March 2002.

(Loss)/profit on sale of business

The results for the year ended 31 March 2003 include a loss of £35m in respect of the disposal of our interests in Bruce Power and Huron Wind. The results for the year ended 31 March 2002 include a profit of £4m on the disposal of our interests in Humber Power.

Financing charges

Year ended 31 March	
2003	2002
<hr/>	<hr/>

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	<i>(pounds in m)</i>	
Revalorisation of nuclear liabilities	228	175
Revalorisation of decommissioning fund	(29)	(23)
Revalorisation of other provisions	10	12
Share of revalorisation of joint venture	(4)	(4)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total revalorisation	205	160
Net interest expense	72	66
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Financing charges before exceptional items	277	226
Exceptional interest (credit)/charge	62	
Exceptional revalorisation (credit)/charge	159	27
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total financing charges	498	253
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Financing charges, which comprise revalorisation charges and net interest expense, were £498m in the year ended 31 March 2003, an increase of £245m compared with £253m in the year ended 31 March 2002. The financing charges for the year ended 31 March 2003 include exceptional items amounting to £159m in respect of a write down of our decommissioning fund receivables, £56m in respect of a provision for interest rate swaps and £6m in respect of a write off of capitalised borrowing costs. Financing charges for the year ended 31 March 2002 include

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

an exceptional write down of £27m in respect of the decommissioning fund receivable. Excluding these exceptional items, financing charges increased by £51m to £277m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £226m in the prior year. The increase primarily reflects higher revalorisation as a result of higher UK inflation. Excluding the exceptional items, the revalorisation charge was £205m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £160m in the prior year. The increase in revalorisation reflects the weighted average UK inflation rate of 3.0 per cent. in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with 1.7 per cent. in the year ended 31 March 2002.

Taxation

In the year ended 31 March 2002 we adopted FRS19 Deferred tax, the UK deferred tax accounting standard, on a discounted basis. The tax credit for the year ended 31 March 2003 was £368m. Excluding tax relating to exceptional items, the tax credit for the year ended 31 March 2003 was £8m. The effective tax rate is higher than the standard rate of 30 per cent. as a result of overseas profits being taxed at rates in excess of 30 per cent., the impact of items that are non-deductible for tax purposes, such as the write-down of our investment in the Eggborough power station, and the impact of unwinding one year's discount from our opening deferred tax liability. The tax charge for the year ended 31 March 2003 comprises a deferred tax credit of £396m, an overseas tax charge of £18m and a £10m charge in respect of AmerGen. The tax charge for the year ended 31 March 2002 comprise a prior year UK corporation tax credit of £11m, a deferred tax credit of £8m, an overseas tax charge of £15m and £29m charge in respect of AmerGen.

As of 31 March 2003 there were deferred tax assets of £382m and deferred tax liabilities of £20m on an undiscounted basis. Of the deferred tax asset, £262m relates to tax relief from operating losses carried forward. A further £64m relates to the expected tax relief associated with accrued decommissioning costs which were expected to be deductible against future taxable income and £56m relates to accelerated depreciation in excess of capital allowances. The deferred tax liability relates to other short term timing differences.

The net discounted deferred tax asset under UK GAAP at 31 March 2003 of £150m was not recognised as it is not likely to be realised due to uncertainty over its recoverability. The deferred tax liability was a discounted provision of £414m at 31 March 2002.

Deficit per share

There was a deficit per share of 638.0p per share for the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with a deficit per share of 86.8p per share in the year ended 31 March 2002.

Loss on ordinary activities

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As a result of the factors discussed above, there was a loss on ordinary activities after taxation for the year ended 31 March 2003 of £3,824m compared with a loss of £508m in the year ended 31 March 2002. Excluding exceptional items there was a loss of £134m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with a loss of £32m in the year ended 31 March 2002.

Minority interests

There was a minority interest in respect of the 17.6 per cent. minority shares of the profits of Bruce Power of £17m in the year ended 31 March 2003 compared with £9m in the year ended 31 March 2002.

Review of our balance sheet items as at 31 March 2004

Fixed assets

At 31 March 2004 the Directors reassessed the fixed asset carrying values, in line with the requirements of FRS11, to determine whether any revisions to fixed asset carrying values were

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

appropriate. In carrying out such a review the Directors concluded that, pending completion of the Restructuring it was appropriate to carry out a full review of valuations. The carrying value of the nuclear stations was calculated by discounting the expected future cash flows from continued use of the assets, having made appropriate assumptions regarding future operating performance. The valuation of the Eggborough power station was based on an assessment of net realisable value. Following the review the carrying value of fixed assets was increased by £295m to £931m at 31 March 2004 to reflect reversal of previous impairment losses.

Current assets

Total current assets increased in the year ended 31 March 2004 by £323m to £1,737m, from £1,414m in the year ended 31 March 2003. The largest component of this rise was the £240m increase in cash and liquid funds from £333m in the year ended 31 March 2003 to £573m in the year ended 31 March 2004. Included within cash and liquid funds at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2004 is collateral of £209m and £297m respectively.

Total stocks were reduced by £10m. Nuclear fuel stocks were reduced by £18m following a supply chain review. This reduction was partly offset by an increase in stores of £7m mainly due to the acquisition of certain key strategic spares at Eggborough power station following a risk review and an increase in coal stock of £1m.

The level of total debtors reduced by £13m to £374m. This was due to a decrease in the taxation and social security balance recorded in debtors of £65m, which was reallocated to current liabilities. This decrease was offset by an increase in the pension prepayment of £29m and there was also an increase of £23m in trade debtors and other prepayments and other debtors.

The NDF (which will be enlarged and renamed the NLF) will be used to fund certain longer-term decommissioning costs. The balance sheet carrying value of the decommissioning fund receivable was restated to a market value of £440m compared to £334m for the ended 31 March 2003. The increase in market value reflected the upturn in equity market values that occurred in the year ended 31 March 2004 and the fact that we contributed £19m to the fund.

Current liabilities

The level of creditors due within one year (excluding borrowings) increased from £1,033m to £1,250m. The main movement was an increase in the level of nuclear liabilities classed as due within one year from £355m to £554m. The difference arose because the liability continues to be recorded under the existing contracts with BNFL (which will become the Historic Fuel Agreements on the Effective Date) while payments are based on the New Spent Fuel Agreements.

The other movements within creditors comprise a net increase in the other taxes and social security balances of £40m relating to the reallocation from debtors of £65m, reallocation of VAT from the tax creditors of £86m and an increase in the amount of £19m

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during the year ended 31 March 2004. Trade creditors decreased by £18m due to a reallocation of £86m, as mentioned, to the other taxes and social security balance and an increase in trade creditors of £68m. There were other decreases of £4m in retentions, accruals and other creditors.

Provisions for liabilities and charges

Included in provisions at 31 March 2004 were accrued nuclear liabilities of £1,776m, an increase of £103m over the year ended 31 March 2003. The liabilities increased due to additional fuel consumed in our nuclear power stations, revalorisation (inflation and removal of one year's discount to restate the provision at balance sheet money values) and reduced by cash payments made during the year ended 31 March 2003.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

Pensions

Note 24 to the Financial Statements provides the disclosures required under the transitional requirements of FRS17, the UK accounting standard dealing with retirement benefits. The FRS17 valuation is based on a valuation of assets and liabilities at a particular point in time and does not necessarily take account of the long term nature of pension schemes. Movements in equity markets and bond yields can create considerable volatility in the FRS17 valuation at different points in time.

Under FRS17, the net pension deficit was £325m as at 31 March 2004, a decrease of £27m compared to the deficit of £352m as at 31 March 2003. The value of the scheme assets has increased with the rise of the equity markets, but this was offset by increased liabilities due to future higher inflation rate assumptions and improved actuarial information.

The Trustees of the Schemes follow an investment policy whereby a high proportion of the Scheme's assets is invested in equities. One consequence of this investment policy, and the methodology and assumptions used for determining the schemes liabilities under FRS17, is that the difference between the market value of the schemes' assets and its FRS17 liabilities (ie. its FRS17 surplus or deficit) is expected to be volatile. Indeed, the amount of any surplus or deficit could change significantly over periods as short as a day (in the event of significant market movements). The results reported should not, therefore, be taken as an indication of the Scheme's financial position in accordance with FRS17 on any date other than 31 March of the relevant year.

The funding of the pension schemes is based on the results of three yearly valuations by independent actuaries rather than on the results of the FRS17 valuation. Formal actuarial valuations of the schemes as at 31 March 2004 are currently being undertaken, and are expected to be completed later in 2004. The combined deficits are understood to be £385m.

When the valuations are completed, the level of increase in future employer contributions will be formalised with the scheme actuary and the Trustees of the Schemes.

During the year ended 31 March 2003, the actuary of the British Energy Generation Group scheme (our main UK pension scheme) carried out an interim review of scheme assets and liabilities in order to assess the appropriateness of continued use of the surplus that arose at the 31 March 2001 valuation. As a result of that review, the employer's contributions to that scheme were increased from 10 per cent. to 17.1 per cent. from 1 November 2002. The employer's contributions to the British Energy Combined Group scheme (our smaller UK pension scheme) were increased from 12 per cent. to 15.3 per cent. from 1 April 2002. There were no changes to the contribution rates in the year ended 31 March 2004. In total, cash contributions were £34m for the year ended 31 March 2004 and £32m for the year ended 31 March 2003.

Our balance sheet reported at 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2003 does not include the FRS17 deficits. We anticipate that a provision for the pension deficits will be recognised in New British Energy's balance sheet for the year ended 31 March 2005, as part of the fair value exercise required under acquisition accounting. For further information, see Part V: Unaudited pro forma financial information.

Total recognised gains and losses

In addition to the profit after tax of £234m for the year ending 31 March 2004 (2003: loss of £3,841m) exchange translation losses on foreign currency net investments arose amounting to £15m (2003: £25m). These were all in relation to the investment in the AmerGen joint venture and its subsequent disposal.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)****Liquidity and capital resources***Government facility*

Following the sale of AmerGen, the Government Facility was repaid in full. The amount of credit available under the Government Facility was £200m all of which was undrawn and available as at 31 March 2004 (2003: £200m). The Government Facility (as amended and extended) ceased to be available for drawing by the Group on 22 September 2004 following the issue of State Aid Approval and the Government Facility will terminate upon the Restructuring Effective Date in accordance with its terms.

Capital expenditure

There were no additions to fixed assets recorded in the year ended 31 March 2004 following the fixed asset write down in the year ended 31 March 2003 as the result of an impairment review at that date. It was not been possible to demonstrate that the capital investment expenditure enhanced the value of our fixed assets after taking account of the impairment review. Included within material and services, an element of operating costs, for the year ended 31 March 2004 were £92m of capital investment expenditures. Of this amount, £70m may have been capitalised in the absence of an impairment review, with the balance of £22m being classified as refurbishment costs which were expensed. In the prior year expenditure of £112m was capitalised within fixed assets.

Cash flow

A reconciliation of profit after tax and exceptional items to EBITDA¹ is shown in the table below. The EBITDA calculations are shown for the total results and also excluding the disposals during the year ended 31 March 2004 and exceptional items for the continuing business. The EBITDA calculation for the continuing activities is further expanded to show the operating cash flow and the increase in total cash. The total cash flow is however subject to restricted use prior to the completion of the Restructuring and thereafter to the terms of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment.

	Year ended 31 March		
	2004	2003	2002
	<i>(pounds in m)</i>		
Profit/(loss) after tax and exceptional items	234	(3,824)	(508)
Interest (including exceptional items)	59	134	66
Revalorisation (including exceptional items)	117	364	187
Tax (including exceptional items)	(2)	(368)	25
Depreciation charges	50	273	280

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Exceptional depreciation (credits)/charges due to impairment review	(295)	3,738	300
EBITDA⁽¹⁾	163	317	350
(Gain)/loss on sale of business	(47)	35	(4)
AmerGen profits	(21)	(43)	(37)
Bruce Power contributions		(97)	(52)
Net exceptional charges other than depreciation, interest, tax and revalorisation	12	68	202
EBITDA continuing activities⁽²⁾	107	280	459
Nuclear liabilities charged to operating costs	130	105	156
Nuclear liabilities discharged	(59)	(115)	(332)
Regular contributions to decommissioning fund	(19)	(18)	(18)
Other provisions discharged	(3)	(45)	(43)
Exceptional operating cash costs	(25)	(154)	
Working capital movements	25	191	101
Operating cash flow from continuing activities	156	244	323
Capital expenditure		(112)	(187)
Taxation (paid)/received	(12)	3	4
Disposal/(purchase) of investments	171	262	(129)
Net interest paid	(75)	(84)	(53)
Net cash outflow/(inflow) of discontinued activities		(78)	57
Increase in cash (before equity dividends)	240	235	15
Equity Dividend		(31)	(46)
Increase/(decrease) in total cash (after equity dividends)	240	204	(31)

¹ EBITDA represents earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation, extraordinary and other non-cash items and minority interests. EBITDA and EBITDA from continuing activities are not GAAP measures in either the UK or in the United States and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for, or as an alternative to, net income, operating income, cash flow from operations, other cash flow data or any other performance measures prepared in accordance with UK GAAP or US GAAP. We have included information concerning EBITDA because we believe that it is used by certain investors as one measure of our financial performance.

Table of Contents**PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)***Operating cash flow from continuing activities*

The operating cash flow from continuing activities for the year ended 31 March 2004 was £156m, £88m lower than the prior year. The cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2004 include capital investment expenditures totalling £92m that are expensed as part of materials and services costs. Of this, an amount estimated at £70m, may have been capitalised in the absence of the impairment review with the balance of £22m being classified as refurbishment costs. During the year ended 31 March 2003, £112m of capital expenditure was not deducted in calculating net cash inflow from operating activities. Operating cash flows benefited from lower payments to BNFL under the standstill of certain payments to BNFL and improved cash management procedures.

When adjusted for the capital expenditure, the taxation paid or received, the receipts from sale of investments, the net interest paid and discontinued activities, the free cash flow position was £240m for the year ended 31 March 2004 compared to £235m (before equity dividends paid of £31m) in the year ended 31 March 2003.

Net cash outflows for returns on investments and servicing of finance reduced by £9m. Net receipts from disposals of £171m mainly represented the proceeds from the sale of AmerGen. In the prior year there were net receipts of £262m from the sale of Bruce Power.

Capital resources

At 31 March 2004, total debt of £883m comprised:

- A project finance loan of £475m secured on the assets of EPL, a subsidiary company that operates the Eggborough power station. At 31 March 2004, the effect of our interest rate contracts was to classify the borrowings as fixed rate. We do not guarantee amounts owed by EPL but we do guarantee the payment of amounts by BEPET to EPL under the CTA between BEPET and EPL. The contractual amounts payable by BEPET under the CTA are calculated so as to cover, amongst other things, EPL's borrowing requirements and operating costs. We also provide a subordinated loan facility to EPL. The final instalment of loan principal under the project finance loan is due to be repaid in 2011. The project finance loan currently bears interest at LIBOR plus 1.3 per cent. It is proposed that these arrangements will be restructured as part of our Restructuring. For further details of the Restructuring see Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.
- An aggregate principal amount of £408m sterling denominated bonds due 2003, 2006 and 2016. The bonds bear interest at a rate of 5.9 per cent., 6.07 per cent. and 6.2 per cent respectively. An aggregate principal amount of £110m matured in March 2003 but payment has been stoodstill as part of the standstill arrangements. It is proposed that these bonds will be restructured as part of our Restructuring. For further details of the Restructuring see Part VI: Further information relating to the Restructuring.

Net debt

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	Cash at bank	Term deposits/ bank balances*	Debt due in less than one year	Debt due after more than one year	_____
			<i>(pounds in m)</i>		
Net debt at 1 April 2003	87	246	(152)	(731)	(550)
Cash flows	175	65	(45)	45	240
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Net debt at 31 March 2004	262	311	(197)	(686)	(310)
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

* including amounts deposited as trading collateral

As at 31 March 2004, our net debt was £310m, a decrease of £240m compared to our net debt as at 1 April 2003. The main reasons for the reduction in our net debt were the proceeds from the sale of AmerGen and improved cash management procedures including the standstill of outstanding amounts to BNFL, Significant Creditors and deferral of certain supplier payments.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

Future liquidity

Our main source of liquidity is our operating businesses. Cash generated by our operating businesses is dependent upon the reliability of our power stations in producing electricity, the realised selling price for electricity, operational risk and capital investment expenditure (expensed in the profit and loss account since 1 April 2003), maintenance requirements as well as collateral requirements relating to our trading activities.

During the third quarter of the year ended 31 March 2004, we faced short term pressures on liquidity resulting from the combined effect of seasonality, the major unplanned outage at Heysham 1 and the increased levels of collateral brought about by increased volatility in electricity prices. As at 31 March 2004 we had £276m in unrestricted cash which was not the subject of restrictions. In addition, we had £297m deposited as collateral in support of trading activities. In the event that outages, collateral requirements or other events impact our ability to generate sufficient cash or liquidity for our operations, we have a maximum of £60m in available credit under the Receivables Facility entered into with Barclays on 25 August 2004, a summary of which is set out in paragraph 17.1(q) of Part X: Additional information.

Post balance sheet events

In connection with our agreement for the sale of Bruce Power, we received the sum of C\$10m in respect of the restart of Unit 3 of the Bruce Power station on 25 May 2004, which brings the total sale proceeds relating to the sale of Bruce Power to C\$728m. See Note 34 to our Financial information as set out in Section 1 of Part IV: Financial information.

Contingent liabilities

On 12 February 2004, we received a notice of warranty claims from the consortium that purchased our 82.4 per cent. interest in Bruce Power alleging breach of certain representations and warranties relating to taxation and the condition of certain plants at the Bruce Power station.

The principal tax claim relates to the treatment of expenditures at the Bruce plant during the period of our ownership that is currently being considered by the Canadian tax authorities. The treatment that we have proposed could result in a rebate of a material amount of tax that has not been recognised in our financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2004. The consortium claims that allowance of the expenditure for that period would cause it to lose future deductions. We have rejected the tax claim and expect to defend it if it is pursued further. On the basis of advice received, we are confident that the amount of the tax claim should not, in any event, materially exceed the amount of the rebate, and that the tax claim should have no material impact on our cash flow.

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The claim relating to the condition of the plant is based upon alleged erosion of some of the steam generator support plates, through which boiler tubes pass, which it is alleged resulted in an extended outage of one unit at the plant to carry out repair works and loss of revenues and costs of approximately C\$64.5m. The consortium also claims that the alleged erosion may reduce the operating life of the unit and/or result in further repairs involving further losses. We have rejected the claim and expect to defend it if it is pursued further. In accordance with UK GAAP, no provision has been made in the financial statements at 31 March 2004 for either element of the claim.

Under the Bruce Power sale agreement, C\$20m has been placed in trust to satisfy any representation and warranty claim. The C\$20m may be retained pending agreement or determination of the claims.

Following an accounting adjustment made by Exelon to the value of nuclear fuel contained in AmerGen's balance sheet dated 21 December 2003 (as a result of which we may be required to

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

make a payment to Exelon of up to US\$13.7m) we served a Dispute Notice on Exelon on 4 June 2004 to preserve our rights. The agreement with Exelon for the sale of AmerGen requires that, prior to instituting any litigation or other dispute resolution procedure, the companies will in good faith seek to resolve any dispute.

Furthermore, we are reviewing with Exelon the estimated tax liability related to AmerGen to the date of the disposal which, if agreed, may result in a further payment of up to US\$6.3m to Exelon.

Our further contingent liabilities are described in Note 32 to the audited consolidated financial statements for the period as set out in Section 1 of Part IV: Financial information.

Financial instruments and risk management

Overview

The main financial risks faced are trading risks in England and Wales in respect of both price and volume output on the sale of electricity while in Scotland the risk is entirely price related during the term of the NEA. There is also an exposure to risks associated with fluctuations in the equity markets through the NDF and Pension Schemes. Policies have been instituted for managing each of these risks, which have been approved by the Board. Each of these risks is discussed in more detail below.

The Power and Energy Trading Division manage electricity trading risks. The Power and Energy Trading Division operate within policies and procedures that are approved by the Board and monitored by a sub-committee of the Executive Committee.

Non-trading risks (i.e. cash resources, debt finance and financial risks) are managed by the central treasury function (the Treasury Department). The Treasury Department operates within policies and procedures approved by the Board. The Treasury Department uses appropriate and available instruments, within specified limits, to manage financial risk but is not permitted to take speculative, open positions. Both the Treasury Department and the Power and Energy Trading Division are subject to regular scrutiny from the Internal Audit Department (as are our other Departments and business units).

Interest rate risk management

The market value of debt varies with fluctuations in prevailing interest rates in the UK.

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Eggborough related derivative agreements (nominal amount of £377m as at 31 March 2004 and £398m as at 31 March 2003) have been amended in the period ended 31 March 2004 as part of the Restructuring. The effect has been to fix future interest payments under the swaps from October 2004 onwards.

At 31 March 2004, the total of investments in liquid funds and cash amounted to £573m, and had maturity dates due within one year. Cash not immediately required for business purposes is invested in fixed-rate term deposits and money market funds. At 31 March 2004, the term deposits and money market funds not used to fund our collateral agreements were due to mature or were available within one day and earned interest at an average rate of 3.9 per cent. Term deposits, such as money market funds and bank balances, at 31 March 2004 include £297m of cash that has been deposited in collateral bank accounts and earned interest at an average rate of 3.1 per cent. However, this cash is restricted over the periods of our collateralised positions.

As the deposit terms are short term, the carrying value of our investment in liquid funds and cash at 31 March 2004 approximates to the fair market value.

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

Foreign exchange risk management

At 31 March 2004, we did not hedge foreign currency risk. However, we will continue to evaluate currency hedging opportunities based on our exposure to foreign currency risk.

At 31 March 2003, there were deferred losses of £2m accounted for as part of stock that arose on the rollover of maturing forward contracts used for hedging the future purchase of nuclear fuel prior to and including the year ended 31 March 2003. See Note 19 to the audited consolidated financial statements as set out in Section 1 of Part IV: Financial information.

Electricity trading risk management

Our trading activities relate principally to supporting our power generation business and DSB. The trading operations, therefore, act principally as wholesale marketers rather than as pure financial traders. The principal objective of our trading activities is to increase the return on our assets while hedging the market risk associated with plant output and market price.

Under NETA in England and Wales, any mismatch between actual metered generation (or demand) and the notified contract position is settled through the balancing mechanism at generally unfavourable prices. We generally sell all planned nuclear output forward to minimise our exposure to unfavourable prices pursuant to the balancing mechanism. The risks in the wholesale market are managed through a contracting strategy that builds a portfolio of forward contracts of different lengths.

Eggborough power station provides a flexible generation capability that fulfils three purposes designed to enhance profitability. Firstly, it provides a means for compensating for unplanned lost output from our nuclear units at short notice; secondly it provides the capability to profile the output to meet the requirements of both wholesale and DSB customers; and thirdly, it provides a flexible capability.

Our policy is to manage credit exposure to trading and financial counterparties within clearly defined limits. Our Trading Review Committee will strictly monitor electricity trading activities and place controls through delegated authorities and procedures, which include specific criteria for the management of counterparty credit exposures.

Output from the two nuclear power stations in Scotland will continue to be sold under the terms of the Nuclear Energy Agreement to Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy until 1 April 2006, or the introduction of BETTA (currently scheduled for 1 April 2005), whichever is earlier.

Equity risk management

The NDF was established to provide for certain longer-term costs of decommissioning our nuclear power stations. Cash contributions are made on a quarterly basis to a payment profile set out in a contract between us and the NDF and are invested by it in UK marketable fixed income debt, equity securities and property. British Energy is ultimately responsible for contributions to the NDF. Therefore, the level of future contributions, which are reviewed every five years in conjunction with the review of ultimate decommissioning costs, depend partly on the estimated long term investment performance of the equity and debt instruments in which the contributions are invested and returns on investments in property. Income from dividends and other returns on the underlying investments are retained by the NDF and then reinvested in debt and equity securities. As of the Restructuring Effective Date, the NDF will be enlarged and renamed to form the NLF.

The balance held by the NDF was recorded in the balance sheet at £440m at 31 March 2004, which approximates to its market value. The NDF comprised property and debt and equity

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PART III OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS (Continued)

securities with market values of £44m and £396m respectively at 31 March 2004. Under the terms of the Restructuring, the NDF will be enlarged into and renamed as the NLF and we will have no liability for short falls or access to any surplus in the NLF resulting from changes in the market value of its property, debt and equity securities due to the Secretary of State undertaking.

We reported a deficit of £325m on our employee pension schemes, on an FRS17 basis, in our financial statements at 31 March 2004. As at 31 March 2004, the pension schemes' assets were valued at £1,822m compared to £1,525m as at 31 March 2003, of which £1,571m was held in equities and bonds compared to £1,316m as at 31 March 2003. The level of employer contribution to the schemes will be re-assessed following the triennial actuarial valuation that is being carried out as at 31 March 2004. The level of re-assessed contribution will depend partly on the estimated long term investment performance of the equity and debt instruments in which the contributions are invested.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION

SECTION 1: FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON BRITISH ENERGY PLC

The Directors

British Energy Group plc

and British Energy Holdings plc

each of

3 Redwood Crescent

Peel Park

East Kilbride

G74 5PR

Citigroup Global Capital Markets Limited

Citigroup Centre

33 Canada Square

London

E14 5LB

29 November 2004

Dear Sirs

British Energy plc (British Energy)

Introduction

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We report on the financial information set out below. This financial information has been prepared for inclusion in the document comprising a prospectus and listing particulars dated 29 November 2004 (the **document**) of British Energy Group plc (the **Company**) and British Energy Holdings plc (**Holdings plc**).

Following the Restructuring, as described in the document, the Company will replace British Energy as the ultimate holding company of the British Energy Group (as defined below) or all the subsidiaries and assets and liabilities of British Energy will be acquired by Holdings plc. In consideration for this acquisition, the Company and Holdings plc will issue the New Shares and the New Bonds, respectively.

British Energy and its subsidiaries are referred to as the **British Energy Group** and the Company and its subsidiaries are referred to as the **New British Energy Group** .

Basis of preparation

The financial information set out below is based on the audited consolidated financial statements of the British Energy Group for the three years ended 31 March 2004 and has been prepared on the basis set out in Note 1, after making such adjustments as we considered necessary.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

Responsibility

The financial statements are the responsibility of the directors of British Energy, who have approved their issue.

The directors of the Company and Holdings plc are responsible for the contents of the document in which this report is included.

It is our responsibility to compile the financial information set out in our report from the financial statements of British Energy, to form an opinion on the financial information and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with the Statements of Investment Circular Reporting Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our work included an assessment of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial information. The evidence included that previously obtained by us relating to the audits of the financial statements underlying the financial information. Our work also included an assessment of significant estimates and judgements made by those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements underlying the financial information and whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of British Energy, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our work so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial information is free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error.

Fundamental uncertainty going concern

In forming our opinion, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosures made under the heading 'Basis of preparation' in Note 1 to the financial information below concerning the preparation of the financial information on the going concern basis. The validity of this depends on the fulfilment of the conditions of the Restructuring, within the time scales envisaged or required, the continuation of the restructuring and standstill arrangements with certain creditors and there being no material deterioration in British Energy Group's cash flow position, performance or outlook. Admission is conditional upon the implementation of the Restructuring and will only occur when the uncertainties concerning all of the above matters are resolved. In view of the significance of these uncertainties, we consider that they should be brought to your attention but our opinion is not qualified in this respect.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial information gives, for the purposes of the document, a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the British Energy Group as at the dates stated and of its results, cash flows and recognised gains and losses for the years then ended.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC**

	Notes	Year ended 31 March		
		2002	2003	2004
		£m	£m	£m
Turnover:				
Group and share of discontinued joint venture turnover		2,259	2,074	1,660
Exceptional income	3		41	
Group and share of discontinued joint venture turnover including exceptional income		2,259	2,115	1,660
Less: share of turnover in discontinued joint venture	3	(210)	(212)	(144)
Continuing activities	3	1,701	1,528	1,516
Discontinued activities	3	348	375	
Group turnover	3	2,049	1,903	1,516
Operating costs before exceptional items	4	(1,811)	(1,760)	(1,459)
Exceptional operating items	4	(509)	(3,845)	283
Operating costs after exceptional items	4	(2,320)	(5,605)	(1,176)
Group operating (loss)/profit:				
Continuing activities		(323)	(3,799)	340
Discontinued activities		52	97	
Group operating (loss)/profit		(271)	(3,702)	340
Share of operating profit of discontinued joint venture		37	43	21
Operating (loss)/profit: Group and share of discontinued joint venture		(234)	(3,659)	361
Exceptional gain/(loss) on sale of joint venture and businesses	5	4	(35)	47
Financing (charges)/credits:				
Revalorisation charges	8	(160)	(205)	(185)
Net interest	8	(66)	(72)	(64)
Exceptional revalorisation (charges)/credits	8	(27)	(159)	68
Exceptional financing (charges)/credits	8		(62)	5
Total financing (charges)/credits		(253)	(498)	(176)
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	3	(483)	(4,192)	232
Taxation on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	9	4	378	2
Share of taxation for discontinued joint venture	9	(29)	(10)	
Total taxation		(25)	368	2
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities after taxation		(508)	(3,824)	234
Minority interest		(9)	(17)	
(Loss)/profit for the year attributable to shareholders		(517)	(3,841)	234
Dividends:	10			

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annual		(48)		
non-equity		(2)		
(Loss)/profit for the period	26	(567)	(3,841)	234
(Deficit)/earnings per share (p):				
Basic	11	(86.8)	(638.0)	38.9

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial information.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31 MARCH OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
		£m	£m	£m
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	12	4,714	686	931
Interest in joint venture:				
share of gross assets		544	477	
share of gross liabilities		(457)	(406)	
Other investments	13	4	4	4
		<u>4,805</u>	<u>761</u>	<u>935</u>
Current assets				
Decommissioning fund	14	411	334	440
Stocks	15	514	360	350
Debtors	16	732	387	374
Investments liquid funds including collateral	30	209	246	311
Cash at bank	30		87	262
		<u>1,866</u>	<u>1,414</u>	<u>1,737</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
borrowings	18	(153)	(152)	(197)
other	17	(822)	(1,033)	(1,250)
		<u>(975)</u>	<u>(1,185)</u>	<u>(1,447)</u>
Net current assets		<u>891</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>290</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		5,696	990	1,225
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year				
borrowings	18	(915)	(731)	(686)
other	17	(1,858)	(1,909)	(1,893)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	20	(2,400)	(1,735)	(1,812)
		<u>(5,173)</u>	<u>(4,375)</u>	<u>(4,391)</u>
Net assets/(liabilities)	3	<u>523</u>	<u>(3,385)</u>	<u>(3,166)</u>
Capital and reserves				
Called up equity share capital	25	277	277	277
Share premium		76	76	76
Capital redemption reserve		350	350	350
Profit and loss account	26	(317)	(4,181)	(3,962)
		<u>386</u>	<u>(3,478)</u>	<u>(3,259)</u>
Equity shareholders funds	27	386	(3,478)	(3,259)
Non-equity shareholders interests	25	93	93	93
Minority interests		44		
		<u>430</u>	<u>(3,385)</u>	<u>(3,166)</u>

523

(3,385)

(3,166)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial information.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENTS OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC

	Notes	Year ended 31 March		
		2002	2003	2004
		£m	£m	£m
Net cash inflow from operating activities	28	380	336	156
Interest paid		(62)	(91)	(85)
Interest received		13	9	10
Fees paid		(2)		
Dividends paid on non-equity shares		(2)	(2)	
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		(53)	(84)	(75)
Taxation received/(paid)	9	4	3	(12)
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(225)	(282)	
Receipts from sales of financial investments		38		
Capital expenditure and financial investment		(187)	(282)	
Receipts from sales of investments	5		262	171
Investment in Canadian operations		(129)		
Acquisitions and disposals		(129)	262	171
Equity dividends paid		(46)	(31)	
Net cash (outflow)/inflow before use of liquid resources and financing		(31)	204	240
Decrease/(increase) in term deposits/bank balances		18	(37)	(65)
Management of liquid resources	30	18	(37)	(65)
Minority funding of Bruce Power		4	12	
Net drawdown/(repayment) of amounts borrowed		9	(92)	
Financing		13	(80)	
Increase in cash	30		87	175

STATEMENTS OF TOTAL CONSOLIDATED RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC

	Notes	Year ended 31 March		
		2002	2003	2004
		£m	£m	£m
(Loss)/profit for the financial year		(517)	(3,841)	234
Translation differences on foreign currency net investments	27	(8)	(25)	(15)
Total recognised (losses)/gains in the year		(525)	(3,866)	219

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial information.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

(i) Introduction

The Group accounts are a consolidation of the financial statements of British Energy plc and all its subsidiary undertakings.

For the years ended 31 March 2004, 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2002 they are drawn up on a non-restructured basis, i.e. on the basis of contracts and agreements in place during the years ended and at 31 March 2004, 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2002 respectively. In the following discussion British Energy plc is referred to as British Energy and the British Energy Group refers to British Energy and its subsidiary undertakings.

On 14 February 2003, the British Energy Group disposed of its stake in Bruce Power and Huron Wind Limited Partnership (Huron Wind), therefore, their results up to the point of disposal have been classified as discontinued activities. On 22 December 2003, the British Energy Group disposed of its 50 per cent. interest in AmerGen, therefore, its results up to the point of disposal have been classified as discontinued joint venture operations. All other activities of the British Energy Group have been shown as continuing activities.

(ii) Background to the Restructuring

Having reviewed the longer-term prospects of the business, on 5 September 2002 the Directors of British Energy announced that they had no alternative but to seek financial support from the Government. On 9 September 2002 the Government granted British Energy a credit facility of up to £410m to provide working capital for the British Energy Group's immediate requirements and to allow British Energy to stabilise its trading position in the UK and North America. On 26 September 2002 British Energy announced that the Government had agreed to extend a revised Government Facility for up to £650m until 29 November 2002 to give British Energy sufficient opportunity to develop a restructuring plan. On 28 November 2002 British Energy announced that the Government Facility had been further extended until 9 March 2003. The Government Facility is cross-guaranteed by the principal British Energy Group subsidiaries (excluding EPHL and EPL) and is secured by, among other things, fixed and floating charges and/or share pledges granted by those subsidiaries. The Government Facility also contains a requirement to provide further security as required by the Secretary of State provided that the creation of such security would not cause a material default under any contract to which any member of the British Energy Group is a party or a breach of law.

On 14 February 2003 British Energy and certain of its subsidiaries announced that they had entered into binding standstill agreements, namely:

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- (a) the Standstill Agreement between British Energy and its subsidiaries and the Eggborough Banks, RBS as provider of a letter of credit to the Eggborough Banks, its significant trade creditors, TPL, Total and Enron (TPL, Total and Enron have subsequently transferred their respective interests to Deutsche Bank being collectively referred to as the Significant Creditors) and British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL); and
- (b) the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement between British Energy, BEG, BEG UK and certain Bondholders.

At meetings of Bondholders held on 24 March 2003, resolutions were passed approving the terms of the standstill arrangements in relation to the Existing Bonds and extending such arrangements to include all Bondholders pursuant to and on the terms of the First Supplemental Trust Deed.

On 7 March 2003, British Energy announced that the Government had agreed to extend the Government Facility in the reduced amount of £200m, such that it would mature on the earliest

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

of (1) 30 September 2004, (2) the date on which the Restructuring, outlined in (iii) below, becomes effective, and (3) any date notified by the Secretary of State to British Energy on which repayment of amounts outstanding under the Government Facility are required as a result of a Commission decision or an obligation under EU law (the Final Maturity Date). In the meantime the Secretary of State may require repayment of the Government Facility if she concludes that the Restructuring cannot be completed in the manner or time scales envisaged. Following the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification from the Commission that as far as the Restructuring involves the grant of State Aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market, no further drawings can be made under the Government Facility. Since no incremental collateral can be posted under the Government Facility, incremental collateral requirements are being provided by a charge over cash deposits in certain of our accounts. The Final Maturity Date is the earliest of (i) 31 January 2005, (ii) the date falling 120 days after the effective date (as defined in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement), (iii) any date notified by the Secretary of State to British Energy on which payment of amounts outstanding under the Government Facility are required as a result of a decision of the Commission or any obligation under the law and (iv) the date on which the Restructuring becomes effective.

On 1 October 2003, British Energy announced that it had agreed the terms of the Restructuring of the British Energy Group with certain of British Energy Group's creditors, BNFL and the Secretary of State and by 31 October 2003 had obtained the further approvals and agreements required.

British Energy also agreed the proposed disposal of its 50 per cent. interest in AmerGen to Exelon in October 2003 for US\$277m, subject to various adjustments and conditions including a break fee of US\$8.295m payable to FPL Group Inc. The disposal was completed on 22 December 2003.

The Government Facility was temporarily increased to £275m on 27 November 2003. The additional £75m ceased to be available on the receipt by British Energy of the proceeds from the sale of AmerGen on 23 December 2003.

On 19 December 2003, the Bondholders approved amendments to the Existing Trust Deed to facilitate the implementation of the Restructuring and to amend the standstill arrangements under the Existing Trust Deed on terms consistent with the Creditor Restructuring Agreement. Following formal amendment of the Existing Trust Deed, the New Standstill Agreement has been entered into with Creditors and BNFL in place of the Old Standstill Agreement dated 14 February 2003 in accordance with the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement.

The British Energy Group has retained a trading relationship with a high proportion of its existing contracted counterparties during the period since its announcement of 5 September 2002, although in most cases it has been required to provide alternative credit support to a parent company guarantee. Given the financial circumstances of the British Energy Group, certain contracts may be capable of being terminated. Such termination may result in termination payments being payable as well as having an adverse effect on the British Energy Group's cash flows.

(iii) Terms of the Restructuring

The terms of the Restructuring are set out in:

- (a) the Creditor Restructuring Agreement dated as of 30 September 2003 and entered into by British Energy, certain other British Energy Group companies, the Significant Creditors, RBS, the members of the ad hoc committee of British Energy's Bondholders and BNFL (as amended by a side letter entered into on 31 October 2003); and

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

- (b) the Government Restructuring Agreement dated 1 October 2003 and entered into between British Energy, BEG UK, BEG, BEPET, BEIL, District Energy Limited, BEIHL, BEUSH, BELP, Peel Park Funding Limited, the Secretary of State, the Nuclear Generation Decommissioning Fund Limited (to be renamed the NLF) and the trustees of the Nuclear Trust.

The Creditor Restructuring Agreement required certain further Creditor approvals and sign ups. By 31 October 2003 all these requirements had been satisfied as follows:

- (a) Bondholders representing, in aggregate with RBS, 88.8 per cent. of the combined amount owing to the Bondholders and RBS had signed up to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement;
- (b) the terms of the Restructuring had been approved by the credit committee of RBS; and
- (c) all the lenders and swap providers comprising the Eggborough Banks had signed up to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement with full credit committee approvals.

The principal features of the Restructuring include:

- compromising the existing claims of Bondholders, RBS, Significant Creditors and the Eggborough Banks in exchange for New Bonds and New Shares and settling new arrangements for Eggborough (the claims of the Bondholders and RBS will be compromised pursuant to the Creditors' Scheme. In the case of the Significant Creditors and the Eggborough Banks, claims will be compromised pursuant to the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement itself);
- the amendment and extension of the BNFL contracts for front-end and back-end related fuel services for the British Energy Group's AGR nuclear power stations entered into on 31 March 2003 and 16 May 2003 respectively and the implementation of a new trading strategy;
- establishing the NLF which will fund certain uncontracted nuclear liabilities and decommissioning costs of the British Energy Group's nuclear power stations in return for initial and ongoing contributions from New British Energy; and
- the Government funding certain contracted liabilities relating to historic spent fuel and certain uncontracted nuclear liabilities and decommissioning costs to the extent of any shortfall in the NLF.

Creditor Restructuring Agreement

Conditions

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Completion of the Restructuring is subject to a large number of conditions in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement including, amongst other things:

- the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification of a satisfactory decision by the Commission that insofar as the proposals involve the grant of State Aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market. The Secretary of State received this notification on 24 September 2004;
- there being no material adverse change (see below);
- the Government Restructuring Agreement becoming unconditional;
- agreement of presently unsettled documents with creditors;
- the approval of the Court; and
- the listing of the New Shares and New Bonds.

For the purposes of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, a material adverse change is defined as a material adverse change in the current or future business or operations, the financial or

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

trading position, profits or prospects of the British Energy Group as a whole or of EPL or a change in the current or future business or operations, the financial or trading position, profits or prospects of the British Energy Group as a whole which is likely to have a material adverse effect on the value of the New Bonds, the New Shares (to be issued as part of the Restructuring), the CTA bonds to be held by EPL to fund the £150m of New Bond - equivalent payments under the new Eggborough arrangements.

Creditor allocations

Under the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement the Creditors have agreed (subject to certain conditions) to extinguish their existing unsecured claims against the British Energy Group in exchange for £275m of New Bonds and at least 97.5 per cent. of the issued New Shares.

The Eggborough Banks as creditors with security over, amongst other things, the shares in, and assets of, EPL have agreed to replace their existing secured claims with a right to receive £150m under the Amended Credit Agreement on substantially the same payment terms as the New Bonds. In addition, the Eggborough Banks will be granted: (i) options under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL on 31 March 2010 in consideration for, amongst other things, £104m (subject to certain adjustments depending on the condition of the Eggborough power station) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under the Amended Credit Agreement at such time; and (ii) options under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL at any time prior to 31 August 2009, on or after the occurrence of an event of default under the Amended Credit Agreement that is continuing in consideration for, amongst other things, a fee (this fee varies depending on the type of event of default) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under the Amended Credit Agreement at such time. The Eggborough Banks will be entitled to assign and/or transfer all (but not part only) of their rights under the Eggborough Options to a third party, subject to a pre-emption right in favour of New British Energy under which a member of New British Energy may purchase such rights at 105 per cent. of the price offered by the relevant third party. The Eggborough Banks' security will secure, amongst other things, the Eggborough Banks' rights under the Amended Credit Agreement and the Eggborough Options.

Standstill arrangements

The Creditor Restructuring Agreement and ancillary agreements restrict the Consenting Creditors from taking any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable by British Energy during the period of the Standstill Period until the earliest of:

- (a) the Restructuring Long Stop Date;
- (b) termination following the occurrence of a Termination Event (as described below); or

(c) the completion of the Restructuring.

Any of the Consenting Creditors may terminate the standstill arrangements following the occurrence of a termination event. The termination events include, inter alia: (i) certain insolvency events affecting British Energy, BEG, BEG UK, BEPET or EPL; (ii) acceleration of the Government Facility; (iii) any of British Energy, BEG, BEG UK, BEPET or EPL failing to discharge certain continuing obligations. If the standstill arrangements terminate, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement will also terminate and vice versa.

The standstill arrangements in relation to the Existing Bonds were amended by resolutions of the holders of each series of Existing Bonds passed on 19 December 2003 and thereby extended to all Bondholders pursuant to the Third Supplemental Trust Deed.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

Under the standstill arrangements, RBS, the Eggborough Banks, Significant Creditors and Bondholders are to be paid interest but not principal in respect of any claims against the British Energy Group. Interest will continue to be paid to Bondholders and the Eggborough Banks in accordance with existing arrangements. The terms of the bonds were amended in March 2003 for interest to be paid semi-annually rather than an annual basis. In respect of the Significant Creditors and RBS, interest was paid first on 25 March 2003 and is subsequently payable on the last business day of every six month period thereafter based on the agreed claim amounts (except in the case of RBS where interest payments will be based on the present value of its claim amount as at 14 February 2003). Commission will also continue to be paid to RBS under the facility agreement for the letter of credit to the Eggborough Banks.

The Creditor Restructuring Agreement also contains certain covenants by British Energy for the benefit of the Consenting Creditors that have signed it, including certain limitations on acquisitions and disposals, and a prohibition on the payment of dividends and on the issuing of equity as well as a negative pledge. Bondholders also have the benefit of these covenants pursuant to the First and Third Supplemental Trust Deeds.

Mechanics for implementation and shareholder allocation

The Restructuring will involve establishing New British Energy as the new parent company of the New British Energy Group and its directly wholly-owned subsidiary Holdings plc as an intermediate holding company. In order to achieve this British Energy proposes to cancel its existing ordinary shares of 44²⁸/₄₃ pence each and A shares of 60 pence each under the Members Scheme, and issue to British Energy Shareholders: (i) new ordinary shares in New British Energy equal to 2.5 per cent. of the issued share capital of New British Energy immediately following implementation of the Restructuring, and (ii) warrants to subscribe for a maximum of 5 per cent. of the thereby diluted ordinary issued share capital of New British Energy (excluding, amongst others, the impact of conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment (see section entitled Government Restructuring Agreement below)) immediately following implementation of the Restructuring. The subscription price under the Warrants is £28.95m in aggregate, equivalent to an equity market capitalisation of the New British Energy Group of £550m. This will result in a very significant dilution of the holdings of the existing British Energy Shareholders.

If the Members Scheme is not approved by the requisite majority of British Energy Shareholders or for any other reason the Members Scheme is not implemented, British Energy will dispose of all its business and assets to Holdings plc. If the disposal is approved by the British Energy Shareholders in general meeting, British Energy Shareholders will receive only the Warrants. If the disposal is not approved by British Energy Shareholders in general meeting, they will not receive any New Shares or Warrants.

Government Restructuring Agreement

The Government Restructuring Agreement provides for the circumstances in which the Secretary of State will support the Restructuring, including entering into the agreements with the New British Energy Group and, in certain cases, the NLF, which affect the proposals regarding the manner in which the decommissioning and other uncontracted liabilities of the New British Energy Group are to be funded (the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements). It also provides for certain of the New British Energy Group's

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obligations under those agreements to become immediately effective and effects some further amendments to the Government Facility. The Government Facility, as amended and extended, ceased to be available for drawing by the Group on 22 September 2004 following the issue of State Aid Approval.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

Conditions

Under the Government Restructuring Agreement, the obligations of the Secretary of State to support the Restructuring (including as the holder of a number of special shares) and of the parties to the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements (and other related agreements) to enter into them are conditional on, among other things:

- the Creditor Restructuring Agreement becoming unconditional in all respects by the Restructuring Long Stop Date;
- the Secretary of State not having determined and notified British Energy in writing that, in her opinion, the British Energy Group (including New British Energy and Holdings plc) will not be viable in all reasonably foreseeable conditions without access to additional financing (other than financing which the Secretary of State is satisfied has been committed and will continue to be available when required);
- there being no continuing event of default under the Government Facility;
- receipt by the Secretary of State of copies of letters giving the confirmations relating to working capital referred to in the terms of Rule 2.18 of the UKLA Listing Rules without qualification (whether or not New British Energy is to be listed on the Official List of the UKLA);
- the representations and warranties given by the members of the British Energy Group being true, accurate and not misleading when given and if repeated at the effective date of the Restructuring; and
- there being no breach of any undertaking given by any member of the British Energy Group pursuant to the Government Restructuring Agreement which, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, is or is likely to be material in the context of the Restructuring.

If any of the conditions in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or the Government Restructuring Agreement are not fulfilled or waived by the Secretary of State and the Creditors (as appropriate) by the time specified in the requisite conditions or if no such date is specified, by the Restructuring Long Stop Date, the Government Restructuring Agreement and the Creditor Restructuring Agreement will terminate. In addition if a material adverse change (as defined in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement as referred to above) occurs at any time before the Court order sanctioning the Creditors Scheme is filed with the Scottish Registrar, the Secretary of State may give written notice to British Energy to terminate the Government Restructuring Agreement.

Nuclear Liabilities Agreements

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Under the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements to be entered into pursuant to the Government Restructuring Agreement between British Energy and the Secretary of State, among others, dated 1 October 2003, the NLF will fund certain of the British Energy Group's qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and costs of decommissioning the British Energy Group's nuclear power stations, and the Secretary of State will fund certain of the British Energy Group's qualifying contracted liabilities relating to historic spent fuel, and qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and qualifying decommissioning costs to the extent there is any shortfall in the NLF. In consideration for the assumption of these liabilities, Holdings plc will issue £275m in New Bonds to the NLF. In addition, members of the British Energy Group will make the following payments to the NLF: (i) fixed decommissioning contributions of £20m per annum (indexed to RPI and tapering off as our nuclear power stations are currently scheduled to close); (ii) £150,000 (stated in March 2003 monetary values and indexed to RPI) for every tonne of uranium loaded into Sizewell B, our PWR power station, after completion of the Restructuring; and (iii) the NLF Cash Sweep Payment.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

The entitlement of the NLF to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment is convertible into an equity shareholding in New British Energy equal to the same percentage of the thereby enlarged issued share capital. Although the NLF will receive convertible ordinary shares equal to the then prevailing NLF Cash Sweep Payment percentage (again subject to a maximum of 65 per cent.) the terms of the convertible ordinary shares into which such entitlement will convert will limit the general voting rights attaching to such shares equal to the amount which can be held without triggering a mandatory offer under the Takeover Code, being currently 29.9 per cent. of the voting rights in New British Energy (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other ordinary shares held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF). The convertible ordinary shares will be converted into ordinary shares with no such restrictions on voting rights automatically on their transfer by the NLF to a third party but may not otherwise be converted at the election of the NLF.

In addition, under the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements, New British Energy is required to establish and maintain cash reserves to provide collateral for trading and operations, cover lost revenue and costs resulting from plant outages and to meet other working capital requirements (the Cash Reserve). The initial target amount for the Cash Reserve is £490m plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200m.

(iv) Principles underlying going concern assumption

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with FRS18 because British Energy has not been liquidated nor is it ceasing to trade. The validity of this assumption depends on the fulfilment of the conditions of the Restructuring in each case within the time scales envisaged or required and the continuation of the Restructuring and standstill arrangements with certain creditors and there being no material deterioration in the British Energy Group's cash flow position, performance or outlook. This assumption is, therefore, subject to a large number of significant uncertainties and important conditions.

If for any reason British Energy is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due it may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings and cease to be a going concern, in which case adjustments may have to be made to reduce the monetary values of assets to the recoverable amounts, to provide for further liabilities that might arise and to reclassify the fixed assets and long term liabilities as current assets and liabilities.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(i) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Act and applicable accounting standards, except for the departures noted below.

Commodity trading contracts, where there is no associated physical delivery, are marked to market using externally derived market prices. This is a departure from the general provisions of Schedule 4 of the Act. An explanation of this departure is given in note 2 (xix).

The income recognised by the British Energy Group in respect of the long term rate of return of the NDF is unrealised and its recognition is a departure from one of the accounting principles set out in Schedule 4 of the Act. An explanation of this departure is given in note 2 (xvii).

From 1 April 2004, the Group has adopted UITF Abstract 17 (revised 2003) (Employee Share Schemes) and UITF Abstract 38 (Accounting for ESOP Trusts) which relate to the measurement of the Employee Share Scheme charge and the presentation and disclosure of own shares held. The adoption of these UITF Abstracts represents a change in accounting policy, which has been adjusted in each of the three years ended 31 March 2002, 2003 and 2004.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

The financial information in this Part IV has been restated compared to that previously published to comply with the above UITF Abstracts.

The preparation of accounts in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the accounts and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results can differ from those estimates.

In accordance with FRS18 the Directors have reviewed the British Energy Group's accounting policies and confirm that they continue to be the most appropriate. A number of the policies require the British Energy Group to use a variety of estimation techniques. Significant factors considered when assessing the carrying value of assets include future electricity prices, expected annual output, expected station operating costs, remaining station lives and discount rates. Estimates of output, costs and timing of associated cash flows as well as the expected regulatory framework are key factors used to apply the stated policies for long term nuclear liabilities and decommissioning as discussed further in note 2 (xvi) below.

The effect of the Restructuring, as noted above, will be significant and will result in, among other matters, the reassessment of estimates and assumptions which have been used to prepare these financial statements. In particular, the calculation of the carrying value of the nuclear power stations will be reassessed on the basis of the New BNFL Contracts, the contribution of 65 per cent. of cash flow to the NLF and the likely review of the risk discount rate applied to the future cash flows.

(ii) Basis of consolidation

The British Energy Group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of British Energy and all its subsidiary undertakings. Inter-company profits, transactions and balances are eliminated on consolidation.

(iii) Turnover

Turnover represents sales of electricity, net of electricity purchases, and sales of other related goods. Turnover is shown net of value added tax and climate change levy.

Wholesale generation and direct supply sales are recognised on an accruals basis with reference to meter readings or where required based on management's best estimate of electricity supplied.

Included within turnover is the mark to market of net unrealised gains and losses made from trades recorded within the proprietary trading book. Refer to note (xix) for details of accounting treatment of proprietary trading.

(iv) Fuel costs nuclear front-end

Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGR)

Front-end fuel costs consist of the costs of uranium procurement, conversion and enrichment and fuel element fabrication. Fabrication costs comprise fixed and variable elements. The fixed element is charged to the profit and loss account as incurred and the variable element, other than for unburnt fuel at shutdown, is charged to the profit and loss account in proportion to the amount of fuel burnt.

Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR)

All front-end fuel costs are variable and, other than for unburnt fuel at shutdown, are charged to the profit and loss account in proportion to the amount of fuel burnt.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

Bruce Power

Front-end fuel costs are recognised when fuel is loaded into the reactor. The reactors are continually reloaded and as such this method closely reflects fuel burnt. British Energy disposed of its interest in Bruce Power on 14 February 2003.

(v) Fuel costs nuclear back-end

AGR

Spent fuel extracted from the reactors is sent for reprocessing and/or long term storage and eventual disposal of resulting waste products. Back-end fuel costs comprise the estimated cost of this process at current prices discounted back to current value in respect of both the amount of irradiated fuel burnt during the year and an appropriate proportion of unburnt fuel which will remain in the reactors at the end of their lives. All back-end fuel costs, other than for unburnt fuel at shutdown, are charged to the profit and loss account in proportion to the amount of fuel burnt.

PWR

Back-end fuel costs are based on wet storage in station ponds followed by dry storage and subsequent direct disposal of fuel. Back-end fuel costs comprise the estimated cost of this process at current prices discounted back to current value. All back-end fuel costs, other than for unburnt fuel at shutdown, are charged to the profit and loss account in proportion to the amount of fuel burnt.

Bruce Power

Under the terms of the Bruce Power lease, the responsibility for spent fuel, waste and decommissioning remains with OPG. British Energy disposed of its interest in Bruce Power on 14 February 2003.

(vi) Unburnt fuel at shutdown

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Due to the nature of the nuclear fuel process there will be some unburnt fuel in the reactors at station closure. The front-end and back-end costs of this fuel are charged to the profit and loss account over the estimated useful life of each nuclear station on a straight line basis.

(vii) Fuel costs Coal

Fuel costs for coal are determined on a weighted average cost basis.

(viii) Energy supply costs

Annual commitments payable under Renewable Obligation Certificates are reflected in the profit and loss account based on the volume of direct supply sales. Acquired certificates are recognised as assets on purchase and are offset against related obligation payments.

(ix) Research and development

Research and development expenditure is charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

(x) Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

The British Energy Group continues to provide for UK pension costs in accordance with SSAP24. Contributions to British Energy Group's defined benefit pension schemes are assessed by qualified actuaries and are charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

pensions over employees' working lives with the British Energy Group. The capital cost of ex-gratia and supplementary pensions is charged to the profit and loss account, to the extent that the arrangements are not covered by the surplus in schemes, in the accounting period in which they are granted. Differences between the amounts funded and the amounts charged to the profit and loss account are included in the balance sheet.

In Canada, the charges for pensions and other post retirement benefits were determined annually by actuaries on the basis of management estimates. These costs consisted of current service costs, interest and adjustments arising from plan amendments, changes in assumptions, and experience gains or losses, which were amortised on a straight line basis over the expected average remaining service lives of the employees covered by the plan. Costs were recorded in the year in which employees rendered services. British Energy disposed of its interests in Canada on 14 February 2003.

(xi) Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction or, if hedged forward, at the rate of exchange under the related forward currency contract. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated into Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the balance sheet or at the contracted rate if applicable. All differences are taken to the profit and loss account.

For consolidation purposes the assets and liabilities of overseas subsidiary undertakings and joint ventures are translated at closing exchange rates. Profit and loss accounts of such undertakings are consolidated at the average rates of exchange during the year up until the date of disposal. Differences on foreign exchange arising from the retranslation of the opening net investment in, and results of, subsidiary and associated undertakings and joint ventures are taken to reserves. Where appropriate, these are matched with differences arising on the translation of related foreign currency borrowings and are reported in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

(xii) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation, including decommissioning costs

Fixed assets comprise assets acquired or constructed by the British Energy Group. During the year ended 31 March 2004 all capital expenditure investment that would previously have been capitalised as fixed assets was expensed as operating costs following the fixed asset impairment review carried out in the year ended 31 March 2003. This arises because it is not possible to demonstrate that this expenditure enhanced the value of British Energy's fixed assets after taking account of the impairment review.

Fixed assets (other than assets in the course of construction) are stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Accumulated depreciation includes additional charges made where necessary to reflect impairment in value. Assets in the course of construction are stated at cost and not depreciated until brought into commission.

The carrying values of fixed assets are reviewed for impairment where there has been a trigger event by assessing the present value of estimated future cash flows and net realisable value compared with net book value. The calculation of estimated future cash flows is based on the Directors' best estimates of future prices, output and costs and is therefore subjective.

The charge for depreciation of fixed assets is based on the straight line method so as to write-off the costs of assets, after taking into account provisions for diminution in value, over their estimated useful lives.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

The asset lives adopted are subject to regular review and for the years ended 31 March 2004, 2003 and 2002 were:

AGR power stations	25-35 years
PWR power stations	40 years
Bruce Power station assets	18 years
Coal power station	12 years
Other buildings	40 years
Other plant and equipment	5 years

The estimated costs for decommissioning the British Energy Group's nuclear power stations are capitalised as part of the cost of construction and are depreciated over the same lives as the stations. These estimated costs are discounted having regard to the time scale whereby work will take place over many years after station closure. The estimated costs include the demolition and site clearance of the stations' radioactive facilities and the management of waste.

(xiii) Fixed asset investments*Other investments*

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less amortisation or provisions for diminution in value. The British Energy Group's interest in its joint ventures is stated at cost plus the British Energy Group's share of retained earnings up until the date of disposal. The carrying value of all fixed asset investments is regularly assessed for permanent impairment and provision made, if appropriate.

Own shares

The net consideration of own shares purchased in respect of the Employee Share Option and Sharesave Option Schemes is deducted from the profit and loss account reserve in arriving at the total equity shareholders' funds. Where such shares are subsequently sold or reissued, any consideration received is included in equity shareholders' funds.

(xiv) Stocks of fuel, stores and spares

Stocks of fuel, stores and spares are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The nuclear fuel stock is reduced by the provision for unburnt fuel at shutdown (note 2 (vi)). Strategic spares are amortised over the life of the asset to which they relate.

(xv) Deferred taxation

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more, or a right to pay less, tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date. The full amount of the provision is discounted using a discount rate similar to the current post tax rates of return on UK treasury gilts. Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the Directors consider that it is more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

(xvi) Nuclear liabilities

Nuclear liabilities represent provision for the Group's liabilities in respect of the costs of waste management of spent fuel and nuclear decommissioning. The provisions represent the Directors' best estimates of the costs expected to be incurred. They are calculated based on the latest technical evaluation of the processes and methods likely to be used, and reflect current engineering knowledge. The provisions are based on such commercial agreements as are currently in place, and reflect the Directors' understanding of the current Government policy and regulatory framework. The Directors carry out an in-depth review of the adequacy of amounts provided on a five-yearly basis, and also review the amounts provided for significant change

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

during the intervening years. Given that Government policy and the regulatory framework on which British Energy Group's assumptions have been based may be expected to develop and that the Directors' plans will be influenced by improvements in technology and experience gained from decommissioning activities, liabilities and the resulting provisions are likely to be adjusted.

In matching the costs of generating electricity against the income from sales, accruals are made in respect of the following:

a) Fuel costs – back-end

The treatment of back-end fuel costs in the profit and loss account has been dealt with in notes 2(v) and (vi). These accruals cover reprocessing and storage of spent nuclear fuel and the long term storage, treatment and eventual disposal of nuclear waste. They are based, as appropriate, on contractual arrangements or the latest technical assessments of the processes and methods likely to be used to deal with these obligations under the current regulatory regime. Where accruals are based on contractual arrangements they are included within creditors. Other accruals are based on long term cost forecasts which are reviewed regularly and adjusted where necessary, and are included within provisions.

The estimated costs of decommissioning are discounted to reflect the timescale before and during which the work will take place (following closure of the nuclear power station). British Energy anticipates that following the end of generation, dismantling the reactors will be deferred for a period of at least 85 years (for AGR power stations) and 50 years (for PWR power stations). However, the discounted costs of decommissioning assume dismantling at 70 years (for AGR power stations) and 10 years (for PWR power stations).

The actual liability for decommissioning may vary significantly from the estimate, and as a result, the liabilities reported in the financial statements may vary significantly if the assessment of these costs changes. Many of the factors that are integral to the determination of the estimate, such as governmental regulations and inflation, are beyond the control of British Energy.

b) Decommissioning of nuclear power stations

The financial statements include provision for the full cost of decommissioning the British Energy Group's nuclear power stations. Provision is made on the basis of the latest technical assessments of the processes and methods likely to be used for decommissioning under the current regulatory regime. The provision established at the commencement of a nuclear power station's operating life is capitalised as part of the costs of the station and depreciated over the station life, and is assessed for impairment.

Accruals and provisions for back-end fuel costs and decommissioning are stated in the balance sheet at current price levels, discounted at a long term real rate of interest of 3 per cent. per annum to take account of the timing of payments. Each year the financing charges in the profit and loss account include the revalorisation of liabilities required to discharge one year's discount

from provisions made in prior years and restate these provisions to current price levels.

(xvii) Decommissioning fund

The British Energy Group currently makes contributions into the NDF to cover all costs of decommissioning nuclear power stations, except de-fuelling costs. The British Energy Group's annual contributions to the fund are assessed by qualified actuaries, taking into account the amount and timing and expected decommissioning costs and the periods until station closures. The value of the asset in the balance sheet represents the contributions made by the British Energy Group, together with an estimated actuarially determined long term rate of return on the fund. The change in value arising from applying the estimated long term rate of return is taken to the profit and loss account and disclosed as part of revalorisation.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

The revalorisation of the decommissioning fund, which has been taken through the profit and loss account, is not a realised profit for the purposes of the Act because the income is unrealised until the British Energy Group receives the related cash from the fund to reimburse decommissioning expenditure. The inclusion of this profit in the profit and loss account is a departure from the requirements of the Act. Revalorisation of the accrued decommissioning provision is charged to the profit and loss account each year and accordingly, in the opinion of the Directors, it is necessary to include the estimated annual long term rate of return of the fund in the British Energy Group's profit and loss account in order for the financial statements to give a true and fair view. In the event that the net realisable value as indicated by the market value of the fund is lower than the value determined under the accounting policy set out above, the lower value is included in the British Energy Group accounts.

The effect of the departure for the UK fund is to increase the profit before tax for the year ended 31 March 2004 by £74m (2003: increase the loss before tax by £82m and 2002: increase the loss before tax by £4m) and to reduce the reported loss before exceptional items for the year ended 31 March 2004 by £28m (2003: £29m and 2002: increase the reported profit before exceptional items for the year by £23m). There is no impact on the net assets at 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2003 as the fund has been restated at market value. For 2002, the effect on net assets would have been an increase of £82m. There are no tax consequences of this departure.

A similar decommissioning fund existed in the United States for AmerGen that was accounted for on a consistent basis as outlined above for the UK fund. Up until the date of sale the effect of the departure for the AmerGen Fund was to increase the profit before tax for the year ended 31 March 2004 by £36m (2003: increase the loss before tax by £28m and 2002: £nil) and to reduce the reported loss before exceptional items for the year ended 31 March 2004 by £14m (2003: £20m and 2002: £nil). There was no impact on net assets as the AmerGen Fund had been restated at market value.

(xviii) Liquid funds

Cash which is placed on term deposits which mature more than one day after the end of the financial year or invested in commercial paper, is classified under current asset investments in the balance sheet and the movement in liquid funds is disclosed under management of liquid resources in the cash flow statement.

(xix) Financial instruments and derivatives

Debt instruments

All borrowings are stated at cost. The interest payable on debt and issue costs are charged to the profit and loss account over the life of the borrowing. Premiums and discounts arising on early repayment of borrowings are recognised in the profit and loss account as incurred and received.

Commodity contracts

Where there is physical delivery associated with power and coal commodity contracts they are accounted for on an accruals basis following delivery of the commodity. Amounts payable or receivable in respect of these contracts are recorded within trade creditors and debtors respectively and recognised as turnover.

Where there is no physical delivery associated with these contracts, they are recorded at fair value on the balance sheet. Where the instrument is for proprietary trading purposes, the change in fair value is reflected through the profit and loss account as part of turnover – wholesale generation. This is not in accordance with the general provisions of Schedule 4 of the Act, which requires that these contracts are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

or that, if revalued, any revaluation difference be taken to a revaluation reserve. However, the Directors consider that this departure is necessary in order that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the results of the British Energy Group's trading activities, in accordance with Section 226(5) of the Act. The effect of the departure on the financial statements is to increase the profit for the year ended 31 March 2004 by £12m (2003: reduce the loss for the year by £9m and 2002: £nil) and reduce the net liabilities at 31 March 2004 by £21m (2003: £9m and 2002 net assets £nil).

Futures and power options

Power futures and options are undertaken for hedging and proprietary trading purposes. Initial margins paid on entering power exchange contracts are recorded on the balance sheet within restricted cash in Investments liquid funds throughout the term of the contract. Where the instrument is a hedge, the daily margin calls are initially reflected on the balance sheet and subsequently reflected through the profit and loss account to match the recognition of the hedged item.

Interest rate swaps

Interest rate swaps are used to manage debt interest rate exposure. Amounts payable or receivable in respect of interest rate swaps are recognised as adjustments to the net interest charge over the term of the contracts. Where derivatives used to manage interest rate risk or to hedge other anticipated cash flows are terminated before the underlying debt matures, the resulting gain or loss is deferred on the balance sheet and amortised to the profit and loss account to match the timing and accounting treatment of the underlying debt. If the debt is subsequently terminated any unamortised deferred gain or loss is recognised immediately in the profit and loss account. Where interest rate swaps are no longer considered effective hedging instruments, any cumulative losses relating to the fair value of the derivatives are taken to the profit and loss account in accordance with FRS 12 Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets (FRS 12).

Options

The British Energy Group used currency options to manage exposure on its disposal of overseas assets. Premiums received and paid on the contracts are included in the net sale proceeds in Exceptional gain/(loss) on sale of joint venture and businesses .

Premiums received and paid on wholesale generation contracts are amortised over the period of the contracts and are included within turnover.

(xx) Goodwill

Goodwill arising on acquisitions represents the excess of the fair value of the consideration at acquisition compared to the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired. Goodwill is capitalised as an intangible asset on the balance sheet and amortised on a straight line basis over its estimated useful life.

(xxi) Joint venture

The British Energy Group's share of the results of the joint venture is included in the consolidated financial statements based on the latest audited accounts of the joint venture, except where the accounting reference date is not co-terminous with the parent company, in which case management accounts are used and adjusted to comply with British Energy accounting policies.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

On 22 December 2003, the British Energy Group disposed of its interest in AmerGen.

(xxii) Operating leases

The British Energy Group entered into an operating lease with OPG to lease the Bruce Power nuclear plant in Ontario, Canada until 2018. Under the terms of the agreement a significant initial payment was made. This consideration plus related transaction costs attributed to the operating lease prepayment, was amortised on a straight line basis over the expected period of the lease. Other costs of the Bruce Power lease were charged to the profit and loss account in accordance with the rental schedule which is included in the lease agreement. The British Energy Group disposed of its investments in Bruce Power and Huron Wind on 14 February 2003. The results of Bruce Power are classified as a discontinued activity for the purpose of this report.

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

3. TURNOVER, (LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAX AND NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)

The British Energy Group's activities consist principally of the generation and sale of electricity.

The geographical analysis of output, turnover, (loss)/profit on ordinary activities before tax and net assets/(liabilities) is noted below.

(i) Output and turnover

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	TWh	TWh	TWh
Output:			
United Kingdom	74.7	69.5	72.6
Canada	20.5	19.2	
	95.2	88.7	72.6

	£m	£m	£m
Group turnover			
Continuing activities			
United Kingdom			
Wholesale generation sales	1,162	852	703
Direct supply sales	522	603	782
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Turnover from continuing activities excluding exceptional income and miscellaneous income	1,684	1,455	1,485
Miscellaneous income	17	32	31
Exceptional income		41	
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Turnover from continuing activities	1,701	1,528	1,516
Discontinued activities			
Canada	348	375	
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total turnover	2,049	1,903	1,516
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Share of turnover in discontinued joint venture	210	212	144
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

In the year ended 31 March 2003 the British Energy Group agreed revised terms for the NEA with Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy which resulted in the release of £41m in respect of cash previously received, and was reported as an exceptional item in the results for the year ended 31 March 2003.

Turnover from discontinued activities in Canada in 2003 and 2002 represented the sales by Bruce Power which was sold on 14 February 2003.

The turnover, operating profits and net assets of the British Energy Group's joint venture, AmerGen, relate entirely to activities in the United States of America. On 22 December 2003 the British Energy Group disposed of its interest in AmerGen.

(ii) (Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation

A geographical analysis of (loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation is as follows:

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
United Kingdom	(576)	(4,288)	187
Canada	52	97	
	(524)	(4,191)	187
Share of discontinued joint venture United States	41	(1)	45
	(483)	(4,192)	232

(iii) Net assets/(liabilities)

A geographical analysis of the British Energy Group's net assets/(liabilities) as at 31 March is as follows:

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
United Kingdom	284	(3,456)	(3,166)
Canada	158		
United States	81	71	
	523	(3,385)	(3,166)

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****4. OPERATING COSTS**

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Continuing activities			
Fuel	467	371	413
Materials and services	395	425	512
Staff costs (note 6)	202	229	224
Depreciation charges	280	273	50
	<u>1,344</u>	<u>1,298</u>	<u>1,199</u>
Energy supply costs	171	184	260
	<u>1,515</u>	<u>1,482</u>	<u>1,459</u>
Discontinued activities			
Fuel	23	17	
Materials and services	149	143	
Staff costs (note 6)	119	111	
Depreciation charges	5	7	
	<u>296</u>	<u>278</u>	
Total operating costs	<u>1,811</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>1,459</u>
Exceptional operating items			
Materials and services	209	94	25
Depreciation charges/(credits)	300	3,738	(295)
Amounts written-off/(credited to) non-operational assets		13	(13)
	<u>509</u>	<u>3,845</u>	<u>(283)</u>
Operating costs after exceptional items	<u>2,320</u>	<u>5,605</u>	<u>1,176</u>
Analysis of exceptional operating items			
Restructuring costs		35	43
Settlement of claim			(18)
Stock obsolescence		57	
Onerous trading contracts	209	2	
Fixed asset write-down/(write-up) (note 12)	300	3,738	(295)

UK decommissioning fund write-down/(write-up) (note 8)	13	(13)
	<u>509</u>	<u>3,845</u>
	<u>(283)</u>	

Exceptional operating costs for the year ended 31 March 2004

Restructuring costs

There were exceptional materials and services costs of £43m in respect of costs incurred on advisory fees and other costs associated with restructuring the British Energy Group's activities.

Settlement of claim

The British Energy Group settled long standing disputes with Siemens Power Generation Limited (SPG) relating to work done since 1996 by the former Parsons business. Under the terms of the settlement SPG paid British Energy approximately £18m. The settlement included a commitment by British Energy and SPG to develop a mutually beneficial relationship under a long term supply agreement.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

Fixed asset write-up

At 31 March 2004 the Directors reassessed the fixed asset carrying values, in line with the requirements of FRS11, to determine whether any revisions to fixed asset carrying values were appropriate. In carrying out such a review the Directors concluded that, pending completion of the Restructuring, it was appropriate to carry out a full review of valuations.

The carrying value of the nuclear power stations was calculated by discounting the expected future cash flows from continued use of the assets, having made appropriate assumptions regarding future operating performance, based on contracts in effect at 31 March 2004. The valuation of Eggborough was based on an assessment of net realisable value. Following the review the carrying value of fixed assets was increased by £295m at 31 March 2004 to reflect reversal of previous impairment losses. The calculation of fixed asset carrying values at 31 March 2004 includes cash flow estimates regarding the level of increase in pension fund contributions that may be required to repair the actuarial pension fund deficit at 31 March 2004. The potential payments included in the fixed asset calculation amount to approximately £207m after being discounted at 15 per cent., and are equivalent to a pension fund deficit calculated on an actuarial basis in the range of £330m to £440m. Formal triennial valuations of the British Energy Generation Group (BEGG) and British Energy Combined Group (BECG) pension schemes at 31 March 2004 are currently being undertaken, but the results of these valuations will not be finalised until later in 2004.

The electricity price assumptions are a very significant component of the asset value calculation. The Directors have considered market views on future prices of wholesale electricity and also the commercially available forecasts. They considered the impact on future prices of the increases in market electricity prices which occurred in the past year, the outlook for coal and gas fuel prices, potential for changes in generation capacity in the UK, and the potential effect on the market of changes in Government policy particularly in the area of environmental legislation. In determining the price assumptions the Directors have taken a cautious view of there being a significant long term recovery in market prices. This recovery of market prices during the year has led to forecasts of future electricity prices being greater than those underpinning the value in use calculated at 31 March 2003. Greater cash inflows are therefore anticipated over the lifetime of the nuclear plants, and so an element of the prior year impairment loss has been reversed. As market prices are outside the Directors' control actual prices may differ from those forecast.

UK decommissioning fund write-up

At 31 March 2004 the market value of the NDF had increased to £440m (31 March 2003: £334m), thereby necessitating an exceptional credit of £59m in the twelve months ended 31 March 2004. The £59m included a £13m exceptional credit to reverse the write-down on non-operational assets made in the year ended 31 March 2003. The remaining balance of the restatement to market value of £46m has been dealt with as an exceptional financing credit to reverse previously written-down revalorisation amounts. The remaining UK decommissioning fund movements relate to revalorisation of £28m and regular cash contributions of £19m.

Exceptional operating costs for the year ended 31 March 2003

Restructuring costs

There were exceptional materials and services costs of £35m in respect of costs incurred on advisory fees and other costs associated with restructuring the Group's activities.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

Stock obsolescence

An exceptional charge of £57m has been recorded for stock obsolescence following an extensive review of slow moving stores and spares conducted during the year.

Onerous trading contracts

During the year the Group had certain pre-NETA electricity trading contracts with ECTEF, TPL and Total. As a result of the terms inherent in these contracts and the Directors' view of future market prices, the contracts are considered to be onerous. The ECTEF and Total contracts were terminated during the year thus giving rise to claims for certain amounts which became payable. These accounts reflect the claim amounts which have been agreed in principle with ECTEF, TPL and Total for the purposes of the restructuring. An exceptional charge of £2m has been made in the year to make further provision for these long term trading contracts.

Fixed asset write-down

The Directors reviewed the economic values and net realisable values of the Group's fixed assets and compared them to their book value. As a result of this review, the carrying value of fixed assets has been written down by £3,738m.

The carrying value of the nuclear power stations was calculated by discounting the expected future cash flows from continued use of the assets, having made appropriate assumptions regarding future operating performance. The valuation of Eggborough was based on an assessment of net realisable value.

The electricity price assumptions are a very significant component of the asset value calculation. The Directors considered the market's views on future prices of wholesale electricity and also the forecasts specifically commissioned for the British Energy Group. They considered the potential for rationalisation of generation capacity in the UK and the potential effect on the market of changes in Government policy on renewables generation. In determining the price assumptions the Directors also took account of the effect on the market as a result of the dramatic fall in prices over the previous two years and have taken a cautious view on there being a significant recovery in prices. As market prices are outside the Directors' control actual prices may differ from those forecast.

UK decommissioning fund write-down

At 31 March 2003 the market value of the NDF investment was £334m (market value 2002: £411m). As a result of the market value being lower than the balance sheet carrying value an exceptional charge of £124m has been recognised in the accounts to restate the NDF receivable to market value. Of this charge £111m represents the write down of previous revalorisation and has been treated as an exceptional financing charge. The balance of £13m has been included in Amounts written off non-operational assets and classified as an operating cost.

Exceptional operating costs for the year ended 31 March 2002

Onerous trading contracts

The Group has certain pre-NETA contracts which are excluded from its wholesale and direct supply portfolios. As a result of the terms inherent in these contracts and the Directors' view of future market prices the contracts are considered to be onerous and a provision has been made to reflect the future discounted losses that were expected under the terms of these contracts. In addition the fall in electricity prices over the year has resulted in the Group increasing its provision for the contract with TPL. An exceptional charge of £209m has been made in the year to make further provision for these long term trading contracts.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****Fixed asset write-down**

Following the fall in electricity selling prices, particularly following the introduction of NETA, the Directors reviewed the economic values and net realisable values of the Group's power stations and compared them to their book value. As a result of this review the value of the Eggborough power station has been written down by £300m.

Other operating items

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Operating costs are stated after charging:			
research and development	16	15	14
operating lease costs - Bruce Power	38	70	
other			1

Auditors remuneration

It is the British Energy Group's policy to engage PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP on assignments where their expertise and experience with the British Energy Group are important, or where they win work on a competitive basis. An analysis of auditors remuneration on a worldwide basis for each of the three years ended 31 March is provided below:

	2002		2003		2004	
	£000 s	%	£000 s	%	£000 s	%
Audit services						
Statutory	358	16	480	16	510	9
Audit related regulatory reporting	101	5	215	7	258	5
Further assurance services						
Creditors long form report					2,017	35
Reporting accountant - working capital report			532	17	1,208	21
Review of accounting implications of the restructuring			1,111	36	1,114	20

Taxation

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Tax services	1,249	57	331	11	510	9
Other						
Other non-audit services	475	22	409	13	80	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	2,183	100	3,078	100	5,697	100
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5. SALE OF INVESTMENTS

Analysis of investment disposals during the year ended 31 March 2004:

On 22 December 2003 the British Energy Group completed the sale of its 50 per cent. interest in AmerGen to Exelon. The British Energy Group received initial consideration of US\$277m upon financial close on 22 December 2003 prior to adjustments relating to working capital levels, stocks of unspent nuclear fuel inventory, capital expenditures and low-level waste disposal costs to be determined at the time of closing. The gain on sale calculated below is a provisional estimate pending receipt of financial statements drawn up as at the date of financial close.

On 23 December 2003 the British Energy Group sold its 50 per cent. equity interest in Offshore Wind Power Limited to GB Gas Holdings Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Centrica, for an

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

up front cash consideration of £2m and deferred consideration of up to £750,000 which has not been recognised in these accounts (net book value £nil).

The total cash receipts in relation to the discontinued activities of Bruce Power amounted to £17m. The cash receipt of £9m on 28 April 2003 in relation to Bruce Power was accounted for in the year ended 31 March 2003 as an adjusting post balance sheet event. The additional receipt of £8m received on 22 March 2004 was in relation to the re-start of the Bruce A reactor. These receipts relate to the discontinued activities of Bruce Power.

The exceptional profits arising from the disposal of joint venture and businesses and cash consideration which have been recognised in these accounts are analysed as follows:

	Bruce Power	AmerGen	Offshore Wind	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Net assets sold		112		112
Accounted for by:				
Cash consideration net of transaction costs and break fee	8	149	2	159
Exceptional gain on sale of joint venture and businesses	8	37	2	47
Cash flows:				
Cash consideration net of transaction costs received in the year ended 31 March 2004	17	152	2	171

Analysis of investment disposals during the year ended 31 March 2003:

On 14 February 2003 the British Energy Group completed the sale of its 82.4 per cent. interest in Bruce Power and 50 per cent. share in Huron Wind Limited Partnership to a Canadian consortium led by Cameco, TransCanada and BPC.

The British Energy Group received initial consideration of C\$678m upon financial close on 14 February 2003, together with a C\$20m retention initially held in escrow pending confirmation of the pension deficit which was subsequently received in April 2003. In addition, there are certain amounts held in escrow which the British Energy Group may be entitled to receive pending satisfaction of various conditions related to the disposal. These amounts, which have not been recognised in these accounts, are:

- C\$100m, contingent on the restart of two Bruce A units, with C\$50m to be released provided the first unit restarts by 15 June 2003 and an additional C\$50m if the second unit restarts by 1 August 2003. If the units do not restart on the specified dates then the contingent amounts released for each unit will be reduced by C\$5m and such payment is reduced by a further C\$5m if that unit is not restarted on or before the first day of each successive calendar month following the scheduled restart date.
- C\$20m, which is held in escrow from closing to cover any successful claims in respect of representations and warranties until any claims made against British Energy and British Energy International Holdings which are made within two years from the date of closing are resolved.

A further C\$80m is held in an escrow account to cover the estimated outstanding tax liabilities of the Bruce Group. In the event that the sums held back to satisfy the tax liability are insufficient, then British Energy would be required to repay the amount of such excess to the Bruce Power consortium. Conversely, British Energy will be refunded any balance remaining after settlement of the tax liability.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

The loss arising from the disposal and cash consideration which have been recognised in these accounts are analysed as follows:

	£m
Net assets sold:	
Tangible fixed assets	303
Investment in joint venture and associates	4
Stocks	37
Debtors	313
Cash at bank	4
Borrowings	(92)
Creditors and provisions	(192)
	<hr/>
Net assets disposed	377
Minority interests	(68)
	<hr/>
Net assets disposed less minorities	309
	<hr/>
Accounted for by:	
Cash consideration net of transaction costs	(266)
Contingent consideration received post year end on determination of pension deficit	(8)
	<hr/>
Loss on disposal – exceptional item	35
	<hr/>
Cash flows:	
Cash consideration net of transaction costs received in 2002/03	266
Less: cash held by disposed subsidiary	(4)
	<hr/>
Net cash inflow	262
	<hr/>

Analysis of investment disposals during the year ended 31 March 2002:

The disposal of the British Energy Group's interest in Humber Power Limited resulted in an exceptional profit of £4m in 2002.

6. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION**(i) Staff costs**

	Notes	Year ended		
		31 March		
		2002	2003	2004
		£m	£m	£m
Salaries		189	201	208
Social security costs		18	17	19
Pension costs	24	1	6	
Severance charges			12	2
Amortisation of share option costs		2	2	
Amounts capitalised		(8)	(9)	(5)
Continuing activities		202	229	224
Discontinued activities		119	111	
Total staff costs		321	340	224

Amounts capitalised within staff costs during the year ended 31 March 2004 are subsequently expensed as operating costs within materials and services costs as all fixed asset additions were expensed as incurred in that year. Amounts capitalised in the years ended 31 March 2002 and 2003 are included in fixed asset additions for those periods.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****(ii) Employee numbers**

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	Number	Number	Number
Average number of employees during the year:			
Continuing operations	4,969	5,103	5,165
Discontinued operations	2,701	2,799	
Total	7,670	7,902	5,165
Average number of full-time equivalent employees by category during the year were:			
United Kingdom			
Power stations:			
nuclear	3,499	3,579	3,612
coal-fired	251	247	258
Engineering, technical and corporate support	1,170	1,228	1,257
Total continuing operations	4,920	5,054	5,127
North America discontinued operations	32	28	12
Canada discontinued operations	2,701	2,798	
	7,653	7,880	5,139

7. SUMMARY OF DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS**(a) Directors remuneration****Year ended 31 March 2002**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Basic Salary and</u>	<u>Bonus</u>	<u>Contingent Fees</u>	<u>Compen-</u>	<u>Accommod-</u>	<u>Other Benefits</u>	<u>Total Emoluments Excluding</u>	<u>Pension Contribut-</u>
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	<u>Fees</u>		<u>ation for Loss of Office</u>	<u>ation and relocation</u>		<u>Pension</u>	<u>ions</u>
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Dr R Jeffrey	336,250	130,220			11,731	478,201	
D Gilchrist	96,250	38,981		41,534	6,597	183,362	5,565
D Hawthorne	94,984	38,943			12,949	146,876	8,750
M Kirwan	188,126	72,579			20,195	280,900	26,526
K Lough	116,667	44,683		38,286	6,901	206,537	5,565
Sir R Biggam	52,500					52,500	
Sir R Hill	57,500					57,500	
P Stevenson	30,000					30,000	
Dr J Walsh	25,000					25,000	
C Spottiswoode	8,333					8,333	
Total emoluments for serving directors at 31 March 2002	1,005,610	325,406		79,820	58,373	1,469,209	46,406
Sir J Robb	48,082					48,082	
P Hollins	66,409	18,000	364,600		3,456	452,465	2,134
Total emoluments (all directors)	1,120,101	343,406	364,600	79,820	61,829	1,969,756	48,540

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

Year ended 31 March 2003

Name	Basic salary and fees	Bonus	Contingent fees	Compensation for loss of office	Accommodation and relocation	Other benefits	Total emoluments excluding pension	Pension contributions
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
A Montague	100,000		300,000			209	400,209	
M Alexander	33,333					2,202	35,535	1,385
D Gilchrist	183,563					20,067	203,630	12,020
D Hawthorne	152,978					8,046	161,024	21,749
K Lough	211,250					12,886	224,136	12,020
Sir R Hill	57,500						57,500	
I Harley	25,833						25,833	
C Spottiswoode	53,333						53,333	
Total emoluments for serving directors at 31 March 2003	817,790		300,000			43,410	1,161,200	47,174
R Jeffrey	309,188			98,000		17,349	424,537	
R Biggam	11,167						11,167	
P Stevenson	25,893						25,893	
M Kirwan	45,042					4,007	49,049	4,453
J Walsh	7,325						7,325	
Total emoluments (all directors)	1,216,405		300,000	98,000		64,766	1,679,171	51,627

Year ended 31 March 2004

Name	Basic salary and fees	Bonus	Contingent fees	Compensation for loss of office	Accommodation and relocation	Other benefits	Total emoluments excluding pension	Pension contributions
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
A Montague	300,000						300,000	
M Alexander	400,000	190,004				32,864	622,868	16,929
W Coley	25,000						25,000	
P Colombani	22,500						22,500	
J Delucca	4,500						4,500	
M Gatto	130,000	36,013					166,013	
D Gilchrist	199,013	106,105				15,247	320,365	16,929

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I Harley	36,500					36,500	
C Spottiswoode	59,000					59,000	
R Walmsley	24,667					24,667	
Total emoluments for serving directors at 31 March 2004	1,201,180	332,122			48,111	1,581,413	33,858
D Hawthorne	25,228					25,228	
R Hill	19,167					19,167	
K Lough	151,975	73,679		145,625		11,309	382,588
Total emoluments (all directors)	1,397,550	405,801		145,625		59,420	2,008,396

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****(b) Directors interests****(i) Ordinary shares**

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
A Montague	n/a	2,188	2,188
M Alexander	n/a		
W Coley	n/a	n/a	
P Colombani	n/a	n/a	
J Delucca	n/a	n/a	
M Gatto	n/a	n/a	
D Gilchrist	5,359	6,024	6,024
I Harley	n/a	2,000	2,000
C Spottiswoode			
R Walmsley	n/a	n/a	
D Hawthorne	5,302	5,302	n/a
K Lough	10,000	10,000	n/a
Sir R Hill	1,395	1,395	n/a
R Jeffrey	55,017	n/a	n/a
M Kirwan	37,205	n/a	n/a
Sir R Biggam	27,916	n/a	n/a
P Stevenson	48,000	n/a	n/a
J Walsh		n/a	n/a

R Jeffrey held 6,060 A shares and D Hawthorne held 477 A shares at 31 March 2002 and 31 March 2003.

(ii) Options**Directors options for the year ended 31 March 2002:**

Executive share options:

<u>Name</u>	Options held at 01/04/2001	Options granted during the	Options exercised during the	Options lapsed during the	Options held at 31/03/2002	Option exercise price (£)	Date from which exercisable	Expiry date
-------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------

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	<u>year</u>	<u>year</u>	<u>year</u>			
Dr R Jeffrey	113,846			113,846	2.60	12/08/2000 11/08/2004
	11,538			11,538	2.60	12/08/2000 11/08/2007
	35,990			35,990	5.08	29/06/2001 28/06/2005
	32,021			32,021	5.295	25/06/2002 24/06/2006
	81,160			81,160	2.4125	14/07/2003 13/07/2007
	100,401			100,401	2.49	07/12/2003 06/12/2007
	<u>374,956</u>			<u>374,956</u>		
D Gilchrist	11,538			11,538	2.60	15/07/2000 14/07/2004
	57,692			57,692	2.60	15/07/2000 14/07/2007
	19,862			19,862	5.08	29/06/2001 28/06/2005
	21,379			21,379	5.295	25/06/2002 24/06/2006
	40,659			40,659	2.4125	14/07/2003 13/07/2007
	<u>151,130</u>			<u>151,130</u>		

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

Name	Options held at 01/04/2001	Options granted during the year	Options exercised during the year	Options lapsed during the year	Options held at 31/03/2002	Option exercise price (£)	Date from which exercisable	Expiry date
D Hawthorne	11,538				11,538	2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2004
	13,269				13,269	2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2007
	17,869				17,869	5.08	29/06/2001	28/06/2005
	24,516				24,516	5.295	25/06/2002	24/06/2006
	40,559				40,559	2.4125	14/07/2003	13/07/2007
	107,751				107,751			
M Kirwan	118,077				118,077	2.60	12/08/2000	11/08/2004
	11,538				11,538	2.60	12/08/2000	11/08/2007
	37,192				37,192	5.08	29/06/2001	28/06/2005
	33,097				33,097	5.295	25/06/2002	24/06/2006
	76,269				76,269	2.4125	14/07/2003	13/07/2007
	276,173				276,173			
K Lough		116,353			116,353	3.18	14/09/2004	13/09/2008
		9,433			9,433	3.18	14/09/2004	13/09/2011
		125,786			125,786			

Sharesave scheme:

Name	At 1 April 2001	Granted	Exercised	Options lapsed during the year	At 31 March 2002	Option exercise price (£)	Date from which exercisable	Expiry date
D Hawthorne	10,819				10,819	1.36	01/09/2005	28/02/2006
M Kirwan	6,211				6,211	1.36	01/09/2003	28/02/2004

Directors options for the year ended 31 March 2003:

Executive share options:

Name

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	Options held at 01/04/2002	Options granted during the year	Options exercised during the year	Options lapsed during the year	Options held at 31/03/2003	Option exercise price (£)	Date from which exercisable	Expiry date
Dr R Jeffrey	113,846			113,846		2.60	12/08/2000	11/08/2004
	11,538			11,538		2.60	12/08/2000	11/08/2007
	35,990			35,990		5.08	29/06/2001	28/06/2005
	32,021			32,021		5.295	25/06/2002	24/06/2006
	81,160			81,160		2.4125	14/07/2003	13/07/2007
	100,401			100,401		2.49	07/12/2003	06/12/2007
	374,956			374,956				
M Kirwan	118,077				118,077	2.60	12/08/2000	11/08/2004
	11,538				11,538	2.60	12/08/2000	11/08/2007
	37,192				37,192	5.08	29/06/2001	28/06/2005
	33,097				33,097	5.295	25/06/2002	24/06/2006
	76,269				76,269	2.4125	14/07/2003	13/07/2007
	276,173				276,173			
K Lough	9,433				9,433	3.18	14/09/2004	13/09/2011
	116,353				116,353	3.18	14/09/2004	13/09/2008
	125,786				125,786			
D Hawthorne	13,269			13,269		2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2004
	11,538			11,538		2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2007
	17,869			17,869		5.08	29/06/2001	28/06/2005
	24,516			24,516		5.295	25/06/2002	24/06/2006
	40,559			40,559		2.4125	14/07/2003	13/07/2007
	107,751			107,751				
D Gilchrist	57,692				57,692	2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2004
	11,538				11,538	2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2007
	19,862				19,862	5.08	29/06/2001	28/06/2005
	21,379				21,379	5.295	25/06/2002	24/06/2006
	40,659				40,659	2.4125	14/07/2003	13/07/2007
	151,130				151,130			

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****Directors options for the year ended 31 March 2004:**

Executive share options:

Name	Options held at 01/04/2003	Options granted during the year	Options exercised during the year	Options lapsed during the year	Options held at 31/03/2004	Option exercise price (£)	Date from which exercisable	Expiry date
D Gilchrist	57,692				57,692	2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2004
	11,538				11,538	2.60	15/07/2000	14/07/2007
	19,862				19,862	5.08	29/06/2001	28/06/2005
	21,379				21,379	5.295	25/06/2002	24/06/2006
	40,659				40,659	2.4125	14/07/2003	13/07/2007
	<u>151,130</u>				<u>151,130</u>			
K Lough	9,433				9,433	3.18	14/09/2004	13/09/2011
	116,353				116,353	3.18	14/09/2004	13/09/2008
	<u>125,786</u>				<u>125,786</u>			

(c) Retirement benefits

The retirement benefits offered to executive directors are individually tailored as described below.

Mike Alexander and David Gilchrist are members of the BEGG of the ESPS.

Keith Lough was also a member of BEGG when he was a Director.

No elements of remuneration other than base pay are pensionable.

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The following Directors have accrued entitlements under defined benefits schemes as follows:

As at 31 March 2002:

	<u>R Jeffrey</u>	<u>D Gilchrist</u>	<u>D Hawthorne</u>	<u>K Lough</u>
Age at 31 March 2002	63	49	46	43
Years of service at 31 March 2002	27	11	25	0.6
Normal retirement age	63	63	60	65
Pension accrual rate	1/60	1/30	1/60	1/30
Director's contribution	Nil	5% salary	5% salary	5% salary
Spouse's pension	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Additional pension accrued during the year	£40,698	£13,588	£21,301	£2,462
Accrued annual entitlement at 31 March 2002	£151,313	£32,317	£60,714	£2,462

Dr Jeffrey's service included credits from transfers into the scheme. Mr Kirwan was not a member of any British Energy Group pension scheme. However, he received an annual salary supplement in 2001/2002 of £26,526, in accordance with a previously agreed schedule.

Mr Hollins left service on 7 June 2001. The additional pension accrued by Mr Hollins during the year ended 31 March 2002 was £13,748. His annual entitlement at leaving was £46,348 (with a spouse's pension of two-thirds of this amount). £10,646 of this pension will be provided from the BEGG of the ESPS. £23,104 is an unfunded pension that will be payable from age 62. The balance was commuted and a lump sum of £189,000 was paid.

The accrual rate for Keith Lough and David Gilchrist was the maximum rate subject to total pension from all sources not exceeding two-thirds of final salary.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

The accrued pension entitlements shown are those which would be paid annually on retirement, based on service to the end of the year. The transfer value does not represent a sum paid or due to the individual and cannot meaningfully be added to annual remuneration.

As at 31 March 2003

Name	Age	Accrued pension at 31/03/2002	Increase in accrued pension (excluding inflation)	Increase in accrued pension	Transfer value of increase in accrued benefit	Accrued pension at 31/03/2003	Transfer value of pension at 31 March		Increase in transfer value less contributions made by Directors
							2002	2003	
		(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
M Alexander	55		833	833		833		8,000	6,333
D Gilchrist	50	32,317	12,627	13,578	107,997	45,895	278,000	404,000	116,822
D Hawthorne	47	60,714	21,594	23,380	209,465	84,094	567,000	803,000	227,493
K Lough	44	2,462	4,544	4,616	14,047	7,078	13,000	38,000	14,437
R Jeffrey	63	190,547	8,432	14,036	156,000	204,583	3,393,000	3,601,000	208,000

Mike Kirwan was not a member of any British Energy Group pension scheme. However, he received an annual salary supplement in 2002/3 of £4,453 in accordance with a previously agreed schedule.

Robin Jeffrey left service on 15 February 2003. He was beyond maximum retirement age (60) and, as such, his pension became payable immediately. The accrued pension at 31 March 2003, and the transfer value at 31 March 2003, represent the pension entitlement that Robin Jeffrey was entitled to at 15 February 2003, before commutation to provide any tax-free lump sum. Following his retirement, Robin Jeffrey ceased to be entitled to any transfer value payment from the scheme.

The accrued pension to 31 March 2002 for Robin Jeffrey has been restated to reflect the value of added years that he purchased under the rules of the scheme from March 1984 until aged 60. The value quoted in the 2001/2 report of £151,313 did not include these added years.

The accrual rate of Mike Alexander is fixed at a value of £10,000 per year of service, which on the basis of current salary equates to 1/40.

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The accrual rate of both Keith Lough and David Gilchrist was 1/30 and is the maximum rate subject to total pension from all sources not exceeding two-thirds of final salary.

As at 31 March 2004

Name	Age	Accrued pension at 31/03/2003	Increase in accrued pension (excluding inflation)	Increase in accrued pension	Transfer value of increase in accrued benefit	Accrued pension at 31/03/2004	Transfer value of pension at 31 March		Increase in transfer value less contributions made by Directors
							2003	2004	
		(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
M Alexander	56	833	9,976	10,000	99,000	10,833	8,000	107,000	79,000
D Gilchrist	51	45,895	9,208	10,494	138,000	56,389	404,000	542,000	128,049
K Lough	45	7,078	3,340	3,463	21,000	10,541	38,000	59,000	13,371

The accrual rate of Mike Alexander is fixed at a value of £10,000 per year of service which, on the basis of current salary, equates to 1/40.

The accrual rate of David Gilchrist is 1/30, and is the maximum rate subject to total pension from all sources not exceeding two-thirds of final salary.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

The information shown above for Keith Lough relates to his period as an executive director only (i.e. until 8 December 2003). His accrual rate was 1/30 and was the maximum rate subject to total pension from all sources not exceeding two-thirds of final salary. He continued to be a member of the scheme after his resignation as an executive director.

Martin Gatto is not a member of any British Energy Group pension scheme nor is any payment made to him in lieu of any pension arrangement.

On 5 August 2004, David Gilchrist ceased to be a director of British Energy.

8. FINANCING CHARGES/(CREDITS)

	Notes	Year ended		
		31 March		
		2002	2003	2004
		£m	£m	£m
Revalorisation:				
Revalorisation of nuclear liabilities	21			
changes in price levels		65	117	97
discharge of one year's discount		110	111	118
		<u>175</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>215</u>
Revalorisation of other provisions		12	10	
Revalorisation of decommissioning fund	14	(23)	(29)	(28)
Share of revalorisation of joint venture		(4)	(4)	(2)
		<u>160</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>185</u>
Revalorisation charge before exceptional items		160	205	185
Exceptional revalorisation charge/(credit) (see below)		27	159	(68)
		<u>187</u>	<u>364</u>	<u>117</u>
Interest:				
Interest on loans repayable within five years:				
bank		27	11	11
other		27	24	33
Interest on loans repayable in five years or more:				
bank		20	38	24
other		8	8	7

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Interest receivable	(16)	(9)	(11)
Net interest before exceptional items	66	72	64
Exceptional charge/(credit) interest rate swaps		56	(5)
Exceptional charge borrowing costs		6	
Exceptional financing charges/(credit)		62	(5)
Interest payable and similar charges	66	134	59

Year ended 31 March 2004

At 31 March 2004 the market value of the NDF had increased to £440m (31 March 2003: £334m), thereby necessitating an exceptional credit of £59m in the twelve months ended 31 March 2004 to reverse previously written-down amounts. As a result of the NDF receivable being restated at market value, a £13m exceptional credit has been recorded in operating costs to reverse a prior write-down of non-operational assets, and exceptional credits of £46m have been recorded in finance charges for the twelve months ended 31 March 2004 to reverse the prior write-down of previous revaluation. The market value remains below the amount that would have been calculated by revalourising on an actuarial basis the total amounts that have been invested in the fund.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

The market value of the AmerGen decommissioning fund had also increased over the period to 22 December 2003, and the British Energy Group's share of the exceptional credit was £22m in the year to the date of sale.

The total of the NDF and AmerGen decommissioning fund exceptional revalorisation credits included within financing charges amounted to £68m.

At 31 March 2004 the value of interest rate swaps were marked to market and the resultant valuation was lower than the book value. The exceptional credit was £5m for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Year ended 31 March 2003

At 31 March 2003 the market value of the NDF was lower than the value that would have been derived from revalorising the cost of the investment. The difference was £124m of which £111m was recognised as an exceptional financing charge with the remainder classified as write-offs of non-operational assets. At 31 March 2003 the British Energy Group's share of the adjustment required to reduce the AmerGen decommissioning fund to market value was a charge of £48m.

An exceptional charge of £56m was recognised for the year ended 31 March 2003 for interest rate swaps, which were no longer considered to be effective. In addition an exceptional charge of £6m was recorded for the write-off of borrowing costs which had been previously capitalised and were being amortised over the expected duration of the loan financing the acquisition of the Eggborough power station.

Year ended 31 March 2002

At 31 March 2002 the market value of the NDF was lower than the value that would have been derived from revalorising the cost of the investment. As a result, an exceptional charge of £27m was recognised to restate the decommissioning fund receivable to market value.

9. TAXATION

Year ended 31 March

	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities:			
UK corporation tax prior year	(11)		
Deferred taxation on ordinary activities before tax	34	(40)	
Unwinding of discount	14	14	
Charge/(credit) for the year on ordinary activities	48	(26)	
Exceptional deferred tax credit	(56)	(370)	
Deferred tax credit for the year	(8)	(396)	
Foreign tax	15	18	(2)
	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(378)</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Share of taxation for discontinued joint venture:			
Ordinary activities	29	10	
	<u>29</u>	<u>10</u>	<u></u>

There was no UK current tax charge for the year ended 31 March 2004 or 2003 (2002: credit £11m). The tax credit of £2m for the year ended 31 March 2004 represented the release of an over provision of foreign tax in earlier years.

The exceptional tax credit for the year ended 31 March 2003 of £370m related to a deferred taxation credit on exceptional items of £520m offset by the de-recognition of the deferred taxation assets of £150m.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

As set out in the British Energy Group's Cash Flow Statement, the tax paid of £12m in the year ended 31 March 2004 relates to the Group's liability for its share of AmerGen's taxable profits. In the year ended 31 March 2003 the net tax refund of £3m comprised tax paid of £10m in respect of AmerGen and Bruce Power offset by a UK tax refund of £13m. In the year ended 31 March 2002, the net tax refund of £4m comprised a UK tax refund of £10m and tax paid of £6m in respect of AmerGen.

A reconciliation of the current tax charge/credit to tax at the statutory corporation tax rate of 30 per cent. is set out below:

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Tax (credit)/charge on Group (loss)/profit at standard rate of 30%	(148)	(1,288)	70
Deferred tax:			
Current year movement	8	396	
Impact of discounting	55	619	(140)
Increase in deferred tax asset not recognised		150	113
Total deferred tax movement pre discounting	63	1,165	(27)
Expenses/(credits) not deductible/(chargeable) for tax purposes	108	140	(16)
Loss/(gain) on sale of investments not taxable		11	(13)
Higher/(lower) tax rates on overseas earnings	3	(6)	
Minority interests	(3)	(4)	
Impact of joint venture	(8)		(14)
Over provision for foreign tax in earlier years			(2)
Over provision for UK tax in earlier years	(11)		
Current tax charge/(credit) for year	4	18	(2)

The share of taxation for the joint venture represents the Group's liability for its share of AmerGen's taxable profits.

10. DIVIDENDS

Year ended 31 March					
2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	2004
p per	£m	p per	£m	p per	£m

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	share	share	share
Annual dividend per ordinary share:			
interim paid	2.7	16	
final proposed	5.3	32	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total annual	8.0	48	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Non-equity dividend	2.3	2	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The British Energy Employee Share Trust and the Qualifying Employee Share Trust have elected to waive their entitlement to receive dividends in the year ended 31 March 2002.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

11. (DEFICIT)/EARNINGS PER SHARE

The basic (deficit)/earnings per equity share for the year has been calculated by dividing the (loss)/profit on ordinary activities after taxation, minority interests and non-equity dividends by the weighted average of Ordinary Shares in issue during the year, based on the following information:

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
(Loss)/profit for the year (£m)	(519)	(3,841)	234
Basic weighted average share capital (number of shares, m)	598	602	602

A calculation of diluted earnings per share has not been provided because the outstanding share options did not have any dilutive potential.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Power Stations	Other land and buildings	Other plant and equipment	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cost				
As at 1 April 2001	10,583	47	364	10,994
Acquisition of Bruce Power	25		4	29
Additions	185		40	225
As at 31 March 2002	10,793	47	408	11,248
Foreign exchange	(9)		(1)	(10)
Additions	258		35	293
Disposal of Bruce Power and Huron Wind	(295)		(8)	(303)
As at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2004	10,747	47	434	11,228

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Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2001	5,719	24	206	5,949
Exceptional asset write-down	300			300
Charge for the year	256		29	285
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
As at 31 March 2002	6,275	24	235	6,534
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Exceptional asset write-down	3,594		144	3,738
Charge for the year	247		33	280
Disposal of Bruce Power and Huron Wind	(8)		(2)	(10)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
As at 31 March 2003	10,108	24	410	10,542
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Exceptional asset write-up	(275)	(1)	(19)	(295)
Charge for the year	38	1	11	50
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
As at 31 March 2004	9,871	24	402	10,297
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net book value				
As at 31 March 2002	4,518	23	173	4,714
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
As at 31 March 2003	639	23	24	686
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
As at 31 March 2004	876	23	32	931
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

The net book value of tangible fixed assets included the following amounts in respect of freehold land and buildings:

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Cost	2,223	2,245	2,245
Net book value	1,120	107	157

At 31 March 2003 and 2004 the Directors reviewed the economic values and net realisable values of the Group's fixed assets and compared them to their book value. A discount rate of 15 per cent. (2003: 15 per cent.) was applied to the economic value review. As a result of this review, the value of its fixed assets has been increased by £295m in the year ended 31 March 2004 (2003: reduced by £3,738m). At 31 March 2002 a similar review was carried out, however, a discount rate of 8 per cent. was applied to the economic value review. As a result of this review the value of the Eggborough power station was written down by £300m. The background to the review is discussed more fully in note 4.

13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	AmerGen			
	Joint Venture	Loans to Nirex	Other investments	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cost/carrying value				
As at 1 April 2001	46	37	20	103
Disposals			(16)	(16)
Share of retained profits	41			41
As at 31 March 2002	87	37	4	128
Foreign exchange	(11)			(11)
Share of retained profits	43			43
As at 31 March 2003	119	37	4	160
Foreign exchange	(11)			(11)
Share of retained profits to date of disposal	48			48

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Disposal of joint venture	(156)			(156)
As at 31 March 2004		37	4	41
Provision for diminution in value				
As at 1 April 2001		37		37
Charge for the year				
As at 31 March 2002		37		37
Charge for the year: exceptional items	48			48
As at 31 March 2003	48	37		85
Foreign exchange	(4)			(4)
Disposal of joint venture	(44)			(44)
As at 31 March 2004		37		37
Net book value				
As at 31 March 2002	87		4	91
As at 31 March 2003	71		4	75
As at 31 March 2004			4	4

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****Own shares held**

The British Energy Group has adopted UITF Abstract 17 (revised 2003) (Employee Share Schemes) and UITF Abstract 38 (Accounting for ESOP Trusts) which relate to the measurement of the Employee Share Scheme charge and the presentation of own shares held. As a result where the Group purchases shares in its equity share capital through the British Energy Employee Share Trust or Qualifying Employee Share Trust the net consideration paid is deducted from the profit and loss account reserve in arriving at total equity shareholders funds. Where such shares are subsequently sold or reissued any consideration received is included in equity shareholders funds.

Other investments relate wholly to the investment held by Lochside Insurance Limited.

Details of British Energy's principal subsidiary undertakings and other holdings of more than 10 per cent. between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2004 were as follows:

	Country of registration and operation	Class of share	Group share-holding %	Company share-holding %	Principal activity
Subsidiary undertakings					
British Energy Generation (UK) Limited	Scotland	Ordinary	100	100	Generation and sale of electricity
British Energy Generation Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	100		Generation and sale of electricity
British Energy Power & Energy Trading Limited	Scotland	Ordinary	100	100	Energy trading
Eggborough Power Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	100		Generation and sale of electricity
Bruce Power LP (disposed of on 14 February 2003)	Canada	Limited Partnership	82.4		Generation and sale of electricity
Other holdings of more than 10 per cent					
AmerGen Energy LLC (disposed of on 22 December 2003)	USA	Ordinary	50		Generation and sale of electricity
United Kingdom Nirex Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	10.8		Disposal of nuclear waste

On 22 December 2003 the Group disposed of its interest in AmerGen. An analysis of British Energy's share of the aggregate net assets of the AmerGen joint venture as at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2002 is set out below:

2002 2003

	£m	£m
Negative goodwill	(14)	(7)
Tangible assets	107	144
Stocks	52	10
Cash	2	6
Decommissioning fund	378	306
Debtors	19	18
Creditors	(67)	(51)
Decommissioning liabilities	(340)	(321)
Loan notes	(50)	(34)
	<u>87</u>	<u>71</u>
Net assets	<u>87</u>	<u>71</u>

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Negative goodwill related to AmerGen's acquisition of Oyster Creek nuclear power station in August 2000.

The market value of the AmerGen decommissioning fund fell between 2002 and 2003 following the fall in the value of the equity markets. An exceptional charge of £48m was recorded for British Energy Group's share of the adjustment required to restate the balance sheet value to market value in the year ended 31 March 2003.

Loans have been made to United Kingdom Nirex Limited to fund development expenditure for building an intermediate level nuclear waste repository. These loans have been fully provided for in the British Energy Group's financial statements.

14. DECOMMISSIONING FUND

	As at March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
As at 1 April	397	411	334
Regular contributions	18	18	19
Revalorisation (note 8)	23	29	28
	438	458	381
Exceptional items to mark the fund to market value (note 8)	(27)	(124)	59
As at 31 March	411	334	440

The decommissioning fund asset in the balance sheet normally represents the contributions made by the British Energy Group, together with an estimated actuarially determined long term post-tax real rate of return on the fund of 3.5 per cent. per annum. The change in value arising from applying the estimated long-term rate of return is taken to the profit and loss account as a revalorisation credit. The decommissioning fund asset is receivable after more than one year and is restricted in its use.

At 31 March 2004 the market value of the NDF was £440m (2003: £334m and 2002: £411m), thereby necessitating an exceptional credit of £59m to the profit and loss account in the twelve months ended 31 March 2004 to reverse previously written-down amounts (2003: an exceptional charge of £124m and 2002: an exceptional charge of £27m). The market value as at 31 March 2004 remains below the amount which would have been calculated by revalorising on an actuarial basis the total amounts which have been invested in the fund. As a result of the UK decommissioning fund receivable being restated at market value at each of the three year ends, a £13m exceptional credit (2003: exceptional charge £13m and 2002: £nil) has been recorded in operating

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costs to reverse a prior write-down of non-operational assets, and exceptional credits of £46m (2003: charge of £111m and 2002: charge £27m) have been recorded in finance charges for the twelve months ended 31 March 2004 to reverse the prior write-down of previous revalorisation.

15. STOCKS

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Unburnt nuclear fuel in reactors	451	469	472
Provision for unburnt fuel at station closure	(266)	(272)	(280)
Net unburnt nuclear fuel in reactors	185	197	192
Other nuclear fuel	152	74	61
Coal stocks	15	14	15
Stores/strategic spares	162	75	82
	514	360	350

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

16. DEBTORS

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Trade debtors	294	226	252
Other debtors	158	89	16
Operating lease prepayment	176		
Prepayments	104	72	106
	<u>732</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>374</u>

Included within prepayments is £101m (2003: £72m and 2002: £50m) in respect of pension contribution payments made in advance of their recognition in the profit and loss account. These amounts fall due after more than one year.

As at 31 March 2004 £nil (2003: £56m and 2002: £320m) of the remaining Group debtors fall due in more than one year.

17. CREDITORS

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Nuclear liabilities (note 21)	224	355	554
Trade creditors	285	198	180
Retentions	4	5	6
Other taxes and social security	21	9	49
Other creditors	72	326	317
Accruals	182	140	144
Proposed dividend	34		
	<u>822</u>	<u>1,033</u>	<u>1,250</u>

Other creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

Nuclear liabilities (note 21)	1,858	1,909	1,893
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Other creditors included £316m (2003: £316m and 2002: £nil) in respect of claims relating to onerous trading contracts. These contracts were pre-NETA electricity trading contracts with Enron, TPL and Total. The Enron and Total contracts were terminated during the year ended 31 March 2003, which gave rise to claims for certain amounts which have become payable. These accounts reflect the claim amounts, which have been agreed in principle with Enron, TPL and Total for the purposes of the Restructuring of the British Energy Group. Total, TPL and Enron subsequently transferred their interests to Deutsche Bank. In 2002 claims relating to onerous trading contracts amounted to £344m and were disclosed in other provisions (see note 22).

Interest is payable on standstill balances at a rate of 6 per cent., other than the Existing Bonds and the amounts due to the Eggborough Banks which continue under their original terms.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

18. BORROWINGS

The borrowings at 31 March were as follows:

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Project finance loan - Sterling	508	475	475
Bonds Sterling	408	408	408
Short term US dollar	6		
Long term Canadian dollar	42		
Long term OPG loan Canadian dollar	104		
	<u>1,068</u>	<u>883</u>	<u>883</u>

The borrowings mature as follows:

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Amounts falling due within one year	153	152	197
Amounts falling due after more than one year	915	731	686
	<u>1,068</u>	<u>883</u>	<u>883</u>

The maturities assume no debt has been accelerated and reflect the standstill arrangements as part of the Restructuring.

The project finance loan is secured by, amongst other things, the shares in, and assets of EPL. Amounts owed by EPL to the lenders are not guaranteed by British Energy but British Energy guarantees the payment of amounts by BEPET to EPL under the CTA. The contractual amounts payable by BEPET under the CTA are calculated so as to cover, amongst other things, EPL's servicing and repayment requirements of its borrowing and operating costs. British Energy also provides a subordinated loan

facility to EPL. The final instalment of loan principal under the project finance loan is scheduled to be repaid in 2011. The project finance loan currently bears interest at LIBOR plus 1.3 per cent.

19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND DERIVATIVES

Disclosures include short-term debtors and creditors and exclude commodity power contracts.

(i) Interest rate risk profile of financial liabilities

The interest rate profile of financial liabilities of the British Energy Group as at 31 March 2004 was:

Currency	Total	Floating rate financial liabilities	Fixed rate financial liabilities	Mixed rate financial liabilities (see below)	Financial liabilities on which no interest is paid
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Sterling	3,883	475	408	33	2,967

Currency	Fixed rate financial liabilities		Financial liabilities on which no interest is paid
	Weighted average interest rate	Weighted average period for which the rate is fixed	Weighted average period until maturity
	%	Years	Years
Sterling	6.08	4.8	13.1

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

The interest rates on the Existing Bonds were as follows:

	Coupon rate	Principal as at 31 March		
		2002	2003	2004
	%	£m	£m	£m
Bond 2003	5.949	110	110	110
Bond 2006	6.077	163	163	163
Bond 2016	6.202	135	135	135
		408	408	408

The terms of the standstill agreements entered into by British Energy with Creditors (including Bondholders) and BNFL provide that the bonds repayable in 2003 have been stoodstill, but interest remains payable at the rates above.

At 31 March 2004, £nil borrowings (2003: £475m and 2002: £508m) were reclassified from variable to fixed rate financial liabilities due to the effect of the British Energy Group's interest rate swaps and similar contracts. The 2003 balance has been reclassified to floating rate financial liabilities as the directors believe the swaps used to cover this liability are no longer effective.

The interest rate profile of mixed rate financial liabilities of the British Energy Group as at 31 March 2004 was:

Interest rate agreements	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Net fair value
Fixed:						
Notional amounts ^A (GBP m)	356	332	291	235	174	(28)
Average pay rate	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	
Average receive rate	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	
Variable to fixed:						
Notional amounts ^B (GBP m)	30					(3)
Average pay rate	5.8%					
Average receive rate	6 month LIBOR					
Collars:						
Notional amounts ^C (GBP m)	70					(2)
Collar spread	5.3% to 6.8%					

TOTAL

(33)

(A) The derivative agreements were amended post 31 March 2003 as part of the Restructuring. The effect has been to fix interest payments under the swaps from October 2004 onwards.

(B) The bank has the right to cancel the swap at zero cost on any cancellation date from April 2005 and every year thereafter.

(C) The banks have the right to enter into semi-annual swaps receiving 5.25 per cent. and paying 6 month LIBOR for ten years at zero cost in April 2005.

The interest rate profile of financial liabilities of the British Energy Group as at 31 March 2003 was:

Currency	Total	Floating rate financial liabilities	Fixed rate financial liabilities	Mixed rate financial liabilities (see below)	Financial liabilities on which no interest is paid
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Sterling	3,729	475	408	56	2,790

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

Currency	Fixed rate financial liabilities		Financial liabilities on which no interest is paid
	Weighted average interest rate	Weighted average period for which the rate is fixed	Weighted average period until maturity
	%	Years	Years
Sterling	6.08	5.5	14.6

The interest rate profile of mixed rate financial liabilities of the British Energy Group as at 31 March 2003 was:

Interest Rate Agreements	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Net fair value
Variable to fixed:						
Notional amounts (GBP m)	377	356	332	291	235	(47)
Average pay rate	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	
Average receive rate	6 month LIBOR	6 month LIBOR	6 month LIBOR	6 month LIBOR	6 month LIBOR	
Fixed to variable:						
Notional amounts (GBP m)	30	30				(3)
Average pay rate	5.8%	5.8%				
Average receive rate	6 month LIBOR	6 month LIBOR				
Collars:						
Notional amounts (GBP m)	70	70				(6)
Collar spread	5.3% to 6.8%	5.3% to 6.8%				
TOTAL:						(56)

The interest rate profile of financial liabilities of the British Energy Group as at 31 March 2002 was:

Currency	Total	Floating rate financial liabilities	Fixed rate financial liabilities	Mixed rate financial liabilities	Financial liabilities on which no interest is paid
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Sterling	3,632		916		2,716
Canadian dollars	234	42	104		88
US dollars	6	6			

3,872	48	1,020	2,804
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Currency	Fixed rate financial liabilities		Financial liabilities on which no interest is paid
	Weighted average interest rate	Weighted average period for which the rate is fixed	Weighted average period until maturity
	%	Years	Years
Sterling	6.37	6.9	12.7
Canadian dollars	6.20	1.1	0.5
US dollars	2.41		

(ii) Interest rate risk profile of financial assets

	Year ended		
	31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Assets held as part of the financing arrangements of the Group:			
Short term financial assets			
Sterling	619	647	840
Non sterling	2	1	1
	621	648	841
Long term financial assets			
Sterling	455	338	444
	1,076	986	1,285

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

Short term financial assets comprise cash, investments in liquid funds and debtors (excluding prepayments) all of which have maturity dates within one year. Cash not immediately required for business purposes is invested in fixed-rate term deposits and money market funds. At 31 March 2004 the term deposits and money market funds not used to provide collateral were due to mature or were available within one month and earned interest at an average rate of 3.9 per cent. The balance £297m, which was deposited in support of collateral requirements, earned an average rate of 3.1 per cent. Availability of the cash is restricted over the periods of the collateralised positions.

Long term financial assets comprise the balance in the UK decommissioning fund and fixed asset investments.

At 31 March 2003 the cash at bank balances amounted to £87m and the term deposits amounted to £246m. Cash not immediately required for business purposes is invested in fixed rate term deposits. At 31 March 2003 the term deposits were due to mature within one month and earned interest at an average rate of 3.7 per cent. Term deposits and bank balances at 31 March 2003 include £209m of cash which has been deposited in collateral bank accounts for trading purposes. Availability of this cash is therefore restricted over the period of the collateralised position.

At 31 March 2002 the term deposits and money market funds not used to provide collateral were due to mature or were available within one month and earned interest at an average rate of 3.8 per cent. in the UK and 1.9 per cent. in Canada.

(iii) Maturity profile of financial liabilities

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Less than one year	1,098	1,089	1,304
Between one and two years	136	248	413
Between two and five years	661	834	679
Over five years	1,977	1,558	1,487
	3,872	3,729	3,883

The analysis of maturity of borrowings has been prepared based on the dates when the borrowings mature under the existing contractual arrangements. However, the standstill arrangements which have been put in place have the effect of deferring the payments of certain amounts due until the Existing Bonds and Eggborough project finance loan are replaced or amended (as the case may be) as part of the restructuring of the British Energy Group or earlier termination of the standstill. The maturity profile of

borrowings is likely to change upon completion of the restructuring.

(iv) Borrowing facilities

The British Energy Group had the following undrawn committed borrowing facilities in place, in respect of which all conditions precedent had been met at that date:

		Year ended 31 March		
		2002	2003	2004
		£m	£m	£m
Expiring in one year or less	Government Facility		200	200
Working capital facility	Canadian dollars	44		
Bilateral bank facilities		259		
Revolving credit facility		350		
		653	200	200

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****(v) Fair values**

Set out below is a comparison by category of book values and fair values of all the British Energy Group's financial assets and financial liabilities as at 31 March 2004, 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2002.

	Year ended 31 March					
	2002		2003		2004	
	Book value	Fair value	Book value	Fair value	Book value	Fair value
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Primary financial instruments held or issued to finance the Group's operations:						
Short term assets	621	621	639	639	810	810
Short term borrowings and current portion of long term borrowings	(1,100)	(1,100)	(1,033)	(969)	(1,261)	(1,288)
Long term assets	559	559	340	340	446	446
Long term borrowings and liabilities	(2,774)	(2,754)	(2,640)	(2,140)	(2,579)	(2,328)
	(2,694)	(2,674)	(2,694)	(2,130)	(2,584)	(2,360)
Financial instruments held or issued for proprietary trading purposes						
Speculative trading contracts	2	2	9	9	21	21
Derivative financial instruments used to manage foreign currency, interest rate and commodity price risk						
Foreign exchange forward contracts		1				
Interest rate swaps		(29)	(56)	(56)	(33)	(33)
	(2,692)	(2,700)	(2,741)	(2,177)	(2,596)	(2,372)

The fair value of the short term assets approximates to book value due to their short term maturities.

Short term borrowings comprise trade creditors and retentions. The book value of these liabilities has been used to approximate fair value.

Long term assets comprise the balance in the UK decommissioning fund and other fixed asset investments. The basis of valuation is referred to in notes 14 and 13 respectively.

Long term borrowings and liabilities comprise the British Energy Group's nuclear liabilities, bonds and the project finance loan related to the investment in the Eggborough power station. There is no open market information available for the project finance loan in 2004 and 2003 as the value had been severely affected by the financial restructuring of the British Energy Group. Therefore, the fair value attributed to the loan of £150m (2003: £150m), was based on the Directors' best estimate of the net realisable value of the Eggborough power station upon which this debt was secured. In 2002, the fair value of the long term project finance loan was £508m. The nuclear liabilities book value has been used to approximate fair value and the quoted closing clean market price at the balance sheet date has been used to determine the fair valuation of the long term bonds.

The fair value of onerous trading contracts represents the value established within the terms of the Restructuring.

The market trading price at balance sheet date was used to determine the fair valuation of the interest rate swaps.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****(vi) Gains and losses on financial instruments held or issued for trading purposes**

The net gain from trading in energy derivatives included in the profit and loss account for the period to 31 March 2004 is £14m (2003: £13m and 2002: £3m).

Interest rate swaps are also held, which do not qualify for hedge accounting. However, the interest rate swaps are not held for trading purposes, and so disclosures in the interest rate swaps are given in note 22.

As mentioned in note 2 (xix), where the financial instruments are for proprietary trading purposes, the movement in the fair value is reflected through the profit and loss account.

(vii) Hedges

Gains and losses on instruments used for hedging are not recognised until the exposure that is being hedged is itself recognised. Unrecognised gains and losses on instruments used for hedging, and the movements therein, are as follows:

	Unrecognised	Unrecognised	Total	
<u>31 March 2004</u>	<u>Gains</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Unrecognised</u>	<u>Deferred</u>
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Net losses on derivative instruments at 1 April 2003				(2)
Net losses arising in previous period included in current period profit and loss account				2
Net losses on derivative instruments at 31 March 2004				
	Unrecognised	Unrecognised	Total	
<u>31 March 2003</u>	<u>Gains</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Unrecognised</u>	<u>Deferred</u>
	£m	£m	£m	£m
		(28)	(28)	(10)

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Net losses on derivative instruments at 1 April 2002			
Net losses arising in previous period included in current period profit and loss account		28	8
Net losses arising before 1 April 2002 not included in current period profit and loss account			
Net losses arising in current period not included in current period profit and loss account			(2)
Net losses on derivative instruments at 31 March 2003			
Of which:			
Net losses expected to be included in the profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2004			(2)
Net losses expected to be included in the profit and loss accounts beyond the year ended 31 March 2004			

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

31 March 2002	Unrecognised	Unrecognised	Total	
	Gains	Losses	Unrecognised	Deferred
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Net losses on derivative instruments at 1 April 2001		(30)	(30)	(20)
Net losses arising in previous period included in current period profit and loss account				5
Net losses arising before 1 April 2001 not included in current period profit and loss account		(30)	(30)	(15)
Net gains arising in current period not included in current period profit and loss account	2		2	5
Net gains/(losses) on derivative instruments at 31 March 2002	2	(30)	(28)	(10)
Of which:				
Net losses expected to be included in the profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2003		(2)	(2)	(4)
Net losses expected to be included in the profit and loss accounts beyond the year ended 31 March 2003	2	(28)	(26)	(6)

The above analysis excludes any gains and losses in respect of the net investment as gains and losses arising on these contracts are recorded in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

(viii) Currency exposures

The British Energy Group used foreign currency borrowings to mitigate the currency exposures arising from its net investments overseas. Gains and losses arising on net investments overseas and currency borrowings used to hedge the currency exposure, have been recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses. The British Energy Group did not hold material net monetary assets or liabilities in currencies other than functional currency of the operating unit involved at 31 March 2004, 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2002.

There are potential future foreign currency receivables in respect of amounts outstanding from the sale of Bruce Power and AmerGen. When these cash flows become more certain in the future the British Energy Group will evaluate currency hedging opportunities, balancing the cost and availability of entering into such transactions against the underlying currency risk.

20. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Nuclear liabilities (note 21)	1,637	1,673	1,776
Other provisions (note 22)	349	62	36
Deferred taxation (note 23)	414		
	<u>2,400</u>	<u>1,735</u>	<u>1,812</u>

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****21. NUCLEAR LIABILITIES**

	Back-end			
	fuel costs	Back-end fuel costs		
	contracted	uncontracted	Decommissioning	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
As at 1 April 2001	2,188	653	887	3,728
Charged/(credited) to profit and loss account:				
operating costs	133	15		148
revalorisation (note 8)	93	34	48	175
Payments in the year	(332)			(332)
As at 31 March and 1 April 2002	2,082	702	935	3,719
Charged/(credited) to profit and loss account:				
operating costs	72	33		105
revalorisation (note 8)	126	41	61	228
reclassifications	97	(97)		
Payments in the year	(114)	(1)		(115)
As at 31 March and 1 April 2003	2,263	678	996	3,937
Charged to profit and loss account:				
operating costs	114	16		130
revalorisation (note 8)	129	35	51	215
Payments in the year	(59)			(59)
As at 31 March 2004	2,447	729	1,047	4,223

The year end balances of nuclear liabilities are included in the balance sheet as follows:

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Creditors:			
amounts falling due within one year	224	355	554
amounts falling due after more than one year	1,858	1,909	1,893
Provisions for liabilities and charges	1,637	1,673	1,776

3,719	3,937	4,223
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Fuel costs back-end

Accruals for AGR fuel services relating to spent AGR fuel were based on the terms of the existing contracts (ie. on the basis that the New BNFL Contracts have not come into force), most of which included fixed prices subject to indexation, or the British Energy Group's estimates where no contracts existed. Provisions for services relating to the disposal of nuclear waste and the storage and disposal of PWR spent fuel were based on cost estimates derived from the latest technical assessments.

Decommissioning

The costs of decommissioning the nuclear power stations were estimated on the basis of ongoing technical assessments of the processes and methods likely to be used for decommissioning under the current regulatory regime. The estimates were designed to reflect the costs of making the sites of the nuclear power stations available for alternative use in accordance with the British Energy Group's decommissioning strategy.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****Projected payment details**

Based on current estimates of station lives and lifetime output projections, the following table shows, in current prices, the likely undiscounted payments, the equivalent sums discounted at 3 per cent. per annum to the balance sheet date and the amounts accrued to date.

	Back-end fuel costs contracted	Back-end fuel costs uncontracted	Decommissioning	Total
	£bn	£bn	£bn	£bn
As at March 2002:				
Undiscounted	5.0	4.3	4.8	14.1
Discounted	3.2	1.1	0.9	5.2
Accrued to date	2.1	0.7	0.9	3.7
As at 31 March 2003:				
Undiscounted	5.1	4.6	5.0	14.7
Discounted	3.3	1.0	1.0	5.3
Accrued to date	2.2	0.7	1.0	3.9
As at 31 March 2004:				
Undiscounted	5.2	4.7	5.1	15.0
Discounted	3.5	1.1	1.1	5.7
Accrued to date	2.4	0.7	1.1	4.2

The differences between the undiscounted and discounted amounts reflect the fact that the costs concerned will not fall due for payment for a number of years. The differences between the discounted amounts and those accrued to the balance sheet date will be charged to the profit and loss account over the remaining station lives since they relate to future use of fuel.

Under the terms of the contracts with BNFL referred to above and in accordance with the projected pattern of payments for decommissioning and other liabilities, taking account of the decommissioning fund arrangements described in note 2(xvii) the undiscounted payments in current prices were expected to become payable as follows:

	Back-end fuel costs contracted	Back-end fuel costs uncontracted	Decommissioning	Total
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
As at 31 March 2002:				
Within five years	1,119	99	90	1,308
6 - 10 years	1,017	211	183	1,411
11 - 25 years	1,696	608	379	2,683
26 - 50 years	688	444	56	1,188
51 years and over	514	2,922		3,436
	<u>5,034</u>	<u>4,284</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>10,026</u>
As at 31 March 2003:				
Within five years	1,181	30	92	1,303
6 - 10 years	1,063	101	227	1,391
11 - 25 years	1,629	410	336	2,375
26 - 50 years	708	1,082	55	1,845
51 years and over	487	3,002		3,489
	<u>5,068</u>	<u>4,625</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>10,403</u>
As at 31 March 2004:				
Within five years	1,340	43	126	1,509
6 - 10 years	1,181	123	206	1,510
11 - 25 years	1,575	422	320	2,317
26 - 50 years	649	1,079	54	1,782
51 years and over	485	3,060		3,545
	<u>5,230</u>	<u>4,727</u>	<u>706</u>	<u>10,663</u>

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****22. OTHER PROVISIONS**

	Eggborough				
	site restoration	Interest Rate swaps	Onerous trading contracts	Restructuring	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
As at 1 April 2001			156	24	180
Provided in year			209		209
Revalorisation			12		12
Utilised in year			(33)	(19)	(52)
As at 1 April 2002			344	5	349
Provided in year	3	56	2	3	64
Revalorisation			10		10
Utilised in year			(40)	(5)	(45)
Reclassified as other creditors			(316)		(316)
As at 31 March 2003	3	56		3	62
Revaluation to market value		(5)			(5)
Utilised in the year		(13)		(3)	(16)
Reclassified as other creditors		(5)			(5)
As at 31 March 2004	3	33			36

The interest rate swaps provision at 31 March 2004 of £33m (2003: £56m; 2002: £nil) was in respect of swap contracts which were put in place to hedge interest rate risk. The Directors reviewed the necessity for these swaps in the context of the Restructuring and concluded that the swaps were no longer effective as hedges. A provision of £56m was created at 31 March 2003 and was reduced to £33m at 31 March 2004 through utilisations of £13m, amounts reclassified as other creditors of £5m and revaluation to market value of £5m.

The onerous trading contract provision was in respect of onerous contracts which are now excluded from the wholesale and direct supply portfolio. This provision was reclassified as other creditors in the year ended 31 March 2003. Details of these onerous contracts are discussed more fully in note 17.

23. DEFERRED TAXATION

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Accelerated capital allowances	1,020	(56)	30
Other long term timing differences	(63)	(64)	(85)
Short term timing differences	41	20	28
Corporation tax losses	(189)	(262)	(348)
ACT recoverable offset	(76)		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Undiscounted provision/(asset) for deferred tax	733	(362)	(375)
Discount	(319)	212	84
De-recognition of asset		150	291
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Discounted provision for deferred tax	414		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

24. POST RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

UK pension schemes

British Energy Group operates two separate pension arrangements in the UK within the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS), the British Energy Generation Group (BEGG) for

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

the majority of employees and the British Energy Combined Group (BECG) for the employees at Eggborough power station. The ESPS is a defined benefit scheme, which is externally funded and subject to triennial actuarial valuation. Each pension group that participates in the ESPS is financially independent from the other groups.

The most recent triennial valuations of the BEGG and BECG schemes were carried out at 31 March 2001 by the independent ESPS actuary. Formal triennial valuations of the BEGG and the BECG pension schemes at 31 March 2004 are currently being undertaken and are expected to be completed later in 2004. The combined deficits are understood to be £385m.

The valuations for accounting purposes have been carried out by a separate independent actuary using the projected unit method. The principal assumptions adopted for both these accounts valuations were that, over the long term, the investment rate of return would be 6 per cent. per annum for benefits already accrued, and 6.5 per cent. for the return achieved on future contributions. The rate of salary increase would be 4 per cent. per annum and the rate of pension increase would be 2.5 per cent. per annum. Assets were taken at market value. At the date of the valuation, the combined market value of assets of both schemes was £1,944m. This represents 119 per cent. of the benefits that had accrued to members after allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

British Energy Group contributed 17.1 per cent. to the BEGG pension scheme and 15.3 per cent. to the BECG pension scheme for the period from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004. British Energy contributed 10 per cent. to the BEGG and 15.3 per cent. to the BECG for the period from 1 April 2002 to 31 October 2002. The BEGG contribution was increased to 17.1 per cent. from 1 November 2002. In the year ending 31 March 2002 British Energy contributed 10 per cent. to the BEGG and 12 per cent. to the BECG. In all 3 years contributing members contributed 5 per cent. and 6 per cent. to the respective plans. Any deficiency disclosed in the BEGG or BECG pension schemes following an actuarial valuation has to be made good by British Energy.

The British Energy Group's UK pension costs for the year to 31 March 2004 were nil net of surplus amortisation (2003: £6m and 2002: £1m). At that date there was a SSAP24 prepayment of £101m (2003: £72m and 2002: £50m) in the UK. At 31 March 2002 there was a net asset for pension benefits in Canada of £41m.

Bruce Power pension scheme

Following the disposal of British Energy's interest in Bruce Power in 2003 the British Energy Group no longer operates the Bruce Power Pension Plan. As a result FRS17 disclosures are only made with regard to this scheme in relation to prior year comparatives as applicable.

Bruce Power provided pensions, group life insurance and health care benefits for retirees in Canada. Pensions were provided through the Bruce Power Pension Plan, which was a defined benefit scheme and was externally funded and subject to triennial actuarial valuations. Members of the plan contributed on average 5 per cent. of their salaries to the scheme. Bruce Power contributed the balance of the cost of providing the pension.

Bruce Power also operated a supplemental retirement pension plan that provided additional pensions to some retirees. This plan was not funded. Retiree group life insurance and health care benefits were also not pre-funded.

The Group's Bruce Power related pension costs for the period of ownership from 1 April 2002 to 14 February 2003 were £12m (2002: £10m).

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****FRS17 disclosures**

The British Energy Group has not implemented FRS17 Retirement benefits in the accounts for the three years ended 31 March 2004. At 31 March 2004, the asset values used in the financial statement disclosures were based on actuarial reports. The market value of the plan as at 31 March 2004 was £1,822m resulting in a net pension liability of £325m. The disclosures required under the transitional arrangements for UK and Canadian plans within FRS 17 as advised by British Energy Group's actuaries are set out below:

(i) UK pension schemes

a) Major assumptions for FRS17 disclosures :

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	% pa	% pa	% pa
Price inflation	2.75	2.25	2.75
Rate of general increase in salaries	4.25	3.75	4.25
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.75	2.25	2.75
Discount rate	6.00	5.50	5.50

b) The assets and liabilities of the scheme on an FRS17 basis and the expected rates of return:

	Rate of	Value at	Rate of	Value at	Rate of	Value at
	Return	31 March 2002	Return	31 March 2003	return	31 March 2004
	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m
Equities	8.0	1,248	8.5	878	8.25	1,102
Bonds	5.3	412	4.5	438	4.75	469
Property	6.7	175	6.5	183	6.4	223
Others	4.75	7	3.75	26	3.75	28
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total market value of plan assets		1,842		1,525		1,822
Present value of plan liabilities		(1,799)		(1,877)		(2,147)
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Pension (liability)/asset before deferred tax		43		(352)		(325)

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Related deferred tax liability	(13)		
Net pension asset/(liability)	30	(352)	(325)

No deferred tax asset is recognisable on the pension deficit in 2004 and 2003 (2002: £13m), based on application of the deferred tax accounting policy set out in note 2 (xv).

c) Analysis of the amount that would be charged to operating profit on an FRS 17 basis:

	Year ended 31 March	
	2003	2004
	£m	£m
Operating cost		
Current service cost	32	35
Past service cost	13	1
Total charge to operating profits	45	36
Finance income		
Expected return on assets in the pension scheme	(132)	(106)
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	107	102
Net credit to finance income	(25)	(4)
Total profit and loss account charge before tax	20	32

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

The disclosures above have not been provided for the year ended 31 March 2002 in compliance with the transitional disclosure requirements of FRS17.

d) Movement in plan surplus/(deficit) during the year on an FRS 17 basis:

	Notes	Year ended 31 March	
		2003	2004
		£m	£m
Surplus/(deficit) in plan at beginning of the year		43	(352)
Contributions paid		32	34
Current service cost		(32)	(35)
Past service cost		(13)	(1)
Other finance income		25	4
Actuarial loss	24(e)	(407)	25
Deficit in the plan at the end of the year		(352)	(325)

The disclosures above have not been provided for the year ended 31 March 2002 in compliance with the interim disclosure requirements of FRS17.

e) History of experience gains and losses which would have been recognised on an FRS17 basis:

	2003		2004	
	(Gain)		(Gain)	
	/loss	As % of plan	/loss	As % of plan
	£m		£m	
Consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses				
Actual return less expected return on post employment plan assets	410	27	(228)	(13)
Experience gains and losses arising on plan liabilities	(3)		34	2
Changes in assumptions (financial and demographic)			169	9
Actuarial loss recognisable in consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses before tax	407		(25)	

As % of plan liabilities at end of year	<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>
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The disclosures above have not been provided for the year ended 31 March 2002 in compliance with the interim disclosure requirements of FRS17.

(ii) Bruce Power pension scheme

Due to the British Energy Group's disposal of its interest in Bruce Power during the year ended 31 March 2003 the following disclosure has only been provided where applicable.

a) Major assumptions for FRS 17 disclosures at 31 March:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
	% pa	% pa
Price inflation	2.75	2.75
Rate of general increase in salaries	3.75	3.75
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.75	2.75
Discount rate	7.0	7.0

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)**

b) The assets and liabilities of the scheme on an FRS 17 basis and the expected rates of return at 31 March 2002 were:

	Rate of Return	Value at 31 March 2002
	%	£m
Equities	8.5	255
Bonds	6.0	151
Others	5.0	16
Total market value of plan assets		422
Present value of plan liabilities		(396)
Net pension asset		26
Other non-pension post retirement benefits		(64)
Related deferred tax asset		11
Net deficit for post retirement benefits net of tax		(27)

c) Analysis of the amount that would be charged to operating profit on an FRS 17 basis:

	2003
	(Gain) /loss
	£m
Operating profit	
Total charge to operating profits – current service cost	15
Gain on settlements – disposal of Bruce Power	(103)
Finance income	
Expected return on assets in the pension scheme	(26)
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	26
Net credit to finance income	
Total profit and loss account credit before tax	(88)

Due to the British Energy Group's disposal of its interest in Bruce Power during the year ended 31 March 2003 there was no balance sheet impact of the Bruce Power Pension Plan for the 31 March 2003 and 2004 year ends.

d) Movement in plan deficit during the year on an FRS17 basis:

	2003
	£m
Deficit in plan at 1 April 2002	(38)
Current service cost	(15)
Gain on settlement	103
Foreign exchange	2
Actuarial loss	(52)
Deficit in the plan at 31 March 2003	—

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

e) History of experience gains and losses which would have been recognised on an FRS17 basis:

	2003
	(Gain)
	/loss
	£m
Actual return less expected return on post employment plan assets	50
Experience gains and losses arising on plan liabilities	
Changes in assumptions (financial and demographic)	4
Foreign exchange adjustments	(2)
Actuarial loss recognisable in consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses before tax	52

The disclosures above have not been provided for the year ended 31 March 2002 in compliance with the interim disclosure requirements of FRS17.

(iii) Group reconciliation of net liabilities and reserves under FRS 17

	As at 31 March					
	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	2004
	Net assets	Profit and loss account reserve	Net liabilities	Profit and loss account reserve	Net liabilities	Profit and loss account reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
As reported	627	(213)	(3,383)	(4,179)	(3,166)	(3,962)
SSAP 24 prepayment	(50)	(50)	(72)	(72)	(101)	(101)
Related deferred tax liability	15	15				
Net assets/ (liabilities) excluding defined benefit asset	592	(248)	(3,455)	(4,251)	(3,267)	(4,063)
FRS 17 pension asset	2,264	2,264	1,525	1,525	1,822	1,822
FRS 17 defined benefit liability	(2,195)	(2,195)	(1,877)	(1,877)	(2,147)	(2,147)
Other non-pension post retirement benefits	(64)	(64)				
Related deferred tax liability	(2)	(2)				

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Including FRS 17 pension asset/ (liability)	595	(245)	(3,807)	(4,603)	(3,592)	(4,388)
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No deferred tax asset is recognisable on the pension deficit or pension prepayment in 2004 and 2003, based on application of the deferred tax accounting policy set out in note 2 (xv).

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	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Authorised			
991,679,020 ordinary shares of 44 ^{28/43p} each	443	443	443
720,339,029 A shares of 60p each	432	432	432
One special rights redeemable preference share of £1			
	875	875	875
Allotted, called up and fully paid			
620,362,444 ordinary shares of 44 ^{28/43p} each	277	277	277
Non-equity shareholders funds			
80,908,247 A shares of 60p each	48	48	48
74,752,351 deferred A shares of 60p each	45	45	45
One special rights redeemable preference share of £1			
	93	93	93
	370	370	370

Special rights redeemable preference share of £1

The special rights redeemable preference share is redeemable at par at any time after 30 September 2006 at the option of the Secretary of State, after consulting British Energy. This share, which may only be held by a Minister of the Crown or other person acting on behalf of the Government, does not carry any rights to vote at general meetings, but entitles the holder to attend and speak at such meetings. The special share confers no rights to participate in the capital or profits of British Energy beyond its nominal value. Certain matters, in particular, the alteration of specific sections of the Articles of Association of British Energy (including the Article relating to limitations that prevent a person having the right to have an interest in 15 per cent. or more of the voting share capital), require the prior written consent of the holder of the special share.

A shares and deferred shares

The A shares are traded on the London Stock Exchange and at 31 March 2004 had a market value of 6p (2003: 3p; 2002: 51p). The deferred shares have a £nil fair value at 31 March 2004 (2003: £nil; 2002: £nil).

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The A shares and deferred shares do not carry any rights to receive notice of, attend, speak or vote at any general meeting, unless in the case of A shares the meeting is due to consider a resolution for the winding up of British Energy, or the non-cumulative preferential dividend to which the A shares are entitled remains unpaid six months or more after it fell due. On a winding up of British Energy, the A shares have preferential rights over the Ordinary Shares in respect of the distribution of capital. The deferred shares do not confer any rights to participate in the capital or profits of British Energy, including on a winding up of British Energy.

The impact on British Energy's share capital as a result of the Restructuring is discussed more fully in note 1.

With effect from 8 September 2002, no dividends have been paid on any shares. Any dividend payment would require approval from the Creditors and the Government under the terms of the Restructuring.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****Share option schemes**

Options outstanding as at 31 March 2004, 2003 and 2002 together with their exercise prices and earliest dates of exercise, are as follows:

	Exercise price		No. of Ordinary Shares		
	Per share	Exercise			
	£	Date	2004	2003	2002
British Energy ShareSave Scheme	1.60	2001			21,562
	1.95	2002			859,398
	4.44	2001			6,593
	4.44	2003	4,353	174,600	199,089
	4.39	2002			191,805
	4.39	2004	99,444	113,268	142,757
	1.36	2003	32,449	4,895,405	5,983,552
	1.36	2005	3,069,904	3,624,113	4,547,742
	2.61	2004	435,619	484,116	1,644,154
	2.61	2006	410,851	485,011	2,105,241
	2.29	2005		499,455	1,761,994
	2.29	2007		453,946	1,856,523
	1.36	2005	1,832,153	3,726,626	
	1.36	2007	2,633,723	4,616,840	
Employee Share Scheme	2.60	2000	6,282,958	6,423,428	6,644,826
	4.08	2000	502,572	516,572	530,572
	5.08	2001	3,829,474	3,915,603	4,045,603
	5.29	2002	3,922,000	4,022,000	4,169,000
Senior Management Share Scheme	2.60	2000	1,023,941	1,099,802	1,477,875
	3.95	2000	22,264	22,264	22,264
	5.08	2001	402,252	444,425	660,531
	6.67	2002	19,865	19,865	19,865
	5.29	2002	537,985	599,337	688,582
	3.57	2002	33,952	33,952	33,952
	2.41	2003	1,454,203	1,636,752	1,992,092
	2.49	2003			100,401
	3.18	2004	125,786	125,786	125,786

26. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
As at 1 April	238	(317)	(4,181)
(Loss)/profit for the year	(567)	(3,841)	234
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(8)	(25)	(15)
Credit in respect of employee share schemes	2	2	
Consideration received for own shares held	18		
As at 31 March	(317)	(4,181)	(3,962)

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****27. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS**

	As at 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
As at 1 April	941	386	(3,478)
(Loss)/profit for the year	(517)	(3,841)	234
Ordinary dividend	(48)		
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(8)	(25)	(15)
Non-equity dividend	(2)		
Credit in respect of employee share schemes	2	2	
Consideration received for own shares held	18		
As at 31 March	386	(3,478)	(3,259)

Own shares held

The British Energy Group has adopted UITF Abstract 17 (revised 2003) (Employee Share Schemes) and UITF Abstract 38 (Accounting for ESOP Trusts) which relate to the measurement of the Employee Share Scheme charge and the presentation of own shares held. As a result where the Group purchases shares in its equity share capital through the British Energy Employee Share Trust or Qualifying Employee Share Trust the net consideration paid is deducted from the profit and loss account reserve in arriving at total equity shareholders funds. Where such shares are subsequently sold or reissued any consideration received is included in equity shareholders funds.

As at 31 March 2004

At 31 March 2004, the British Energy Employee Share Trust held 21,734,839 Ordinary Shares at an average cost of £4.68 for a total consideration of £101m.

At 31 March 2004 the Qualifying Employee Share Trust held 5,292,103 Ordinary Shares at an average cost of £5.32 per share (£28m) and 19,165,471 A shares at an average cost of 60p per share (£11m).

As at 31 March 2003

As at 31 March 2003, British Energy Employee Share Trust held 21,734,839 Ordinary Shares at an average cost of £4.68 for a total consideration of £101m. These shares were held at cost less charges to write down the shares to the exercise price of the share options over the minimum life of the options.

At 31 March 2003, the Qualifying Employee Share Trust held 5,292,103 Ordinary Shares at the cost of £5.32 per share (£28m) and 19,165,471 A shares at a cost of 60p per share (£11m). These shares were held at cost less charges to write down the shares to the exercise price over the minimum life of the options.

As at 31 March 2002

At 31 March 2002, the British Energy Employee Shares Trust held 21,507,127 Ordinary Shares at an average cost of £4.68 for a total consideration of £101m.

At 31 March 2002, the Qualifying Employee Share Trust held 5,311,490 Ordinary Shares at a cost of £5.32 per share (£28m) and 19,165,471 A shares at a cost of 60p per share (£11m). These shares are held at cost less charges to write down the shares to the exercise price over the minimum life of the options.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****28. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO OPERATING NET CASH FLOWS**

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Operating (loss)/profit	(271)	(3,702)	340
Depreciation charges/(credits) (includes fixed asset write-down/(up) and lease amortisation)	585	4,025	(245)
Nuclear liabilities charged to operating costs	156	105	130
Nuclear liabilities discharged	(332)	(115)	(59)
Other provisions discharged	(43)	(45)	(3)
Onerous trading contract provision	209		
Regular contributions to decommissioning fund	(18)	(18)	(19)
Operating exceptional decommissioning fund movement		13	(13)
Decrease in stocks	66	60	10
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(117)	(18)	4
Increase in creditors	145	31	11
Net cash inflow from operating activities	380	336	156
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(225)	(282)	
Net cash inflow from operating activities net of capital expenditure	155	54	156

29. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	Year ended		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Increase in cash in the year		87	175
(Decrease)/increase in liquid resources	(18)	37	65
Decrease/(increase) in debt	(111)	185	
Decrease in net debt in the year	(129)	309	240
Net debt at 1 April	(730)	(859)	(550)
Net debt at 31 March	(859)	(550)	(310)

30. ANALYSIS OF NET DEBT

	Cash at bank	Term deposits/ bank balances	Debt due in less than one year	Debt due after more than one year	Net debt
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Net debt at 1 April 2001		227	(40)	(917)	(730)
Cash flows		(18)	(113)	2	(129)
Net debt at 31 March 2002		209	(153)	(915)	(859)
Disposal of Bruce debt				93	93
Cash flows	87	37	1	91	216
Net debt at 31 March 2003	87	246	(152)	(731)	(550)
Cash flows	175	65	(45)	45	240
Net debt at 31 March 2004	262	311	(197)	(686)	(310)

Term deposits and bank balances include £297m (2003: £209m; 2002: £nil) of cash which has been deposited in collateral bank accounts for trading purposes. The availability of this cash is therefore restricted over the period of the collateral position.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****31. CONTINGENT ASSETS****BNFL contracts**

On 16 May 2003 British Energy announced that it had exchanged the last of the suite of contracts covering front-end and back-end fuel services required to give effect to the non-binding heads of terms entered into with BNFL on 28 November 2002. The front-end contracts became effective on 1 April 2003 but (with the exception of the new arrangements for supply of uranium by BNFL to BEG until 31 March 2006) may be terminated if the Restructuring is not completed. The new and amended back-end contracts are conditional on completion of the Restructuring but payments are being made as if the new back-end contracts had become effective on 1 April 2003. The accounts for the period to 31 March 2004 were drawn up on the basis of the existing BNFL contracts in respect of back-end fuel services, pending satisfaction of the conditions set out in the revised contracts, thereby creating a contingent asset of £306m (2003: £113m) which will be recognised upon completion of the Restructuring as one of a number of expected adjustments at that time. An analysis of amounts included in current liabilities due to BNFL but not expected to be paid by the Group provided the Restructuring is completed is shown as follows:

	£m	£m
	—	—
Opening balance at 1 April 2002		
Cash flow benefit arising within the year		
- Amounts payable to BNFL under the historic back-end contracts for the period	113	
		—
As at 31 March 2003		113
Amounts payable to BNFL under the historic back-end contracts for the period	249	
Less: Amounts paid/payable for the period under the revised BNFL back-end contracts, analysed as follows:		
- Amounts settled	(59)	
- Amounts included in accruals at year end	(11)	
		—
Cash flow benefit arising within the year		179
Finance charges accrued on amounts stoodstill		14
		—
Closing balance at 31 March 2004		306
		—
	£m	£m
Opening balance at 1 April 2002		
Amounts falling due in year	113	
		—
As at 31 March 2003		113
Amounts payable under historic BNFL back-end contracts		
Amounts falling due in year		249
Amounts settled		(59)

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Standstill interest accrued	14
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Closing asset balance at 31 March 2004	317
Less: amounts payable under revised BNFL back-end contracts	
Opening balance at 1 April 2003	
Amounts falling due in year	70
Amounts settled	(59)
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Closing liability balance at 31 March 2004	11
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Contingent asset at 31 March 2004	306
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>

Bruce Power consideration

On 14 February 2003 British Energy announced that it had completed the disposal of its 82.4 per cent. interest in Bruce Power in Canada to a consortium of three parties. In addition to the consideration payable by the consortium under the master purchase agreement, up to a further C\$100m was payable to British Energy contingent upon the restart of two of the Bruce A units under a trust agreement (the Trust Agreement) entered into on the same date. Had the first unit restarted by 15 June 2003, C\$50m would have been released to British Energy and an additional C\$50m would have been released to British Energy had the second unit restarted by 1 August 2003. An amount of C\$5m was deducted from the C\$50m payable in respect of each unit for its failure to restart by the scheduled restart date or by the first day of each successive calendar month following the scheduled restart date. The British Energy Group received C\$20m on 22 March 2004 and C\$10m on 25 May 2004 in partial consideration under the Trust Agreement.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

British Energy is seeking the payment of additional consideration under the Trust Agreement on the basis that Bruce A Unit 4 restarted earlier than these dates but had not recognised any additional amounts on its balance sheet at 31 March 2004 because of uncertainties regarding their realisation. The Company is in discussion with the Ontario Provincial Government which has indicated that it considers that the units may have restarted, for the purposes of the Trust Agreement, at later dates. The amounts recoverable in respect of the restarts will be substantially lower than the maximum C\$100m but the amounts and timing of the payments have still to be confirmed.

32. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The financial information has been prepared on a going concern basis, the basis of which is explained more fully in note 1. This note describes the contingent liabilities that are applicable to the British Energy Group.

The British Energy Group has been provided with the Government Facility by the Secretary of State. As at 31 March 2004, the British Energy Group had no drawings under the Government Facility. Also at 31 March 2004, the British Energy Group had cash and liquid investments of £573m of which £297m had been deposited as collateral to support trading and other operations.

The following security has been granted for obligations under the Government Facility made available by the Secretary of State:

- an all monies debenture creating fixed security (by way of assignment and/or fixed charge) over certain intra-group receivables and special accounts and a floating charge between the Secretary of State and certain British Energy Group companies;
- fixed charges in relation to the UK nuclear power stations; and
- pledge and mortgage of shares in certain British Energy Group subsidiaries in favour of the Secretary of State.

Amounts owing by EPL to the Eggborough Banks are not guaranteed by British Energy. However, British Energy guarantees the payment of amounts by BEPET to EPL, under the CTA calculated to cover, amongst other things, EPL's borrowing and operating costs. In addition, British Energy also provides a subordinated loan facility to EPL.

On 1 October 2003, British Energy announced that it had entered into the Creditor Restructuring Agreement with certain significant creditors (including the Eggborough Banks) and BNFL relating to the standstill, recognition and compromise of their claims. However, while the Directors believe that the amounts of the agreed claims agreed for the purposes of the Restructuring currently reflect the amounts legally claimable, in the event of the Restructuring not being completed different amounts may be calculated as

being claimable.

On 25 September 2002 the Nuclear Generation Decommissioning Fund Limited (the NDF) served a default notice relating to the solvency of British Energy, BEG and BEGUK. Unless the default is cured to the satisfaction of the NDF, or waived, the NDF has the right to require accelerated payment of all of the contributions due to the NDF prior to the next quinquennial review in Autumn 2005. Annual payments are in the region of £18m. The NDF has indicated that it will not take immediate enforcement action without further notice while the British Energy Group progresses satisfactorily towards achieving the Restructuring however, the NDF has retained the right to do so. If the conditions to the Restructuring are satisfied, the NDF and others will enter into a Deed of Termination whereby the NDF agrees that it shall take no action to enforce its rights pursuant to the default notice.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

On 12 February 2004 British Energy received a notice of warranty claims from the consortium which purchased the Group's 82.4 per cent. interest in Bruce Power alleging breach of certain warranties and representations relating to tax and to the condition of certain plant at the Bruce Power station.

The principal tax claim relates to the treatment of expenditure at the Bruce Power Station during the period of British Energy's part ownership and is currently being considered by the Canadian tax authorities. The treatment proposed by British Energy could result in a rebate of a material amount of tax to the British Energy Group that has never been recognised in the financial statements. The consortium claims that allowance of the expenditure for that period would cause it to lose future deductions. British Energy has rejected the tax claim, British Energy is confident that the amount of the tax claim should not, in any event, materially exceed the amount of the rebate, and that the tax claim should have no material cash flow impact on the British Energy Group.

The claim relating to the condition of the plant is based upon alleged erosion of certain parts of the steam generator including the support plates, through which boiler tubes pass, which it is alleged resulted in an extended outage of one unit at the plant to carry out repair works and loss of revenues and costs of approximately C\$64.5m. The consortium also claims that the alleged erosion may reduce the operating life of the unit and/or result in further repairs involving further losses. British Energy has rejected the claim and expects to defend it if it is pursued further.

Under the agreement with the consortium C\$20m is retained in trust to meet any representation and warranty claims, and this may be retained pending agreement or determination of the claims.

The British Energy Group has given certain indemnities and guarantees in respect of the disposal of its investment in AmerGen. As a result of an accounting adjustment made by Exelon to Amergen's management accounts and closing accounts as at 21 December 2003 British Energy may be required to make a payment to Exelon of up to US\$13.7m. British Energy served a Dispute Notice on Exelon on 4 June 2004 to preserve its rights and the parties are endeavouring to resolve the matter amicably. The agreement with Exelon for the sale of AmerGen requires that, prior to instituting any litigation or other dispute resolution procedure, the companies will in good faith seek to resolve any dispute.

The British Energy Group is involved in a number of other claims and disputes arising in the normal course of business which are not expected to have a material effect on the British Energy Group's financial position.

33. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

(i) Capital commitments

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Capital expenditure contracted but not provided	93	40	17

(ii) Analysis of annual commitments under operating leases

	Year ended 31 March		
	2002	2003	2004
	£m	£m	£m
Other operating leases expiring in:			
Two to five years			3

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)****(iii) Other contractual commitments**

Under contractual arrangements, the British Energy Group has the following fuel commitments at 31 March 2004:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Thereafter	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Commitments to purchase in the year	200	183	93	67	63	859	1,465

At 31 March 2004 the estimated minimum commitment for the supply of coal was 2.4m tonnes, which, at contract prices on 31 March 2004, equated to approximately £82m (2003: £68m and 2002: £174m).

In addition to the liabilities and provisions recognised and described in the notes to the financial statements the British Energy Group has provided certain guarantees and commitments in respect of capital expenditure by EPL. The British Energy Group also enters into commitments to purchase and sell electricity in the normal course of business.

34. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**Disposal of Bruce Power**

British Energy was in receipt of a further C\$10m on 25 May 2004 in partial consideration of the restart of the Bruce A units, see note 31.

Exelon

As a result of ongoing discussions with Exelon, outlined in note 17, British Energy is reviewing with Exelon a working capital adjustment resulting from a change to the estimated tax recoverable for prior periods made after the consummation of the sale and this, if agreed, may result in a reduction in the purchase price payable by Exelon, with the reduction currently estimated to be in the range of up to US\$6.3m.

Corporate headquarters

On 15 September 2004, British Energy announced the proposed sale of its corporate headquarters located at Peel Park, East Kilbride, Scotland to Kenmore Capital East Kilbride Limited in consideration of a cash payment of £6.625m and a potential additional cash payment of up to £0.25m if certain letting arrangements come to fruition. British Energy has also entered into a ten-year lease for part of the building. It is expected that the sale will be completed in January 2005. In August 2004 British Energy signed a lease for its new corporate headquarters in Alba Campus, Livingston, Scotland.

State Aid

On 24 September 2004, the Secretary of State received notification from the Commission that as far as the Restructuring involves the grant of State Aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market and the objectives of the Euratom Treaty. The Commission's decision is subject to the following conditions:

- British Energy's existing nuclear generation business will be ring-fenced from its fossil fuel generation, supply and trading businesses to ensure the aid to the nuclear generation business is not used to cross-subsidise any other of British Energy's businesses. This measure will last indefinitely;
- there will be no nuclear or fossil-fuelled capacity expansion (above our current capacity) by British Energy in the EEA for six years, and no large hydro-electric capacity expansion in the UK for the same period; and

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

- a restriction on British Energy pricing the energy element of its contracts with its industrial and commercial customers below the prevailing wholesale market prices unless there are exceptional market circumstances as determined by an independent expert, for six years from the appointment of such expert.

The Commission has requested enhanced reporting by the Government when payments for uncontracted, decommissioning and incremental nuclear liabilities exceed £1,629m the aim of which is to ensure that the State Aid is used only for authorised purposes.

Credit rating

On 23 September 2004, British Energy announced that it had received indicative non-investment grade ratings for the £550m of New Bonds that are to be issued to certain of British Energy's creditors and to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund Limited upon completion of the Restructuring pursuant to the items announced on 1 October 2003.

Classification of British Energy in the public sector

On 24 September 2004 the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced that, with effect from 9 September 2002 (the date on which the Government Facility was granted), British Energy would be classified as in the public sector. This classification was stated by the ONS to reflect the degree of control that can be exercised by the Government over the British Energy Group, first through the Government Facility, and then as a result of the Restructuring. Prior to this announcement the ONS classified British Energy as part of the private sector.

The ONS's decision was made for UK National Accounts purposes and was dependent upon a judgement about the degree of control exercised by the Government. The ONS has acknowledged that, following completion of the Restructuring, no one factor constitutes the degree of control necessary for a classification in the public sector. The decision is based on the view that, taken together, a number of factors represent a high degree of Government control.

The ONS has noted that as the Restructuring process has not been finalised, some of the details of its decision may change, and as a result this classification (as it applies to the British Energy Group post-Restructuring) is provisional.

British Energy is currently assessing the implications of this decision for its business. In particular, British Energy is giving thought to those relationships that will exist post-Restructuring that may require to be disclosed under FRS8 Related Party Disclosures in its financial statements for year ending 31 March 2005. British Energy has not, as yet, finalised its conclusions on this but has provided in note 35 information to enable an understanding of the nature of British Energy's more significant relationships with Government connected with the Restructuring negotiations that existed during the three year period.

35. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

As detailed in note 34, the ONS announced that British Energy should be classified as in the public sector and as a consequence the Government may be considered as the ultimate controlling party. An analysis of the more significant transactions and relationships with Government connected with the Restructuring is provided below:

British Energy was provided with the Government Facility by Government in September 2002 which matures on the earliest of (i) 31 January 2005, (ii) the date falling 120 days after the effective date (as defined in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement), (iii) any date notified by the Secretary of State to British Energy on which payment of amounts outstanding under the Government Facility are required as a result of a decision of the Commission or any obligation

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BRITISH ENERGY PLC (Continued)

under EU law and (iv) the date on which the Restructuring becomes effective. The amount available for drawdown under the Government Facility and has ranged between £200m and £650m during this period. The Government Facility is secured by certain group assets and cross-guaranteed by the principal group entities (excluding EPL and EPHL). Under this facility, borrowings peaked at £499m on 14 January 2003. The balance owed as of 31 March 2004 was £nil (£nil as at 31 March 2003).

British Energy transact with BNFL, a Government owned body, in relation to certain fuel purchases and other fuel related services. In addition, we have in the past sold stock and provided IT services to BNFL. In relation to fuel purchases and other fuel related services, purchases in the year ended 31 March 2004 amounted to £411m (31 March 2003 £387m; 31 March 2002 £435m), and amounts owed to/(receivable from) BNFL as at 31 March 2004 were £333m (£127m as at 31 March 2003; £(26)m as at 31 March 2002). Amounts invoiced to BNFL in respect of sales of stock were £64m in the year ended 31 March 2004 (£50m year ended 31 March 2003; £nil year ended 31 March 2002). Amounts invoiced to BNFL in respect of sales of IT services were £15m in the year ended 31 March 2004 (£3m year ended 31 March 2003; £3m year ended 31 March 2002). In addition, BNFL has provided financial support to British Energy since September 2002 in the form of their participation in the Restructuring by renegotiating the contractual terms as set out in Note 31 to the financial statements and by rescheduling payment terms.

Yours faithfully

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

SECTION 2: RESULTS FOR BRITISH ENERGY PLC FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

The financial information below is the unaudited quarterly financial statements of British Energy for the three months ended 30 June 2004, as announced on 30 September 2004 and does not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of section 240 of the Act. Defined terms used within the text below have the meanings given to them in this section and differ from the defined terms used in the rest of this Document.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

This report contains British Energy's publication of results prepared under UK GAAP for the first quarter ended 30 June 2004. Since this is the first time British Energy has published results for its first quarter, this report does not contain any comparative quarterly information.

In the following discussion the three-month period or the quarter refers to the three months ended 30 June 2004 unless otherwise stated. In this discussion references to British Energy or the Company are to British Energy plc. References to the Group are to the Company and its subsidiaries.

British Energy is continuing to work hard on its proposed restructuring, the terms of which were announced on 1 October 2003 (the Proposed Restructuring). As at 30 June 2004 and 31 August 2004 there were no drawings under the Government Facility.

British Energy has a total of eight nuclear power stations and one coal-fired power station in the United Kingdom.

Electricity demand in the UK is seasonal, in that demand and prices have been generally lower in summer than in winter. As a result, British Energy (and other generators) schedule a significant proportion of planned outages for the summer months. This seasonality in both prices and output can have a direct effect on operating performance and cash flows.

Total output for the quarter was 16.4 TWh of which nuclear output was 15.0 TWh. This fell short of the Company's expectations, and was adversely affected by unplanned outages lasting for fourteen days or more at Sizewell B, Torness and Heysham 2, contributing to lost output of approximately 1.7 TWh.

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On 30 July 2004 the Company announced that following the evaluation of structural inspections carried out during the statutory outage at the Hartlepool power station and discussions with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the Company decided that further work to demonstrate the integrity of certain boilers was necessary. This work entails intrusive visual inspections of a number of boiler closures at Heysham 1 and at Hartlepool. The Company reviewed its annual nuclear output target previously announced at 64.5 TWh and believed that in the light of these new issues it was prudent to revise the nuclear output target for the 2004/05 financial year to around 61.5 TWh. The expected annual nuclear output for the year ending 31 March 2005 will be given in the prospectus which is to be published pursuant to the Proposed Restructuring.

The realised price was £18.0/MWh for the three-month period. The market price for forward annual baseload contracts has risen by over 20% during the quarter, resulting in an increased requirement for collateral for trading counterparties. As of mid September 2004, fixed price sales contracts were in place covering a high proportion of planned output in 2004/05 at an average price of £20.8/MWh.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

As at 30 June 2004 and 31 August 2004 the Company had cash balances amounting to £501m and £552m respectively, of which £321m and £300m were deposited as collateral in support of trading and operating activities. At 31 March 2004 the Company had cash balances amounting to £573m of which £297m had been deposited in support of collateral requirements.

In accordance with the dividend policy set out within the annual accounts to 31 March 2004 and as updated below, no dividend has been declared for the quarter. The Proposed Restructuring remains subject to a large number of significant uncertainties and important conditions. On 22 September 2004 the Company announced the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification from the European Commission that as far as the Proposed Restructuring involves the grant of State aid by the UK Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market. The European Commission's decision is subject to the following conditions:

- the Company's nuclear and generation business will be ring-fenced from its fossil fuel, supply and trading businesses to ensure the aid to the nuclear business is not used to cross subsidise any of the Company's businesses. This measure will last indefinitely;
- there will be no nuclear or fossil-fuelled capacity expansion (above our current capacity) by the Company in the European Economic Area for six years, and no hydro-electric capacity expansion in the UK for the same period; and
- a restriction on the Company selling to its industrial and commercial customers at prices below the prevailing wholesale market prices for six years unless there are exceptional market circumstances as determined by an independent expert.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State is entitled not to proceed with the Proposed Restructuring if, in her opinion, the Group will not be viable in all reasonably foreseeable conditions without access to additional financing beyond that which is committed and will continue to be available when required. In any event, the Proposed Restructuring requires to be completed by the earlier of 120 days after the satisfaction of the initial conditions and 31 January 2005.

If for any reason British Energy is unable to implement the Proposed Restructuring it may be unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due in which case it may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings. If British Energy were to commence insolvency proceedings, distributions, if any, to unsecured creditors may represent only a small fraction of their unsecured liabilities and it is highly unlikely that there would be any return to shareholders. Even if the Proposed Restructuring is completed, the return, if any, for shareholders will represent a very significant dilution of their existing interests.

Key points on results

- The Group recorded an operating loss of £36m in the three-month period, including exceptional operating costs of £16m (further detail is provided in note 4 to the financial statements).
- Losses before tax of £115m were recorded in the three-month period.

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- Total output for the quarter was 16.4 TWh. Nuclear output was down by 12% to 15.0 TWh in the three-month period, compared with 17.0 TWh of nuclear output in the equivalent period last year.
- Realised price (which is calculated by dividing turnover, net of energy supply costs and miscellaneous income, by total output during the period) was £18.0/MWh for the three-month period. This compared to £16.9/MWh for the year ended 31 March 2004; an increase of 7%.
- Total operating unit costs, excluding revalorisation (which is calculated by dividing the total operating costs, net of exceptional items and energy supply costs, by total output), were £19.6/MWh for the three-month period. This compared to £16.5/MWh for the year ended 31 March 2004, an increase of 19% mainly due to the lower volumes and the largely fixed cost base, together with the inclusion of a £13m pension charge for the quarter.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

- Operating cash outflow was £61m for the three-month period. Net debt increased in the quarter by £72m to £382m, primarily as a result of working capital outflow and the loss for the quarter.
- A contingent asset of £338m has been accumulated but not recognised in the financial statements as at the period end arising from the revised BNFL contracts. The consequence of this is that the results for the quarter do not reflect the profit and loss account charge that would arise under the revised BNFL back-end contracts, although any cash flow benefits have already been reflected as cash payments assume the revised BNFL back-end contracts are in place. The profit and loss account charge under the revised BNFL contracts would be £1m higher in the quarter compared with £58m lower in the previous financial year due to increased electricity market prices. The net benefit under the revised BNFL back-end contracts to the date of restructuring will be recognised in the balance sheet of the restructured Group upon implementation of the Proposed Restructuring together with other restructuring related adjustments.

Explanatory notes

Certain statements in this document are forward-looking statements as defined in Section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements include, among others:

- statements concerning the Proposed Restructuring and its effect on the Group's business and financial condition or results of operations;
- the anticipated development of the UK electricity industry, the future development of regulation of the UK electricity industry, the effect of these developments on our business, financial condition or results of operation; and
- other matters that are not historical facts concerning the Group's business operations, financial condition and results of operations.

These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which are in some cases beyond the Group's control and may cause its actual results or performance to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Due to the uncertainties and risks associated with these forward-looking statements, which apply only as at the date hereof, the Company is claiming the benefit of the safe harbour provision contained in Section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

EBITDA is defined by the Company as earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation and related exceptional items. The Company has included information concerning EBITDA because it believes that it is used by certain investors as one measure of the Company's financial performance. EBITDA is not a measure of financial performance under United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (UK GAAP) and is not necessarily comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies. EBITDA should not be construed as an alternative to operating income or to cash flows from operating activities (as determined in accordance with UK GAAP) as a measure of liquidity.

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The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the unaudited financial statements for the three months ended 30 June 2004 and the notes thereto which are included in this report. The full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2004 and the notes thereto are not included in this report but are available on the British Energy website (www.british-energy.com).

British Energy has also prepared, for the first time, a quarterly report on a Form 6-K under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (US GAAP) for the three months ended 30 June 2004 which is also available on the British Energy website.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

KEY EVENTS

Restructuring developments

On 22 September 2004 the Company announced the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification from the European Commission that as far as the Proposed Restructuring involves the grant of State aid by the UK Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market.

Bruce Power disposal

The disposal of the interest in Bruce Power was completed on 14 February 2003. On 12 February 2004 the Company received a notice of warranty claims from the consortium which purchased the Group's 82.4% interest in Bruce Power alleging breach of certain warranties and representations relating to tax and to the condition of certain plant at the Bruce power station. Under the agreement with the consortium C\$20m is retained in trust to meet any representation and warranty claims, and this may be retained pending agreement or determination of the claims.

In addition to the consideration received at the time of the disposal of its interest in Bruce Power, British Energy was entitled to receive up to C\$100m, contingent on the restart of two of the Bruce A Units. On 25 May 2004 the Company received C\$10m in respect of the restart of Unit 3 in addition to the sum of C\$20m already received in respect of the restart of Unit 4. Discussions are ongoing with the Ontario Provincial Government regarding the release of further sums, if any. The total amount that will be released will be significantly less than C\$100m.

Board affairs

During the quarter the Company announced the appointment of Stephen Billingham as Finance Director Designate. Stephen Billingham joined the Company in August 2004. As part of the ongoing hand over arrangements Stephen Billingham was appointed to the board of the Company (the Board) on 16 September 2004 and Martin Gatto, formerly the Interim Finance Director, resigned from the Board on the same day and assumed the role of Chief Financial Officer. Stephen Billingham joined British Energy from WS Atkins plc, the engineering consultancy and support services group, where he was Group Finance Director. Prior to his role at WS Atkins plc, he led the finance team that concluded the Metronet London Underground Public Private Partnership.

On 5 August 2004, the Company announced the resignation of David Gilchrist from the Board.

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On 27 August 2004, the Company announced the appointment of David Pryde as an independent Non-Executive Director with effect from 1 September 2004. David Pryde has extensive trading and risk management experience having held various senior management positions in trading businesses within JP Morgan and Co Inc and has sat on the Boards of the Commodity Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Futures Industry Association.

On 16 September 2004 the Company announced the appointment of Roy Anderson to the Board as Chief Nuclear Officer. Roy Anderson, who joined the Company on 5 July 2004, was previously President of PSEG Nuclear, having also previously been Chief Nuclear Officer of Nuclear Management Company and of Florida Power Corporation.

Performance improvements

The Performance Improvement Programme (PIP) commenced during the year ended 31 March 2004. Following an initial mobilisation phase which ended in July 2004 and which included an asset condition survey, and the development of a plan of action, the next phase of PIP implementation, which will focus on staff organisation, prioritisation of work activities and

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

human performance initiatives is targeted to complete, subject to availability of sufficient working capital headroom, around 1 April 2005. The final phase, which focuses on investing in the material condition of our plant, is targeted to complete, subject again to sufficient working capital headroom being available, by 31 March 2007. Certain aspects of remedial capital investment will, however, likely run beyond that into the financial year ending 31 March 2008.

The Company expects that investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole new British Energy Group including incremental costs associated with the PIP of approximately £20m will be in the range of £150m to £180m.

British Energy's Trading Development Programme to improve and extend trading capability and asset utilisation remains on track.

Pension scheme valuation

A triennial valuations of the Group's pension schemes is being carried out by the schemes' actuaries as at 31 March 2004, however, the result of the valuation will not be concluded until October 2004. The combined funding deficiencies (on the actuarial bases used for the valuations) in the two pension schemes is expected to be £385m, within the range of £330m to £440m previously disclosed. The impact of this deficit will be reflected in our financial results for the year ending 31 March 2005, and a charge of £13m was recognised in the quarter.

Prior period adjustment

In preparing the financial statements for the quarter, the Group has adopted UITF Abstract 17 (revised 2003) (Employee Share Schemes) and UITF Abstract 38 (Accounting for ESOP Trusts) which relate to the measurement of the Employee Share Scheme charge and the presentation and disclosure of own shares held. The adoption of these new UITF Abstracts represents a change in accounting policy and the comparative figures have been restated accordingly.

The Group has restated opening reserves to comply with the above UITF Abstracts so that the profit and loss account reserve has been decreased by £2m and other fixed asset investments have decreased by the same amount as at 1 April 2004. The impact of the adoption of UITF Abstract 38 on the profit and loss account for the three months ended 30 June 2004 and the year ended 31 March 2004 was not material. The effect of UITF Abstract 17 on the results for the periods ended 31 March 2004 and 30 June 2004 was not material.

Other factors affecting results of operations

The results of operations are principally affected by changes in plant output, electricity prices and operating costs. Each of these factors is discussed below.

Plant output

Nuclear output was 15.0 TWh (a 72% load factor) for the three-month period. The UK nuclear output for the equivalent period in 2003 was 17.0 TWh (an 82% load factor). The reduction on prior year is primarily due to the number of unplanned outages occurring in the quarter. Sizewell B, Torness and Heysham 2 all had unplanned outages that lasted for fourteen days or more in the quarter. A rotor earth fault at Sizewell B in April caused one unit to be shut down to carry out repairs with the loss of output of 0.8 TWh, the unit did not return to service until mid June. A reactor at Torness was shut down for most of May for the extension to a planned outage for boiler modifications with the overall loss of output of 0.5 TWh and one unit at Heysham 2 was out of service between May and June as blocked boiler tubes were cleared with a loss of output of 0.4 TWh. There were also a number of other smaller unplanned outages lasting less than fourteen days.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

Output from the coal-fired power station at Eggborough was 1.4 TWh during the three-month period. For the equivalent period in the previous year, the output was 1.1 TWh. As Eggborough is operated primarily as a flexible mid-merit power station, its output level is influenced by market prices, the Company's contracted trading position and the extent to which it is operated as cover for unplanned outages at our nuclear power stations.

Commissioning work on the Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) equipment that is being fitted to Units 3 and 4 at Eggborough continued through the three-month period. The Company has advised the Environment Agency (the EA) of its intention to opt out Units 1 and 2 from the requirements to set Emission Limit Values (ELVs) under the Large Combustion Plant Directive (the LCPD), which will mean that these units must close within 20,000 operational hours from 1 January 2008 and in any case no later than 31 December 2015. The decision to apply for an opt out for units 1 and 2 from the ELV limits was on the basis of the Government's view that opted out plant can opt back in before 30 June 2005, while a decision not to have opted out by 30 June 2004 is irrevocable. It was therefore decided to conditionally opt out Eggborough's two non-FGD units under the LCPD. The EA confirmed that the opt out had been granted on 30 June 2004.

Electricity prices

The market price for forward baseload contracts has continued to rise during the three-month period. Annual contracts for delivery from October 2004 onwards have risen from around £23.5/MWh at the end of March 2004 to over £30/MWh mid September 2004, an increase of some 28%. As of mid September 2004, fixed price sales contracts were in place covering a large majority of planned output in 2004/05 at an average price for the full year of £20.8/MWh.

During the quarter and the prior year the overriding concern of British Energy was to reduce the Group's exposure to potential falls in the market price of electricity. Therefore the Company sought to sell forward virtually all of our planned generation. As a result the Company has not fully benefited from the more recent rises in market prices. The Group has continued with its trading strategy to reduce exposure to volatility in medium term market prices, utilising a variety of routes to market whilst seeking to reduce the amount of trading collateral required.

British Energy's realised price was £18.0/MWh for the three-month period. This compares to an average price of £16.9/MWh for the year ended 31 March 2004. The higher realised price is a result of the increase in market prices over the previous year, partly offset by seasonal factors and earlier fixed price contracts.

Operating costs

Operating costs after exceptional items were £408m for the three-month period. These are discussed more fully later in this report in the Results of Operations section.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****Exceptional Items**

The financial results of both the three-month period and the year ended 31 March 2004 were affected by a number of exceptional items. The table below summarises the impact of exceptional items (before tax).

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Restructuring costs	5	43
Severance costs	8	
Siemens settlement		(18)
Fixed asset write-up		(295)
Depreciation corporate headquarters	3	
UK decommissioning fund write-up		(13)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Exceptional items included within operating costs	16	(283)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Revalorisation charges/(credits)	2	(68)
Interest rate swaps provision credit		(5)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Exceptional items included within financing costs	2	(73)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	18	(356)
Exceptional gain on sale of joint venture and businesses	(4)	(47)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net exceptional charges/(credits)	14	(403)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Exceptional items are discussed more fully in notes 4, 5 and 8 to the financial statements.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**Group Performance**

The operating result after exceptional operating items was an operating loss of £36m for the three-month period.

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The loss on ordinary activities before taxation was £115m for the three-month period.

The discussion below focuses on the results of continuing activities for the three-month period.

Turnover

Turnover was £372m for the three-month period and is analysed as follows:

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Direct supply sales net of energy supply costs	143	522
Energy supply costs recovered from customers	70	260
	213	782
Wholesale generation sales	153	703
Miscellaneous income	6	31
	372	1,516

Direct supply sales

The direct sales business has continued to make good progress during the three-month period in its core market of industrial and commercial customers.

Wholesale generation sales

The level of wholesale generation sales for the quarter reflects partly the changing mix of sales being contracted by the Company and also the output in the quarter. The £153m of wholesale generation sales for the quarter represents 42% of turnover excluding miscellaneous income compared to 47% in the previous year.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****Operating Costs**

Total operating costs before exceptional items were £392m for the three-month period, and are further analysed as follows:

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Continuing activities		
Fuel	104	413
Materials and services	127	512
Staff costs	73	224
Depreciation charges	18	50
	<u>322</u>	<u>1,199</u>
Energy supply costs	70	260
	<u>392</u>	<u>1,459</u>
Total operating costs	392	1,459

Fuel

Total fuel costs amounted to £104m for the three-month period. Nuclear fuel costs were £81m and coal costs were £23m.

The costs of nuclear fuel in the quarter were marginally higher when compared with the prior year on a pro rata basis. The prior year contained a number of small one off credits totalling approximately £4m that were not replicated in the quarter. These were offset by reductions of £2m in comparable costs mainly as a result of lower output in the quarter proportionally compared to the prior year.

On 31 March 2003 and 16 May 2003, the Company announced that it had exchanged contracts covering front-end and back-end fuel services required to give effect to the non-binding heads of terms entered into with BNFL. The amendments to existing front-end contracts contained in the March 2003 deeds of amendment to the existing AGR fuel supply agreements became effective on 1 April 2003 but (except in relation to the new arrangements for the supply of uranium to BEG) may be terminated if the Proposed Restructuring is not completed. The revised back-end contracts are conditional on completion of the Proposed Restructuring but payments are being made as if the revised back-end contracts had become effective on 1 April 2003.

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The financial statements for the three-month period have been prepared upon the basis of the historic BNFL contracts in respect of back-end fuel costs, pending satisfaction of the conditions set out in the revised contracts. This is the only element of the Proposed Restructuring that will have a retrospective accounting impact.

The consequence of this is that the results for the quarter do not reflect the profit and loss account charge that would arise under the revised BNFL back-end contracts, which amounted to an increase in the charge of £1m in the quarter. The effect of the revised contracts will be recognised on the completion of the Proposed Restructuring, together with other restructuring adjustments. The cost for the quarter under the revised contracts has been calculated using an average electricity price for the quarter, as defined in the revised BNFL back-end contracts, of £23.9/MWh.

As noted above and as part of the standstill arrangements, the Group has made payments during the year to BNFL as if the revised BNFL back-end contracts were in place. The difference in the cash payments that include the profit and loss account savings under the revised contracts, means that included within current liabilities are amounts due to BNFL which will never be paid by the Group, provided the Proposed Restructuring is completed. These amounts totaled £338m at 30 June 2004, an increase of £32m from £306m at 31 March 2004 reflecting payments that would have been made under the historic BNFL contracts and accrued standstill interest offset by fuel costs under the revised back-end BNFL contracts.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)**

This matter is discussed further in note 16 to the financial statements.

	£m	£m
	—	—
Opening balance at 1 April 2004		306
Amounts payable to BNFL under the historic back-end contracts for the period	64	
Less: amounts paid/payable for the period under the revised BNFL back-end contracts, analysed as follows:		
Amounts settled	(26)	
Amounts included in accruals at quarter end	(13)	
	—	
Cash flow benefit arising within the quarter	25	
Finance charges accrued on amounts stoodstill	7	
	—	
		32
		—
Closing balance at 30 June 2004		338
		—

The net benefit under the revised BNFL back-end contracts to the date of the Proposed Restructuring will be recognised in the balance sheet of the restructured Group upon implementation of the Proposed Restructuring together with other restructuring related adjustments. The ultimate benefit recognised will depend on a number of factors including the date of the Proposed Restructuring, the market price of electricity between 1 April 2004 and the date of the Proposed Restructuring as defined in the contract and the amount of fuel used.

Materials and services

Materials and services costs comprise the operating expenses of our power stations and support functions excluding fuel costs, staff costs and depreciation. The costs during the three-month period were £127m excluding exceptional restructuring costs.

Included in materials and services is capital investment expenditure of £15m for the three-month period that was expensed as operating costs. This arises because it was not possible to demonstrate that this expenditure enhanced the value of the Group after taking account of the fixed asset impairment review carried out in the year ended 31 March 2004.

Exceptional charges amounting to £5m were incurred for the quarter in relation to advisory and other costs associated with the Company's Proposed Restructuring.

Staff costs

Staff costs, excluding exceptional restructuring costs, were £73m for the three-month period. This includes pension costs of £13m expensed under SSAP 24.

In addition an exceptional charge of £8m has been recorded for severance costs in relation to the Group's restructuring.

Depreciation

Depreciation charges were £18m in the three-month period. The charges for depreciation are significantly affected by the £3,738m write down of fixed assets at 31 March 2003 and have increased compared to the prior year due to the partial write back of £295m at 31 March 2004 (see notes 4 and 8 of the financial statements). An exceptional depreciation charge of £3m was recorded to align the carrying value of the Company's corporate headquarters at Peel Park, East Kilbride, Scotland to its market value.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****Energy supply costs**

Energy supply costs mainly comprise the costs incurred for the use of the distribution and transmission systems and are fully recovered through turnover. Energy supply costs also include costs of £8m related to meeting the cost of compliance with the Renewables Obligation which are also recovered through turnover. The Group is required to comply with the Renewables Obligation as part of the regulations governing climate change. Total energy supply costs were £70m for the three-month period.

Operating (loss)/profit

As shown below, Group operating loss after exceptional items was £36m:

	3 months ended 30 June 2004	Year ended 31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Operating (loss)/profit before exceptional items	(20)	57
Exceptional items	(16)	283
Group operating (loss)/profit	(36)	340

Financing charges

Total financing charges were £83m made up of revalorisation and net interest, which are analysed below:

	3 months ended 30 June 2004	Year ended 31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Revalorisation of nuclear liabilities	77	215
Revalorisation of decommissioning fund	(10)	(28)
Share of revalorisation of joint venture		(2)
Total revalorisation	67	185
Net interest expense	14	64
Financing charges before exceptional items	81	249

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Exceptional interest credit		(5)
Exceptional revalorisation charge/(credit)	2	(68)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total financing charges	83	176
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Revalorisation arises because nuclear liabilities are stated in the balance sheet at current price levels, discounted at 3% per year real from the eventual payment dates. The revalorisation charge is the adjustment that results from restating these liabilities to take into account the effect of inflation in the year and to remove the effect of pro rata discount. Similarly, a revalorisation credit arises in respect of the decommissioning fund that is calculated by applying an actuarial assessment of the long-term investment growth rate to fund contributions in order to determine the asset value to be recorded in the balance sheet. The growth rate used in the calculations is based on 3.5% per annum real.

The net revalorisation charge excluding exceptional items was £67m in the three-month period. The weighted average UK inflation rate was higher in the three-month period compared with the prior year. The remaining increase in the quarter when proportionally compared with the prior year was due to a charge based on a higher opening nuclear liabilities balance.

The net interest expense charge of £14m for the quarter comprises interest payable of £19m offset by interest receivable of £5m.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

In the quarter there was an exceptional charge of £2m in respect of revaluation of the decommissioning fund receivables. These are discussed more fully in note 5 to the financial statements.

Taxation

There was no taxation charge on ordinary activities in the three-month period ended 30 June 2004. The taxation charges reflect the anticipated effective tax rates relating to the underlying business performance on a pre-restructured basis for the year ending 31 March 2005.

No deferred tax asset has been recognised at 30 June 2004.

Loss on ordinary activities

As a result of the factors discussed above, there was a loss on ordinary activities after taxation for the three-month period of £115m.

Deficit per share

There was a deficit per share of 19.1p for the three-month period.

Investment expenditure

During the three-month period, investment expenditure on plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole Group, including incremental costs associated with PIP, totalled £32m of which £15m may have been capitalised, with the main projects in the period including replacement of cast iron pipework, fuel route improvements and the implementation of the work management programme. None of this has been capitalised as fixed assets since it has not been possible to demonstrate that the investment expenditure enhanced the value of the Company's fixed assets after taking account of our previous impairment review. Based on its current expectations of future electricity prices and output, and therefore financial resources, the Company believes that investment in plant projects, major repairs and strategic spares across the whole Group which includes incremental PIP expenditure of approximately £20m will be in the range of £150m to £180m for the year ending 31 March 2005, compared with £128m for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Research and development

We support scientific and engineering research activities primarily directed toward securing further improvements in the reliability, performance and safety of our generating business. For the three-month period our expenditure on research and development was £4m which is included within material and services costs.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES****Cash flow from operating activities**

A reconciliation of profit after tax and exceptional items to earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation and related exceptional items (EBITDA) is shown in the following table. EBITDA is a measure commonly reported and widely used by analysts, certain investors and other interested parties, as well as a measure used internally by the Group. The EBITDA calculations are shown for the total results and also exclude the disposals during the period and exceptional items for the continuing business. The EBITDA calculation for the continuing activities is further reconciled to the operating cash flow from continuing activities and then to the decrease in total cash.

	3 months ended 30 June 2004	Year ended 31 March 2004
	£m	£m
(Loss)/profit after tax and exceptional items	(115)	234
Interest (including exceptional items)	14	59
Revalorisation (including exceptional items)	69	117
Tax (including exceptional items)		(2)
Depreciation (including exceptional items)	21	50
Exceptional depreciation credits due to impairment review		(295)
EBITDA	(11)	163
Gain on sale of businesses	(4)	(47)
AmerGen profit		(21)
Net exceptional charges other than depreciation	13	12
EBITDA continuing activities	(2)	107
Nuclear liabilities charged to operating costs	35	130
Nuclear liabilities discharged	(37)	(59)
Regular contributions to decommissioning fund	(5)	(19)
Other provisions discharged		(3)
Exceptional operating cash costs	(5)	(25)
Working capital movements	(47)	25
Operating cash flow from continuing activities	(61)	156
Taxation paid		(12)
Disposal of investments	4	171
Net interest paid	(15)	(75)
(Decrease)/increase in total cash	(72)	240
Represented by:		
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the period	(88)	175
Increase in liquid resources	16	65

(Increase)/decrease in net debt in the period	(72)	240
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The operating cash outflow from continuing activities for the quarter was £61m. Included in the quarter cash flows are capital investment amounts totalling £15m that are expensed as part of materials and services costs.

When adjusted for the receipts from the sale of investments and the net interest paid, there was a decrease in total cash of £72m.

The movement on working capital of £47m can be attributed to a decrease in creditors reflecting deferred fuel payments at 31 March 2004 and reduced quarterly trading and a decrease in the pension prepayment and further reduction in trade debtors due to the reduced levels of quarterly trading.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

Management of liquid resources

The net cash outflow due to movements in financial investments and increases in term deposits was £72m in the three-month period. The balances on the term deposit accounts holding the collateral amounts increased from £297m at 31 March 2004 to £321m at 30 June 2004.

Capital resources

At 30 June 2004, total debt of £883m comprised:

- A project finance loan of £475m secured by, amongst other things, the shares in, and assets of Eggborough Power Limited (EPL), a subsidiary company that operates the Eggborough power station. Amounts owed by EPL are not guaranteed by British Energy but British Energy guarantees the payment of amounts by British Energy Power and Energy Trading Limited (BEPET) to EPL under the Capacity and Tolling Agreement (CTA). The contractual amounts payable by BEPET under the CTA are calculated so as to cover, amongst other things, EPL's borrowing requirements and operating costs. British Energy also provides a subordinated loan facility to EPL. The final instalment of project finance loan principal will be repaid in 2011. The project finance loan currently bears interest at LIBOR plus 1.3%. It is proposed that these arrangements will be restructured as part of the Proposed Restructuring of the Group. For further details of the Proposed Restructuring see note 1 to the financial statements.
- An aggregate principal amount of £408m sterling denominated bonds due between 2003 and 2016. The bonds bear interest at a rate of between 5.9% and 6.2%. An aggregate principal amount of £110m matured in March 2003 but payment has been stoodstill as part of the arrangements of the Proposed Restructuring of the Group.

There were no drawings under the Government Facility at any point during the quarter or at 30 June 2004. The conditions applying to the Government Facility are more fully discussed in note 1 to the financial statements.

Net debt increased in the quarter by £72m to £382m, primarily as a result of working capital outflow and the loss for the quarter.

Future liquidity

The Group had cash and liquid resources, including amounts posted as collateral, of £501m at 30 June 2004 of which £321m was deposited as collateral in support of trading and operating activities.

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The Group's main source of liquidity is its operating businesses. Cash generation by the operating businesses is dependent upon the reliability of the Group's power stations in producing electricity, the realised selling price for electricity, operational risk and capital investment expenditure (expensed in the profit and loss account since 1 April 2003), maintenance requirements as well as collateral requirements relating to trading activities.

The Group lost its investment grade rating in September 2002. The Group intends to seek a new credit rating prior to the issuance of New Bonds as part of the Proposed Restructuring. The loss of investment grade rating has meant that the Group now has to provide significant levels of collateral to counterparties in order to cover their trading exposures, to maintain trading arrangements, thereby substantially reducing the levels of cash resources available to the Group. Given the financial circumstances of the Group, certain contracts may be capable of being terminated. Such termination may result in termination payments becoming payable as well as having an adverse effect on cash flows. On 23 September 2004 the Company announced that it had received indicative non-investment grade ratings for the £550m of New Bonds that are to be issued to certain of the Company's creditors and to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

Limited upon completion of the Proposed Restructuring pursuant to the terms announced on 1 October 2003.

The Government Facility will mature on the earliest of (1) 31 January 2005, (2) the date on which the Proposed Restructuring becomes effective and (3) any date notified by the Secretary of State to British Energy on which repayment of amounts outstanding under the Government Facility are required as a result of a Commission decision or an obligation under EU law. Following the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification from the Commission that as far as the Proposed Restructuring involves the grant of State aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market, no further drawings can be made under the Government Facility. Since no incremental collateral can be posted under the Government Facility, incremental collateral requirements are being provided by a charge over cash deposits in certain of our accounts. The final maturity date has now been amended from 30 September 2004 to 31 January 2005.

The Company's strategy for securing part of its income through fixed price contracts means that in a volatile and rising electricity market the collateral requirements are also volatile. The extent to which the Company is able to trade forward is therefore limited by the amount of collateral available.

The Board remains of the opinion that the working capital available to the Group is not sufficient for the present requirements of the Group pending the Proposed Restructuring. The Company continues to take steps with a view to improving this situation. The Board continues to explore initiatives to reduce the demand for trading collateral and to achieve sufficient liquid resources to implement the Proposed Restructuring. On 25 August 2004 British Energy Generation Limited (BEG) entered into a three year trade receivables financing facility (Receivables Facility) with a financial institution under which, on utilisation, BEG will sell to the financial institution on a full recourse basis receivables arising from its direct supply business. The amount of funding available to BEG under the Receivables Facility is limited to £60m and is dependent on the amount of eligible receivables available at utilisation, which, in turn, is subject, inter alia, to seasonal changes in the demand and price for electricity and to limits on customer concentrations within the receivables portfolio. On completion of the Proposed Restructuring the Receivables Facility will be guaranteed by the other principal companies within the Group (excluding EPL). The Receivables Facility is subject to customary representations, warranties and covenants appropriate to the financial situation of BEG and the prospective guarantors. Events of default include, inter alia, non-payment, cross-default, occurrence of insolvency related events, revocation of the electricity supply license and the exercise by the Secretary of State of her right not to proceed with the Proposed Restructuring if, in her opinion, the Group will not be viable without access to additional financing. As at 29 September 2004, the Receivables Facility had not been utilised.

The Proposed Restructuring remains subject to a large number of important conditions, including:

- the Secretary of State's entitlement not to proceed with the Proposed Restructuring if, in her opinion, we will not be viable in all reasonably foreseeable conditions without access to additional financing beyond that which is committed and will continue to be available when required;
- the restructured British Energy Group having sufficient working capital for its present requirements from the listing of the New Shares and New Bonds;

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- there being no material adverse change on our (or on EPL s) current or future business or operations, financial or trading position, profits or prospects or which is likely to have a material adverse effect on the value of the New Bonds, the New Shares, the CTA Bonds or the new Eggborough arrangements;
- the Creditors Scheme becoming effective;

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

- continuation of the standstill arrangements; and
- agreement on presently unsettled documents with creditors, Scottish court approval and listing of the New Shares and New Bonds referred to above and the delisting of the Company's ordinary shares and A shares.

Some uncertainties that may affect the Group's cash flow position, performance or outlook are described in this Management's Discussion and Analysis.

If the conditions to the Proposed Restructuring are not fulfilled, or if the Company's cash generating initiatives are not achieved in each case, within the time scales envisaged or required, or if there is a material deterioration in the Group's cash flow position, performance or outlook, or if the Government Facility ceases to be available or if the restructuring and standstill arrangements which the Group has entered into with certain of its creditors are terminated, British Energy may be unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due and consequently the Company may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings, in which case the distributions to unsecured creditors may represent only a small fraction of their unsecured liabilities and there is unlikely to be any return to shareholders. Further details on the Proposed Restructuring are contained in note 1 to the financial statements.

Post balance sheet events

Output forecast

On 30 July 2004 the Company announced that following the evaluation of structural inspections carried out during the statutory outage at the Hartlepool power station and discussions with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the Company decided that further work to demonstrate the integrity of certain boilers was necessary. This work entails intrusive visual inspections of a number of boiler closures at Heysham 1 (one reactor is shut down and the other was shut down for its statutory outage in early September) and at Hartlepool (one reactor is currently shut down and there is no impact on the operation of the other reactor).

At the same time, the Company also announced its revised target of annual nuclear output of around 61.5 TWh for the 2004/05 financial year. The Directors are satisfied that, in the Company's current circumstances, the impact of the downward revision in output target on the carrying value of its nuclear assets is not material. The expected annual nuclear output for the year ending 31 March 2005 will be given in the prospectus which is to be published pursuant to the Proposed Restructuring

Exelon

As a result of ongoing discussions with Exelon, outlined in note 17 Contingent liabilities to the financial statements, the Company is reviewing with Exelon a working capital adjustment resulting from a change to the estimated tax recoverable for prior periods made

after the consummation of the sale and this, if agreed, may result in a reduction in the purchase price payable by Exelon, with the reduction currently estimated to be in the range of up to US\$6.3m.

Polygon

On 3 September 2004 two groups of shareholders, together holding 10.22% of our ordinary shares, requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting (the Requisitioned EGM). Those groups of shareholders were Polygon Investment Partners LLP (Polygon), Brandes Investment Partners, LLC (Brandes) and their respective associates. The Company is, as a result, obliged under the Companies Act to call the Requisitioned EGM. One of the resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes would have the effect, if passed, of requiring the Company to seek shareholder approval prior to applying for the cancellation of its listings in London and New York. If the Company was required, under the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, to take steps

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

to cancel the London listings of its shares, but could not do so as a result of a failure to achieve such shareholder approval, the Company believes, having taken legal advice, that it would be likely to be in breach of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement.

The Company announced on 23 September 2004 that the Requisitioned EGM will be held on 22 October 2004 and that as a result of this attempt to frustrate the Proposed Restructuring agreed by the Company in October 2003, it would be applying to the UKLA to cancel the listings of its ordinary and A Shares. As a consequence, and as announced on 23 September 2004, the NYSE suspended trading in the Company's ADRs prior to the opening of trading on 28 September 2004. At that time, the NYSE also instituted delisting proceedings.

On 24 September 2004 the Company announced (i) the unanimous recommendation of the Board to shareholders to vote against the resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes at the Requisitioned EGM, (ii) that it intended to seek an extension to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement long stop date of 31 January 2005 for the Proposed Restructuring and (iii) that, in accordance with the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, it would execute a business transfer agreement whereby the Company's assets would, conditional on the Proposed Restructuring becoming effective, be transferred to a new intermediate holding company of the restructured British Energy group.

On 30 September 2004 Polygon announced that it would withdraw its support for the Requisitioned EGM. Polygon stated that, having considered the Company's recent circulars, they now believe there is no commercial logic for it supporting the resolutions to be considered at the Requisitioned EGM and consequently have confirmed that they will vote against the resolutions and not further oppose the Proposed Restructuring. The Requisitioned EGM will take place on 22 October 2004 as described in the notice mailed to our shareholders. Our Board continues to reiterate its unanimous recommendation to all shareholders to vote against the resolutions proposed for the Requisitioned EGM.

Corporate headquarters

On 15 September 2004 the Company announced the proposed sale of its corporate headquarters located at Peel Park, East Kilbride, Scotland to Kenmore Capital East Kilbride Limited in consideration of a cash payment of £6.625m and a potential additional cash payment of up to £0.25m if certain letting arrangements come to fruition. An exceptional depreciation charge of £3m was recorded in the quarter to align the carrying value of the Company's corporate headquarters to its market value. The Company has also entered into a ten year lease for part of the building. It is expected that the sale will be completed in January 2005. In August 2004 the Company signed a lease for our new corporate headquarters in Alba Campus, Livingston, Scotland

State Aid

On 22 September 2004 the Company announced the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification from the European Commission that as far as the Proposed Restructuring involves the grant of State aid by the UK Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market. The European Commission's decision is subject to the following conditions:

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- the Company's nuclear and generation business will be ring-fenced from its fossil fuel, supply and trading businesses to ensure the aid to the nuclear business is not used to cross subsidise any of the Company's businesses. This measure will last indefinitely;
- there will be no nuclear or fossil-fuelled capacity expansion (above our current capacity) by the Company in the European Economic Area for six years, and no hydro-electric capacity expansion in the UK for the same period; and
- a restriction on the Company selling to its industrial and commercial customers at prices below the prevailing wholesale market prices for six years unless there are exceptional market circumstances as determined by an independent expert.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

The European Commission has set down an additional requirement that a threshold of £1.629billion be set for the aid, above which the European Commission can request enhanced reporting to satisfy themselves that the State aid is being kept to a minimum and is only being used to authorised purposes.

Credit rating

On 23 September 2004 the Company announced that it had received indicative non-investment grade ratings for the £550m of New Bonds that are to be issued to certain of the Company's creditors and to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund Limited upon completion of the Proposed Restructuring pursuant to the terms announced on 1 October 2003.

Classification of British Energy in the public sector

On 24 September 2004 the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced that, with effect from 9 September 2002, the date on which the Credit Facility was granted, the Company would be classified as in the public sector. This classification was stated by the ONS to reflect the degree of control that can be exercised by the Government over the Group, first through the Credit Facility, and then as a result of the terms of the Proposed Restructuring. Prior to this announcement the ONS classified British Energy as part of the private sector.

The ONS's decision was made for UK National Accounts purposes and was dependent upon a judgement about the degree of control exercised by Government. The ONS has acknowledged that, following completion of the Proposed Restructuring, no one factor constitutes the degree of control necessary for a classification in the public sector. The decision is based on the view that, taken together, a number of factors represent a high degree of UK Government control. The background to and terms of the Proposed Restructuring are detailed in note 1 to the financial statements.

The ONS has noted that as the Proposed Restructuring process has not been finalised, some of the details of its decision may change, and as a result this classification (as it applies to the Company post-restructuring) is provisional.

The Company is currently assessing the implications of this decision for its business. In particular, the Company is giving thought to those relationships that will exist post-restructuring that may require to be disclosed under FRS 8 Related Party Disclosures in its financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2005. The Company has not, as yet, finalised its conclusions on this.

Contingent liabilities

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On 12 February 2004, British Energy and certain of its subsidiaries received a notice of warranty claims from the consortium which purchased the Group's 82.4% interest in Bruce Power alleging breach of certain warranties and representations relating to tax and to the condition of certain plant at the Bruce power station.

The principal tax claim relates to the treatment of expenditure at the Bruce Power plant during the period of the Company's part ownership and is currently being considered by the Canadian tax authorities. The treatment proposed by British Energy could result in a rebate of a material amount of tax to the Group that has never been recognised in the financial statements. The consortium claims that allowance of the expenditure for that period would cause it to lose future deductions. British Energy has rejected the tax claim. The Company is confident that the amount of the tax claim should not, in any event, materially exceed the amount of the rebate, and that the tax claim should have no material cash flow impact on the Group.

The claim relating to the condition of the plant is based upon alleged erosion of certain parts of the steam generators, including the support plates, through which boiler tubes pass, which it is

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

alleged resulted in an extended outage of one unit at the plant to carry out repair works and loss of revenues and costs of approximately C\$64.5m. The consortium also claims that the alleged erosion may reduce the operating life of the unit and/or result in further repairs involving further losses. British Energy has rejected the claim and expects to defend it if it is pursued further. In accordance with FRS12 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, no provision has been made in the financial statements at 30 June 2004 for either claim.

Under the agreement with the consortium C\$20m is retained in trust to meet any representation and warranty claims, and this may be retained pending agreement or determination of the claims.

As a result of an accounting adjustment made by Exelon in AmerGen's management accounts and closing accounts as at 21 December 2003, British Energy may be required to make a payment to Exelon of up to US\$13.7m. British Energy served a dispute notice on Exelon on 4 June 2004 to preserve its rights and the parties are endeavouring to resolve the matter amicably. The agreement with Exelon for the sale of AmerGen requires that, prior to instituting any litigation or other dispute resolution procedure, the companies will in good faith seek to resolve any dispute.

The Company has received notification from Polygon that if the Company were to seek a delisting of its shares from the Official List of the UKLA ahead of the shareholder vote on the Members' Scheme which forms part of the Proposed Restructuring, Polygon would consider taking legal action against the Company and its directors. On 23 September 2004 the Company applied to the UKLA to cancel the listings of its ordinary and A shares.

Further contingent liabilities of the Group are described in note 17 to the financial statements for the quarter ended 30 June 2004.

Dividend policy

The Board intends to distribute to shareholders as much of the Company's available cash flow as prudently possible, but not prior to the completion of the Proposed Restructuring, and not until the operational requirements of the business permit. In addition, under the terms of the Proposed Restructuring, there are certain restrictions on or factors affecting the Board's ability to pay dividends, including:

- we are required to fund a cash reserve out of our net cash flow in order to support British Energy Group plc's collateral and liquidity requirements following the Proposed Restructuring. The initial target amount for the cash reserve is £490 million plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200 million (the Target Amount). Prior to paying any dividend, our cash must equal or exceed the Target Amount and certain amounts specified in the Contribution Agreement;
- the terms of the Contribution Agreement also require that once the cash reserve is funded to the Target Amount, we must make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment. Initially this is 65% of the increase in cash, cash equivalents and other liquid assets

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during the year after adjusting for certain matters (the Payment Percentage). The Payment Percentage may be adjusted for certain corporate actions but may never exceed 65%. The requirement to make the NLF Cash Sweep Payment will greatly reduce the amount of cash that would otherwise be available for distribution to shareholders. In addition, we may not pay any dividends without making an additional payment to the NLF if the result of paying such dividend would be that the aggregate amount of dividends paid to shareholders following the Proposed Restructuring would exceed the aggregate of our annual adjusted net cash flow in such period less the aggregate NLF Cash Sweep Payment payable in such period;

- the terms of the New Bonds contain certain covenants, including a restriction that allows us to pay a dividend only if no event of default has occurred; and

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

- we must have distributable reserves.

As a result of these restrictions and after making a prudent allowance for collateral requirements the directors consider that the earliest period for which a dividend may be declared is the financial year 2006/07.

Subject to these restrictions, the Board intends to distribute to shareholders as much of the Company's available cash flow as prudently possible. Any such decision to make such a distribution will be made in the circumstances of the time. In relation to any financial year in respect of which the Company might otherwise be permitted to pay a dividend, the directors might, for example, consider during the course of that year (or subsequent to it) whether it would be prudent to redeem or repurchase New Bonds and CTA Bonds (together with accelerated payments of fixed decommissioning payment to the NLF), make additional contributions to the Group's pension schemes, allocate cash to the Forecast Expenditure Reserve in accordance with the Contribution Agreement (for instance, to meet certain qualifying expenditure on PIP which is due in the following financial period, to acquire or finance a specific fixed asset or undertaking (expected to be with cash and not from borrowings)) or retain cash reserves in excess of the Target Amount.

Movements in the operational cash flow (prior to debt service and the adjustments referred to above) from one financial year to another are likely to be volatile, for example because of movements in the wholesale price of electricity and variability in our output.

Taking account of the constraints set out above, consideration of prudence and the likely volatility of operational cash flows, the Board believes that any dividends paid by the Company may vary in size and frequency.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The following discussion relates to the financial instruments, derivative instruments and derivative commodity instruments held by British Energy at 30 June 2004, which are potentially sensitive to changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, commodity prices and equity markets. The Group uses derivative instruments to hedge the primary market exposures associated with the underlying assets, liabilities and committed transactions.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Overview

The main financial risks faced are trading risks in England and Wales in respect of both price and volume output on the sale of electricity while in Scotland the risk is all price related during the term of the Nuclear Energy Agreement (NEA). There is also an exposure to risks associated with fluctuations in the equity markets through the UK Nuclear Generation Decommissioning Fund Limited (UK Decommissioning Fund) and the Group's pension schemes. Policies have been instituted for managing each of these risks, which have been approved by the Board. Each of these risks is discussed in more detail below with the exception of liquidity and funding risk that is more fully discussed in the Future Liquidity section above.

The Power and Energy Trading Division manages electricity trading risks. The Power and Energy Trading Division operates within policies and procedures that are approved by the Board and monitored by a sub-committee of the Executive Committee.

Non-trading risks (i.e. cash resources, debt finance and financial risks) are managed by the central treasury function (the Treasury Department). The Treasury Department operates within policies and procedures approved by the Board. The Treasury Department uses appropriate and available instruments, within specified limits, to manage financial risk but is not permitted to take speculative, open positions. Both the Treasury Department and the Power and Energy Trading Division are subject to regular scrutiny from the Internal Audit Department.

Interest rate risk management

The market value of debt varies with fluctuations in prevailing interest rates in the United Kingdom.

Eggborough related derivative agreements (nominal amount of £367m as at 30 June 2004 (31 March 2004: £377m)) have been amended as part of the Proposed Restructuring process. The effect of has been to fix future interest payments under the swaps

from October 2004 onwards.

In addition, the Group had mixed rate derivatives with a mark to market value of £29m at 30 June 2004 that were originally established as an interest rate hedge. These derivatives were no longer deemed effective because of the Proposed Restructuring and a provision was established for the projected out of the money element.

At 30 June 2004 the total of investments in liquid funds and cash at bank amounted to £501m, and had maturity dates due within one year. Cash not immediately required for business purposes is invested in fixed-rate term deposits and money market funds. At 30 June 2004 the term deposits and money market funds not used to fund collateral were due to mature or were available within one month and earned interest at an average rate of 4.5%. Term deposits, money market funds and bank balances at 30 June 2004 include £321m of cash that has been deposited in collateral bank accounts and earned interest at an average rate of 3.5%. Availability of this cash is, therefore, restricted over the periods of the collateralised positions.

As the deposit terms are short-term, the carrying value of our investment in liquid funds and cash at bank at 30 June 2004 approximates to the fair market value.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

Foreign exchange risk management

There are potential future foreign currency receivables in respect of amounts outstanding from the sale of Bruce Power and AmerGen. When these cash flows become more certain in the future the Group will evaluate currency hedging opportunities, balancing the cost and availability of entering into such transactions against the underlying currency risk.

At 30 June 2004 there were no foreign exchange contracts in place.

Electricity trading risk management

British Energy's trading activities relate principally to supporting the power generation business and direct supply business. The trading operations, therefore, act principally as wholesale marketers rather than as pure financial traders. The principal objective of the Company's trading activities is to increase the return on assets while hedging the market risk associated with plant output and market price.

Under NETA in England and Wales, any mismatch between actual metered generation (or demand) and the notified contract position is settled through the balancing mechanism at generally unfavorable prices. The Company generally sell all planned nuclear output forward and to minimize our exposure to unfavorable prices pursuant to the balancing mechanism. The risks in the wholesale market are managed through a contracting strategy that builds a portfolio of forward contracts of different lengths.

Eggborough power station provides a flexible generation capability that fulfils three purposes designed to enhance profitability. Firstly, it provides a means for compensating for unplanned lost output from our nuclear units at short notice; secondly it provides the capability to profile the output to meet the requirements of both wholesale and direct supply business customers; and thirdly, it provides a flexible capability.

British Energy's policy is to manage credit exposure to trading and financial counterparties within clearly defined limits. A sub-committee of the Executive Committee strictly monitors electricity trading activities and places controls through delegated authorities and procedures, which include specific criteria for the management of counterparty credit exposures.

Output from the two stations in Scotland will continue to be sold under the terms of the Nuclear Energy Agreement to Scottish Power and Scottish and Southern Energy until April 1, 2006, or the introduction of BETTA (currently scheduled for April 1, 2005), whichever is earlier.

Equity risk management

The UK Decommissioning Fund was established to provide for the eventual decommissioning of the Group's UK nuclear power stations. Cash contributions are made on a quarterly basis to a payment profile set out in a contract between the Group and the UK Decommissioning Fund and are invested by the Trustees of the UK Decommissioning Fund in UK marketable fixed income debt, equity securities and property in accordance with its investment policy. British Energy is ultimately responsible for contributions to the UK Decommissioning Fund. Therefore, the level of future contributions, which are reviewed every five years in conjunction with the review of ultimate decommissioning costs, depend partly on the estimated long-term investment performance of the equity and debt instruments in which the contributions are invested and returns on investments in property. Income from dividends and other returns on the underlying investments are retained by the UK Decommissioning Fund and then invested in debt and equity securities.

The balance held by the UK Decommissioning Fund was recorded in the balance sheet at £453m at 30 June 2004, which approximates to its market value. The UK Decommissioning Fund comprised property and debt and equity securities with market values of £47m and £406m respectively at 30 June 2004.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

If the Proposed Restructuring is completed, the Group's liabilities in respect of the decommissioning of its stations will be governed by the terms of certain of the restructuring agreements with Government relating to the establishment and operation of the NLF. As a consequence, the Group's level of obligation for decommissioning liabilities will be predetermined, and will not be subject to fluctuations in the values of assets held by the UK Decommissioning Fund.

The Group disclosed a deficit of £352m on its Group pension schemes, under the transitional rules permitted under FRS17 Retirement Benefits basis, in its financial statements at 31 March 2004. The Company's actuaries restated this to a deficit of £325m after the finalisation of the financial statements at 31 March 2004. At 30 June 2004, the deficit was £272m and the Group pension schemes' assets were valued at £1,827m (31 March 2004: £1,822m restated) of which £1,582m (31 March 2004: £1,571m restated) was held in equities and bonds. The level of employer contributions to the Group pension schemes will be re-assessed following the triennial actuarial valuation that will be carried out with an effective date of 31 March 2004 and is expected to be completed in October 2004. The combined funding deficiencies (on the actuarial bases used for the valuations) in the two pension schemes is expected to be £385m, within the range of £330m to £440m previously disclosed. The level of re-assessed contributions will depend partly on the estimated long-term investment performance of the equity and debt instruments in which contributions are invested.

CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The management of British Energy, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, have evaluated the effectiveness of the Group's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, the disclosure controls and procedures are effective in ensuring that all material information required to be filed in this report has been made known to them in a timely fashion. The required information was effectively recorded, processed, summarised and reported within the time period necessary to prepare this report. British Energy's disclosure controls and procedures are effective in ensuring that information required to be disclosed in British Energy's reports under the Exchange Act are accumulated and communicated to management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. There have been no significant changes in British Energy's internal controls over financial reporting during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, British Energy's internal controls over financial reporting. We are continuing to evaluate our controls and procedures with respect to the accounting for derivative financial instruments and are making certain procedural amendments going forward.

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For the three months ended 30 June 2004 (unaudited)

		3 months ended	Year ended
	Notes	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
		£m	restated
		£m	£m
Turnover:			
Group and share of discontinued joint venture turnover		372	1,660
Less: share of turnover in discontinued joint venture	3		(144)
Group turnover continuing activities	3	372	1,516
Operating costs before exceptional items	4	(392)	(1,459)
Exceptional operating items	4	(16)	283
Operating costs after exceptional items	4	(408)	(1,176)
Group operating (loss)/profit continuing activities		(36)	340
Share of operating profit of discontinued joint venture			21
Operating (loss)/profit: Group and share of discontinued joint venture		(36)	361
Exceptional gain on sale of joint venture and businesses	8	4	47
Financing (charges)/credits:			
Revalorisation charges	5	(67)	(185)
Net interest	5	(14)	(64)
Exceptional revalorisation (charges)/credits	5	(2)	68
Exceptional financing credits	5		5
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	3	(115)	232
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	6		2
(Loss)/profit for the year attributable to shareholders		(115)	234
(Deficit)/earnings per share (p):			
Basic	7	(19.1)	38.9

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2004 (unaudited)

	Notes	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
		£m	restated
		£m	£m
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets and investments	8	914	935
Current assets			
Decommissioning fund		453	440
Stocks		351	350
Debtors		340	374
Investments liquid funds	15	327	311
Cash at bank		174	262
		<u>1,645</u>	<u>1,737</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
borrowings	9	(220)	(197)
other	9	(1,198)	(1,250)
	9	<u>(1,418)</u>	<u>(1,447)</u>
Net current assets		<u>227</u>	<u>290</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,141</u>	<u>1,225</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
borrowings	9	(663)	(686)
other	9	(1,907)	(1,893)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	9	(1,852)	(1,812)
Net liabilities		<u>(3,281)</u>	<u>(3,166)</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called up equity share capital		277	277
Share premium		76	76
Capital redemption reserve		350	350
Profit and loss account		(4,077)	(3,962)
Equity shareholders funds	12	<u>(3,374)</u>	<u>(3,259)</u>
Non-equity shareholders interests		93	93

(3,281)

(3,166)

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

For the three months ended 30 June 2004 (unaudited)

	Notes	39 months ended 30 June 2004	Year ended 31 March 2004 restated
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		£m	£m
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	13	(61)	156
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		(15)	(75)
Taxation paid			(12)
Disposals	8	4	171
Management of liquid resources	14	(16)	(65)
(Decrease)/increase in cash	14	(88)	175

GROUP STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

For the three months ended 30 June 2004 (unaudited)

	Notes	3 months ended 30 June 2004	Year ended 31 March 2004 restated
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		£m	£m
(Loss)/profit for the period		(115)	234
Translation differences on foreign currency net investments			(15)
Total recognised (losses)/gains relating to the period		(115)	219
Prior year adjustment (as explained in note 1)		(2)	
Total gains and losses recognised since last annual report		(117)	219

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

(i) Introduction

These interim financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies consistent with those set out in the Group financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2004 except where detailed in (ii) below and note 2. This is the first set of quarterly results for the first three months of the year to be published by British Energy and therefore no comparative information is provided for the comparative period in the prior year. In accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules for Interim Financial Information, comparative information will be included in the quarterly results ending 31 December 2004 as appropriate. In this discussion British Energy plc is referred to as British Energy or the Company and the Group refers to the Company and its subsidiaries.

Fixed annual charges are apportioned to the quarterly period on the basis of time elapsed. Other expenses are accrued in accordance with the same principles used in the preparation of the annual accounts.

On 22 December 2003, the Group disposed of its 50% interest in AmerGen Energy Company LLC (AmerGen), therefore, its results up to the point of disposal have been classified as discontinued joint venture operations during the prior year. All other activities of the Group have been shown as continuing activities.

The financial statements for the three months ended 30 June 2004 are unaudited but have been formally reviewed by the auditors and their report to the Company is set out below. The figures for the year ended 31 March 2004 have been extracted from the full financial statements for that year, which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The information included in note 24 to the full financial statements relating to FRS17 disclosures for the Group's pension schemes have been revised by the Company's actuaries. The reported net pension deficit of £352m has been revised to £325m and the note has been reproduced at note 10 to these financial statements. The report of the auditors on these accounts was unqualified and did not contain a statement under either section 237(2) or section 237(3) of the Companies Act 1985. The auditors' report included within the Report and Accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2004 includes a reference to a fundamental uncertainty in respect of the going concern basis of the Group. These interim financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 30 September 2004.

(ii) Prior period adjustment

In preparing the financial statements for the quarter, the Group has adopted UITF Abstract 17 (revised 2003) (Employee Share Schemes) and UITF Abstract 38 (Accounting for ESOP Trusts) which relate to the measurement of the Employee Share Scheme

charge and the presentation and disclosure of own shares held. The adoption of these new UITF Abstracts represents a change in accounting policy and the comparative figures have been restated accordingly.

The Group has restated opening reserves to comply with the above UITF Abstracts so that the profit and loss account reserve has been decreased by £2m and other fixed asset investments have decreased by the same amount as at 1 April 2004. The impact of the adoption of UITF 38 on the profit and loss account for the 3 months ended 30 June 2004 and the year ended 31 March 2004 is not material. The effect of UITF 17 on the results for the periods ended 31 March 2004 and 30 June 2004 was not material.

(iii) Background to Proposed Restructuring

Having reviewed the longer-term prospects of the business, on 5 September 2002 the Directors of British Energy announced that they had no alternative but to seek financial support from the UK Government. On 9 September 2002 the UK Government granted the Company a credit

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

facility of up to £410m (the Government Facility) to provide working capital for the Group's immediate requirements and to allow British Energy to stabilise its trading position in the UK and North America. On 26 September 2002 British Energy announced that the UK Government had agreed to extend a revised Government Facility for up to £650m until 29 November 2002 to give the Company sufficient opportunity to develop a restructuring plan. On 28 November 2002 British Energy announced that the Government Facility had been further extended until 9 March 2003. The Government Facility is cross-guaranteed by the principal Group subsidiaries (excluding Eggborough Power (Holdings) Limited and Eggborough Power Limited (EPL)) and is secured by, among other things, fixed and floating charges and/or share pledges granted by those subsidiaries. The Government Facility also contains a requirement to provide further security as required by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (the Secretary of State) provided that the creation of such security would not cause a material default under any contract to which any member of the Group is a party or a breach of law.

On 14 February 2003 British Energy and certain of its subsidiaries announced that they had entered into binding standstill agreements, namely:

- (a) the Standstill Agreement between British Energy and its subsidiaries and the bank syndicate that provided financing for the Eggborough coal-fired power station (the Eggborough Banks), The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (RBS) as provider of a letter of credit to the Eggborough Banks, our significant trade creditors, Teesside Power Limited (TPL), TotalFinaElf Gas and Power Limited (now Total Gas & Power Limited) (Total) and Enron Capital & Trade Europe Finance LLC (Enron) (TPL, Total and Enron (which have subsequently transferred their respective interests to Deutsche Bank) being collectively referred to as the Significant Creditors) and British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL); and
- (b) the Bondholder Restructuring Agreement between British Energy, British Energy Generation Limited (BEG), British Energy Generation (UK) Limited (BEGUK) and certain holders of British Energy bonds due in 2003, 2006 and 2016 (the holders of those bonds being referred to collectively as the Bondholders).

On 7 March 2003 British Energy announced that the UK Government had agreed to extend the Government Facility in the reduced amount of £200m, such that it would mature on the earliest of (1) 30 September 2004, (2) the date on which the proposed restructuring, outlined in (iii) below, (the Proposed Restructuring) becomes effective, and (3) any date notified by the Secretary of State to British Energy on which repayment of amounts outstanding under the Government Facility are required as a result of a European Commission (Commission) decision or an obligation under EU law (the Final Maturity Date). In the meantime the Secretary of State may require repayment of the Government Facility if she concludes that the Proposed Restructuring cannot be completed in the manner or time scales envisaged. Following the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification from the Commission that as far as the Proposed Restructuring involves the grant of State aid by the Government, such aid is compatible with the Common Market, no further drawings can be made under the Government Facility. Since no incremental collateral can be posted under the Government Facility, incremental collateral requirements are being provided by a charge over cash deposits in certain of our accounts. The final maturity date has now been amended from 30 September 2004 to 31 January 2005.

On 1 October 2003, the Company announced that it had agreed the terms of the Proposed Restructuring of the Group with certain of the Group's creditors and the Secretary of State and by 31 October 2003 had obtained the further approvals and agreements required.

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The Company also agreed the proposed disposal of its 50% interest in AmerGen to Exelon Generation Company LLC (Exelon) in October 2003 for US\$277m, subject to various adjustments and conditions including a break fee of US\$8.295m payable to FPL Group Inc. The disposal was completed on 22 December 2003.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

The Government Facility was temporarily increased to £275m on 27 November 2003. The additional £75m ceased to be available on the Group's receipt of the proceeds from the sale of AmerGen on 23 December 2003.

On 19 December 2003 Bondholders approved amendments to the trust deed constituting the bonds to facilitate the implementation of the Proposed Restructuring and to amend the standstill arrangements under the trust deed on terms consistent with the Creditor Restructuring Agreement (as defined in (iii) below). Following formal amendment of the trust deed, a new standstill agreement has been entered into with creditors in place of the Standstill Agreement dated 14 February 2003 in accordance with the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement.

The Group has retained a trading relationship with a high proportion of its existing contracted counterparties during the period since its announcement of 5 September 2002, although in most cases it has been required to provide alternative credit support to a parent company guarantee. Given the financial circumstances of the Group, certain contracts may be capable of being terminated. Such termination may result in termination payments being payable as well as having an adverse effect on the Group's cash flows.

The Board is exploring initiatives to achieve sufficient liquid resources to implement the Proposed Restructuring, including investigating the availability of third party financing. On 25 August 2004 BEG entered into a three year trade receivables financing facility (Receivables Facility) with a financial institution under which, on utilisation, BEG will sell to the financial institution on a full recourse basis receivables arising from its direct supply business. The amount of funding available to BEG under the Receivables Facility is limited to £60m and is dependent on the amount of eligible receivables available at utilisation, which, in turn, is subject, inter alia, to seasonal changes in the demand and price for electricity and to limits on customer concentrations within the receivables portfolio. On completion of the Proposed Restructuring the Receivables Facility will be guaranteed by the other principal companies within the Group (excluding EPL). The Receivables Facility is subject to customary representations, warranties and covenants appropriate to the financial situation of BEG and the prospective guarantors. Events of default include, inter alia, non-payment, cross-default, occurrence of insolvency related events, revocation of the electricity supply license and the exercise by the Secretary of State of her right not to proceed with the Proposed Restructuring if, in her opinion, the Group will not be viable without access to additional financing. As at 29 September 2004, the Receivables Facility had not been utilised.

The alternative credit support currently in place has been provided by the Group under banking arrangements involving the UK Government established in connection with the Government Facility. The Group is seeking to replace these with arrangements which do not involve the UK Government before the Final Maturity Date of the Government Facility and over the longer term to reduce the demand for trading collateral.

(iv) Terms of the Proposed Restructuring

The terms of the Proposed Restructuring are set out in:

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- (a) the Creditor Restructuring Agreement dated as of 30 September 2003 and entered into by the Company, certain other Group companies, the Significant Creditors, RBS, the members of the ad hoc committee of British Energy's Bondholders and BNFL (as amended by a side letter entered into on 31 October 2003) (the Creditor Restructuring Agreement); and
- (b) the Government Restructuring Agreement dated 1 October 2003 and entered into between the Company, BEGUK, BEG, British Energy Power and Energy Trading Limited (BEPET), British Energy Investment Limited, District Energy Limited, British Energy International Holdings Limited, British Energy US Holdings Inc., British Energy L.P., Peel Park Funding

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Limited, the Secretary of State, the Nuclear Generation Decommissioning Fund Limited (to be renamed the Nuclear Liabilities Fund Limited (NLF)) and the trustees of the Nuclear Trust (the Government Restructuring Agreement).

The Creditor Restructuring Agreement required certain further creditor approvals and sign ups. By 31 October 2003 all these requirements had been satisfied as follows:

- (a) bondholders representing in aggregate with RBS 88.8% of the combined amount owing to the Bondholders and RBS had signed up to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement;
- (b) the terms of the Proposed Restructuring had been approved by the credit committee of RBS; and
- (c) all of the lenders and swap providers comprising the Eggborough Banks had signed up to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement with full credit committee approvals.

The principal features of the Proposed Restructuring include:

- compromising the existing claims of Bondholders, RBS, Significant Creditors and the Eggborough Banks in exchange for New Bonds and New Ordinary Shares and settling new arrangements for Eggborough (the claims of the Bondholders and RBS will be compromised pursuant to a scheme of arrangement to be proposed to these creditors by the Company (the Creditors Scheme). In the case of the Significant Creditors and the Eggborough Banks, claims will be compromised pursuant to the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement itself);
- the amendment and extension of our contracts with BNFL for front-end and back-end related fuel services for the Group's AGR stations announced on 31 March 2003 and 16 May 2003 and the implementation of a new trading strategy;
- establishing the NLF which will fund certain uncontracted nuclear liabilities and decommissioning costs in return for initial and ongoing contributions from British Energy; and
- the Government funding certain contracted liabilities relating to historic spent fuel and certain uncontracted nuclear liabilities and decommissioning costs to the extent of any shortfall in the NLF.

Creditor Restructuring Agreement

Conditions

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Completion of the Proposed Restructuring is subject to a large number of conditions in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement including, amongst other things:

- the receipt by the Secretary of State of notification of a satisfactory decision by the Commission that insofar as the proposals involve the grant of State aid by the UK Government, such aid is compatible with the common market. The Secretary of State received this notification on 22 September 2004;
- there being no material adverse change (see below);
- the Government Restructuring Agreement becoming unconditional;
- agreement of presently unsettled documents with creditors;
- the approval of the Court of Session, Scotland; and
- the listing of the New Shares and Bonds.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the purposes of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, a material adverse change is defined as a material adverse change in the current or future business or operations, the financial or trading position, profits or prospects of the Group as a whole or of EPL or a change in the current or future business or operations, the financial or trading position, profits or prospects of the Group as a whole which is likely to have a material adverse effect on the value of the New Bonds, the New Ordinary Shares (to be issued as part of the Proposed Restructuring), the CTA global bond to be held by EPL to fund the £150m of new bond-equivalent payments under the new Eggborough arrangements (as represented by the CTA Global Bond) or the new Eggborough arrangements.

Creditor allocations

Under the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement the creditors have agreed (subject to certain conditions) to extinguish their existing unsecured claims against the Group in exchange for £275m of New Bonds and at least 97.5% of the issued ordinary shares of the new parent company of the Group (British Energy Group plc).

The Eggborough Banks as creditors with security over, amongst other things, the shares in, and assets of, EPL have agreed to replace their existing secured claims with a right to receive £150 million under an Amended Credit Agreement on substantially the same payment terms as the New Bonds. In addition, the Eggborough Banks will be granted: (i) options under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL on 31 March 2010 in consideration for, amongst other things, £104 million (subject to certain adjustments depending on the condition of the Eggborough power station) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under an Amended Credit Agreement at such time; and (ii) options under which they may acquire the shares in, or assets of, EPL on and at any time after the occurrence of an event of default under an Amended Credit Agreement that is continuing in consideration for, amongst other things, a fee (this fee varies depending on the type of event of default) and the cancellation of the outstanding payments under an Amended Credit Agreement at such time. The Eggborough Banks will be entitled to assign and/or transfer all (but not part only) of their rights under the options to a third party, subject to a pre-emption right in favour of British Energy Group plc under which a member of British Energy Group plc may purchase such rights at 105% of the price offered to the relevant third party. The Eggborough Banks' security will secure, amongst other things, the Eggborough Banks' rights under an Amended Credit Agreement and the options.

Standstill arrangements

The Creditor Restructuring Agreement and ancillary agreements restrict the Significant Creditors, the Eggborough Banks, RBS, each Bondholder who signs up to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement (the Consenting Bondholders) and BNFL (together the Consenting Creditors) from taking any steps to initiate insolvency proceedings or demand or accelerate any amounts due and payable by British Energy during the period of the standstill (the Standstill Period) until the earliest of:

- (a) 12 noon on the earlier of 31 January 2005 and the date falling 120 days after the satisfaction of the initial conditions to the Proposed Restructuring (the Restructuring Longstop Date);

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- (b) termination of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement or the standstill arrangements in accordance with their terms; or
- (c) the completion of the Proposed Restructuring.

Any of the Consenting Creditors may terminate the standstill arrangements following the occurrence of a termination event. The termination events include, inter alia, certain insolvency

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

events affecting the Company, BEG, BEGUK, BEPET or EPL; acceleration of the Government Facility; and any of the Company, BEG, BEGUK, BEPET or EPL failing to discharge certain continuing obligations. If the standstill arrangements terminate, the Creditor Restructuring Agreement will also terminate and vice versa.

The standstill arrangements were extended to include all Bondholders on 24 March 2003 as set out in a supplemental trust deed dated 31 March 2003.

Under the standstill arrangements, RBS, the Eggborough Banks, Significant Creditors and Bondholders are to be paid interest but not principal in respect of any claims against the Group. Interest will continue to be paid to Bondholders and the Eggborough Banks in accordance with existing arrangements. The terms of the bonds were amended in March 2003 for interest to be paid on a six monthly rather than an annual basis. In respect of the Significant Creditors and RBS, interest was paid first on 25 March 2003 and is subsequently payable on the last business day of every six month period thereafter based on the agreed claim amounts (except in the case of RBS where interest payments will be based on the present value of its claim amount as at 14 February 2003). Commission will also continue to be paid to RBS under the facility agreement for the letter of credit to the Eggborough Banks.

The Creditor Restructuring Agreement also contains certain covenants by British Energy for the benefit of the Consenting Creditors that have signed it, as well as for the benefit of the remaining Bondholders pursuant to a supplemental trust deed dated 31 March 2003, including certain limitations on acquisitions and disposals, a prohibition on the payment of dividends and on the issuing of equity as well as a negative pledge.

Mechanics for implementation and shareholder allocation

The Proposed Restructuring will involve establishing British Energy Group plc as the new parent company of the Group and a directly wholly owned subsidiary of British Energy Group plc, as an intermediate holding company (British Energy Holdings plc).

The Company proposes to cancel its existing ordinary shares of 44^{28/}₄₃ pence each and A shares of 60 pence each under a scheme of arrangement with its shareholders (the Members Scheme⁴³), and issue to shareholders: (i) New Ordinary Shares in British Energy Group plc equal to 2.5% of the issued share capital of British Energy Group plc immediately following implementation of the Proposed Restructuring, and (ii) warrants to subscribe for a maximum of 5% of the thereby diluted ordinary issued share capital of British Energy Group plc (excluding, amongst others, the impact of conversion of the NLF Cash Sweep Payment (see section entitled Government Restructuring Agreement below)) immediately following implementation of the Proposed Restructuring. The subscription price under the warrants is £28.95m in aggregate, equivalent to an equity market capitalisation of the Group of £550m following implementation of the Proposed Restructuring. This will result in a very significant dilution of the holdings of the existing shareholders.

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If the Members Scheme is not approved by the requisite majority of shareholders or for any other reason the Members Scheme is not implemented, the Company will dispose of all its business and assets to British Energy Holdings plc (the Disposal). If the Disposal is approved by the shareholders in general meeting, shareholders will receive only warrants to subscribe for a maximum of 5% of the ordinary issued share capital of British Energy Group plc immediately following implementation of the Proposed Restructuring. If the Disposal is not approved by the shareholders in general meeting, shareholders will not receive any shares or warrants and the Company will be delisted.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

On 3 September 2004 two groups of shareholders, together holding 10.22% of our ordinary shares, requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting (the Requisitioned EGM). Those groups of shareholders were Polygon, Brandes and their respective associates. The Company is, as a result, obliged under the Companies Act to call the Requisitioned EGM. One of the resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes would have the effect, if passed, of requiring the Company to seek shareholder approval prior to applying for the cancellation of its listings in London and New York. If the Company was required, under the terms of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, to take steps to cancel the London listings of its shares, but could not do so as a result of a failure to achieve such shareholder approval, the Company believes, having taken legal advice, that it would be likely to be in breach of the Creditor Restructuring Agreement.

The Company announced on 23 September that the Requisitioned EGM will be held on 22 October 2004 and that as a result of this attempt to frustrate the Proposed Restructuring agreed by the Company in October 2003, it would be applying to the UKLA to cancel the listings of its ordinary and A Shares. As a consequence, and as announced on 23 September 2004, the NYSE suspended trading on the Company's ADRs prior to the opening of trading on 28 September 2004. At that time, the NYSE also instituted delisting proceedings.

On 24 September 2004 the Company announced (i) the unanimous recommendation of the Board to shareholders to vote against the resolutions proposed by Polygon and Brandes at the Requisitioned EGM, (ii) that it intended to seek an extension to the Creditor Restructuring Agreement long stop date of 31 January 2005 for the Proposed Restructuring and (iii) that, in accordance with the Creditor Restructuring Agreement, it would execute a business transfer agreement whereby the Company's assets would, conditional on the Proposed Restructuring becoming effective, be transferred to a new intermediate holding company of the restructured British Energy group.

On 30 September 2004 Polygon announced that it would withdraw its support for the Requisitioned EGM. Polygon stated that, having considered the Company's recent circulars, they now believe there is no commercial logic for it supporting the resolutions to be considered at the Requisitioned EGM and consequently have confirmed that they will vote against the resolutions and not further oppose the Proposed Restructuring. The Requisitioned EGM will take place on 22 October 2004 as described in the notice mailed to our shareholders. Our Board continues to reiterate its unanimous recommendation to all shareholders to vote against the resolutions proposed for the Requisitioned EGM.

Government Restructuring Agreement

The Government Restructuring Agreement provides for the circumstances in which the Secretary of State will support the Proposed Restructuring, including entering into the agreements with the Group and, in certain cases, the NLF, which effect the proposals regarding the manner in which the decommissioning and other uncontracted liabilities of the Group are to be funded and the agreements relating to the funding of certain of the contracted nuclear liabilities of the Group (the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements). It also effects some further amendments to the Government Facility. As noted above the Government Facility will terminate (unless previously extended) on the Final Maturity Date.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Conditions

Under the Government Restructuring Agreement, the obligations of the Secretary of State to support the Proposed Restructuring (including as the holder of a number of special shares) and of the parties to the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements to enter into them are conditional on, among other things:

- the Creditor Restructuring Agreement becoming unconditional in all respects by the Restructuring Longstop Date;
- the Secretary of State not having determined and notified British Energy in writing that, in her opinion, the Group (including British Energy Group plc and British Energy Holdings plc) will not be viable in all reasonably foreseeable conditions without access to additional financing (other than financing which the Secretary of State is satisfied has been committed and will continue to be available when required);
- there being no continuing event of default under the Government Facility;
- receipt by the Secretary of State of copies of letters giving the confirmations relating to working capital referred to in the terms of Rule 2.18 of the United Kingdom Listing Authority (UKLA) Listing Rules without qualification (whether or not British Energy Group plc is to be listed on the Official List of the UKLA);
- the representations and warranties given by the members of the Group being true, accurate and not misleading when given and if repeated at the effective date of the Proposed Restructuring; and
- there being no breach of any undertaking given by any member of the Group pursuant to the Government Restructuring Agreement which, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, is or is likely to be material in the context of the Proposed Restructuring.

If any of the conditions are not fulfilled or waived by the Secretary of State by the time specified in the requisite conditions or if no such date is specified, by the Restructuring Longstop Date, the Government Restructuring Agreement will terminate. In addition if a material adverse change (as defined in the Creditor Restructuring Agreement and referred to above) occurs at any time before the Court order sanctioning the Creditors' Scheme is filed with the Registrar of Companies in Scotland, the Secretary of State may give written notice to British Energy to terminate the Government Restructuring Agreement.

Nuclear Liabilities Agreements

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Under the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements to be entered into pursuant to the Government Restructuring Agreement between the Company and the Secretary of State, among others, dated 10 October 2003, the NLF will fund certain of the Group's qualifying uncontracted nuclear liabilities and costs of decommissioning the Group's nuclear power stations, and the Secretary of State will fund certain of the Group's contracted liabilities relating to historic spent fuel and qualifying nuclear liabilities, and qualifying decommissioning costs to the extent there is any shortfall in the NLF. In consideration for the assumption of these liabilities, British Energy Holdings plc will issue £275m in New Bonds to the NLF. In addition, members of the Group will make the following payments to the NLF: (i) fixed decommissioning contributions of £20m per annum (indexed to RPI and tapering as stations are currently scheduled to close); (ii) £150,000 (indexed to RPI) for every tonne of uranium loaded into Sizewell B, our Pressurised Water Reactor nuclear power station, after completion of the Proposed Restructuring; and (iii) an annual contribution equal to a percentage of the Group's adjusted free cash flow (initially 65%, subject to adjustment, but not to exceed 65%) (the NLF Cash Sweep Payment).

The entitlement of the NLF to the NLF Cash Sweep Payment is convertible into an equity shareholding in British Energy Group plc equal to the same percentage of the thereby enlarged

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

issued share capital. Although the NLF will receive convertible ordinary shares equal to the then prevailing NLF Cash Sweep Payment percentage (again subject to a maximum of 65%) the terms of the convertible ordinary shares into which such entitlement will convert will limit the general voting rights attaching to such shares equal to the amount which can be held without triggering a mandatory offer under the Takeover Code, being currently 29.9% of the voting rights in the Company (and, for this purpose, taking into account the voting rights attributable to any other ordinary shares held or acquired by any person acting in concert with the NLF). The convertible ordinary shares will be converted into ordinary shares with no such restrictions on voting rights automatically on their transfer by the NLF to a third party but may not otherwise be converted at the election of the NLF.

In addition, under the Nuclear Liabilities Agreements, British Energy is required to establish and maintain cash reserves to provide collateral for trading and operations, cover lost revenue and costs resulting from plant outages and to meet other working capital requirements (the Cash Reserve). The initial target amount for the Cash Reserve is £490m plus the amount by which cash employed as collateral exceeds £200m.

The above is a summary only and investors and others are strongly advised to read the entire announcement which was issued by the Company on 1 October 2003, which contains additional important information not included in this summary.

(v) Principles underlying going concern assumption

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with FRS18 Accounting Policies, because British Energy has not been liquidated nor is it ceasing to trade. The validity of this assumption depends on the fulfilment of the conditions of the Proposed Restructuring and achievement of the Group's cash generation initiatives, in each case within the timescales envisaged or required and the continuation of the restructuring and standstill arrangements with certain creditors and financial assistance from the Secretary of State pursuant to the Government Facility and there being no material deterioration in the Group's cash flow position, performance or outlook. This assumption is, therefore, subject to a large number of significant uncertainties and important conditions.

If for any reason British Energy is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due the Company may have to take appropriate insolvency proceedings and cease to be a going concern, in which case adjustments may have to be made to reduce the monetary values of assets to the recoverable amounts, to provide for further liabilities that might arise and to reclassify the fixed assets and long term liabilities as current assets and liabilities.

2. NEW ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Own shares held

The Group has adopted the new UITF Abstract 17 (revised 2003) (Employee Share Schemes) and UITF Abstract 38 (Accounting for ESOP Trusts) which relate to the measurement of the Employee Share Scheme charge and the presentation of own shares held. As a result where the Group purchases shares in its equity share capital through the Group's Employee Share Trust or Qualifying Employee Share Trust the net consideration paid is deducted from the profit and loss account reserve in arriving at total equity shareholders' funds. Where such shares are subsequently sold or reissued any consideration received is included in equity shareholders' funds.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****3. TURNOVER AND (LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION****(a) Output and Turnover**

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	TWh	TWh
Output		
United Kingdom	16.4	72.6
	£m	£m
Continuing activities		
United Kingdom		
Wholesale generation sales	153	703
Direct supply sales	213	782
Turnover from continuing activities excluding miscellaneous income	366	1,485
Miscellaneous income	6	31
Turnover from continuing activities	372	1,516
Share of turnover in discontinued joint venture		144

The turnover and profit before tax of the Group's joint venture, AmerGen, relate entirely to activities in the United States of America. On 22 December 2003 the Group disposed of its interest in AmerGen.

(b) (Loss)/Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation

A geographical analysis of (loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation is as follows:

3 months ended	Year ended
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	<u>30 June 2004</u>	<u>31 March 2004</u>
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
United Kingdom	(115)	187
United States share of discontinued joint venture		45
	<u>(115)</u>	<u>232</u>

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Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****4. OPERATING COSTS**

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Continuing activities		
Fuel	104	413
Materials and services	127	512
Staff costs	73	224
Depreciation charges	18	50
	<u>322</u>	<u>1,199</u>
Energy supply costs	70	260
	<u>392</u>	<u>1,459</u>
Exceptional operating items		
Materials and services	5	25
Staff costs	8	
Depreciation charges/(credits)	3	(295)
Amounts credited to non-operational assets		(13)
	<u>16</u>	<u>(283)</u>
Operating costs after exceptional items	<u>408</u>	<u>1,176</u>
Analysis of exceptional operating items		
Restructuring costs	5	43
Severance costs	8	
Settlement of claim		(18)
Fixed asset write-up		(295)
Depreciation – corporate headquarters	3	
UK decommissioning fund write-up		(13)
	<u>16</u>	<u>(283)</u>

There were exceptional materials and services costs of £5m within the three-month period in respect of costs incurred on advisory fees and other costs associated with restructuring the Group's activities. An exceptional charge of £8m has been recorded for severance costs in relation to the Group's restructuring. An exceptional depreciation charge of £3m was recorded to align the carrying value of the corporate headquarters at Peel Park, East Kilbride, Scotland to its market value.

Exceptional operating credits amounting to £283m were reported for the year ended 31 March 2004. These amounts are further explained as follows:

- charges incurred on advisory fees and other costs associated with the Proposed Restructuring of the Group's activities of £43m in the year ended 31 March 2004;
- settlement of long standing disputes with Siemens Power Generation Limited (Siemens) relating to work done since 1996 by the former Parsons business. Under the terms of the settlement Siemens paid the Company approximately £18m;
- exceptional depreciation credit of £295m in the year ended 31 March 2004 in respect of the reversal of previous impairment losses in the carrying value of fixed assets following a review of economic values and net realisable values of fixed assets; and
- the investments held within the UK decommissioning fund were written-up to reflect an increase in market value, resulting in a reversal of the previous write-down of £13m.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****5. FINANCING CHARGES/(CREDITS)**

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Revalorisation of nuclear liabilities		
changes in price levels	46	97
discharge of one year's discount	31	118
	<u>77</u>	<u>215</u>
Revalorisation credit of UK decommissioning fund	(10)	(28)
Share of revalorisation of discontinued joint venture		(2)
	<u>67</u>	<u>185</u>
Revalorisation charges before exceptional items	67	185
Interest payable less receivable	14	64
	<u>81</u>	<u>249</u>
Total financing charges prior to exceptional charges/(credits)	81	249
Exceptional revalorisation charges/(credits)	2	(68)
	<u>83</u>	<u>181</u>
Exceptional interest and other financing credits		(5)
	<u>83</u>	<u>176</u>

At 30 June 2004 the market value of the UK decommissioning fund had increased to £453m (31 March 2004: £440m). The revalorisation credit of £10m relating to the UK decommissioning fund and the regular contributions of £5m have increased the book value to £455m at 30 June 2004. An exceptional charge of £2m in the three months ended 30 June 2004 is required to reduce the book value to a market value of £453m at 30 June 2004. The market value remains below the amount that would have been calculated by revalorising on an actuarial basis the total amounts that have been invested in the fund.

At 31 March 2004 the market value of the UK decommissioning fund was £440m, thereby necessitating an exceptional credit of £59m in the twelve months ended 31 March 2004 to reverse previously written-down amounts. As a result of the UK decommissioning fund receivable being restated at market value, a £13m exceptional credit was recorded in operating costs to reverse a prior write-down of non-operational assets, and exceptional credits of £46m were recorded in finance charges for the twelve months ended 31 March 2004 to reverse the prior write-down of previous revalorisation. The market value was below the amount that would have been calculated by revalorising on an actuarial basis the total amounts that have been invested in the fund.

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The market value of the AmerGen decommissioning fund had also increased over the period to 22 December 2003, and the British Energy share of the exceptional credit was £22m in the year to the date of sale and recorded within the Group result for the year ended 31 March 2004.

The total of the UK decommissioning fund and AmerGen decommissioning fund exceptional revalorisation credits included within financing charges for the year ended 31 March 2004 amounted to £68m.

At 31 March 2004 the value of the interest rate swaps were marked to market and the resultant valuation was lower than the book value, resulting in an exceptional credit of £5m for the year ended 31 March 2004. There was no exceptional credit for the quarter ended 30 June 2004.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****6. TAXATION**

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Tax on results excluding exceptional items		(2)

There is no UK current tax charge for the three months ended 30 June 2004 (31 March 2004: £nil). The tax credit of £2m for the year ended 31 March 2004 represents the release of an over provision of foreign tax in earlier years. The taxation charges reflect the anticipated effective tax rates relating to the underlying business performance on a pre-restructured basis for the year ending 31 March 2005.

7. (DEFICIT)/EARNINGS PER SHARE

The (deficit)/earnings per share for each period has been calculated by dividing the (loss)/profit on ordinary activities after taxation by the weighted average of ordinary shares in issue during the period, based on the following information:

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
(Loss)/profit for the period (£m)	(115)	234
Basic weighted average share capital (number of shares, million)	602	602

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**(i) Investment in own shares**

Following the adoption of UITF Abstract 38 (Accounting for ESOP Trusts) the investment in own shares is no longer shown as a fixed asset investment but is deducted from the profit and loss account reserve. This adjustment has also been made for the 31

March 2004 balances.

(ii) Carrying value of fixed assets

The Directors reviewed the economic values and net realisable values of the Group's fixed assets at 31 March 2004 and compared them to their book value. As a result of this review the carrying value of fixed assets was increased by £295m.

The carrying value of the nuclear stations was calculated by discounting the expected future cash flows from continued use of the assets, having made appropriate assumptions regarding future operating performance. The valuation of Eggborough Station was based on an assessment of net realisable value.

The electricity price assumptions were a very significant component of the asset value calculation. The Directors considered the market's views on future prices of wholesale electricity and also the forecasts specifically commissioned for the Company. In determining the price assumptions the Directors took a cautious view on there being a significant recovery in prices. As market prices are outside the Directors' control actual prices may differ from those forecast.

The Directors will review the economic assumptions underlying the calculation of fixed asset carrying values at 31 March 2005 in line with the requirements of FRS11 Impairment of Fixed Assets and Goodwill, and make revisions as appropriate.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(iii) Sale of investments**

Total cash receipts in the period in relation to the discontinued activities of Bruce Power amounted to £4m. The cash receipt of £4m received on 25 May 2004 was in partial consideration of the re-start of the Bruce A units.

9. CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS

	Nuclear liabilities	Debt	Other creditors and provisions	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Creditors:				
Amounts falling due within one year	579	220	619	1,418
Amounts falling due after more than one year	1,907	663		2,570
Provisions for liabilities and charges	1,812		40	1,852
As at 30 June 2004	4,298	883	659	5,840
As at 31 March 2004	4,223	883	732	5,838

Nuclear liabilities including accruals for AGR fuel services relating to spent AGR fuel are based on the terms of contracts with BNFL (dated 30 March 1995 and 3 June 1997), most of which include fixed prices subject to indexation, or the Group's estimates where no contracts exist. Provisions for services relating to the disposal of nuclear waste and the storage and disposal of PWR spent fuel are based on cost estimates derived from the latest technical assessments. The costs of decommissioning the power stations have been estimated on the basis of technical assessments of the processes and methods likely to be used for decommissioning under the current regulatory regime. The estimates are designed to reflect the costs of making the sites of the power stations available for alternative use in accordance with the Group's decommissioning strategy.

Other creditors of £619m include £316m (31 March 2004: £316m) in respect of claims relating to onerous trading contracts. These contracts are pre-NETA electricity trading contracts with Enron, TPL and Total. The Enron and Total contracts were terminated during the year ended March 2003, which gave rise to claims for certain amounts which have become payable. Interest is payable and being paid on standstill balances at a rate of 6%, other than for the bonds and the amounts due to the Eggborough banks which continue under their original terms. These accounts reflect the claim amounts which have been agreed in principle with Enron, TPL and Total for the purposes of the Proposed Restructuring. Enron, TPL and Total have subsequently transferred their claims to Deutsche Bank.

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The analysis of the maturity of borrowings has been prepared based on the dates when the borrowings mature under the existing contractual arrangements. However, the standstill arrangements which have been put in place have the effect of deferring the payments of certain amounts due until the Bonds and Eggborough project finance loan are replaced or amended (as the case may be) as part of the Proposed Restructuring or earlier termination of the standstill. The maturity profile of borrowings will change upon completion of the Proposed Restructuring.

Included in the provisions total of £40m (31 March 2004: £36m) is an interest rate swaps provision in respect of swap contracts which were put in place to hedge interest rate risk. The Directors have reviewed the necessity for these swaps in the context of the Proposed Restructuring and have concluded that the swaps are no longer effective as hedges. The balance on the provision of £33m at 31 March 2004 has reduced to £29m through utilisations of £2m and revaluation to market value of £2m.

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PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

10. POST RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

This note is included for the three months ended 30 June 2004 to restate the FRS17 disclosures by the Company's actuaries. This note will not normally be produced as part of the quarterly published information.

British Energy operates two separate pension arrangements in the UK within the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS), the British Energy Generation Group (BEGG) for the majority of employees and the British Energy Combined Group (BECG) for the employees at Eggborough Power Station. The ESPS is a defined benefit scheme, which is externally funded and subject to triennial actuarial valuation. Each pension group that participates in the ESPS is financially independent from the other groups.

The most recent triennial valuations of the BEGG and BECG schemes were carried out at 31 March 2001 by the independent ESPS actuary. Formal triennial valuations of the BEGG and the BECG pension schemes at 31 March 2004 are currently being undertaken and are expected to be completed in October 2004. The combined deficits are expected to be £385m, which falls within the range of £330m to £440m disclosed previously.

The valuations for accounting purposes have been carried out by a separate independent actuary using the projected unit method. The principal assumptions adopted for both these valuations were that, over the long-term, the investment rate of return would be 6% per annum for benefits already accrued, and 6% for the return achieved on future contributions. The rate of salary increase would be 4.25% per annum and the rate of pension increase would be 2.75% per annum. Assets were taken at market value. At the date of the 31 March 2004 valuation, the combined market value of assets of both schemes was £1,822m. This represents 91% of the benefits that had accrued to members after allowing for expected future increases in earnings. The SSAP 24 charge of £13m for the quarter reflects this revised information.

British Energy contributed 17.1% to the BEGG pension scheme and 15.3% to the BECG pension scheme for the period from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004. Contributing members contribute 5% and 6% to the respective plans. Any deficiency disclosed in the BEGG or BECG pension schemes following an actuarial valuation has to be made good by British Energy.

The Group's UK pension costs for the period to 30 June 2004 were £13m (31 March 2004: £nil). At 30 June 2004 there was a SSAP 24 prepayment of £95m (31 March 2004: £101m) in the UK.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****FRS17 disclosures**

The Group has not implemented FRS17 in the accounts for the three months ended 30 June 2004. At 31 March 2004, the asset values used in the financial statements were based on actuarial reports. These have subsequently been found to be inaccurate and therefore the figures below have been restated as indicated to reflect these correct values. The market value of the plans was previously reported as £1,795m resulting in a net pension liability of £352m which are now £1,822m and £325m respectively. The disclosures required under the transitional arrangements for UK plans within FRS17 as advised by the Company's actuaries are, however, set out below:

a) Major assumptions for FRS17 disclosures at:

	30 June 2004	31 March 2004	31 March 2003
	% pa	% pa	% pa
Price inflation	2.80	2.75	2.25
Rate of general increase in salaries	4.30	4.25	3.75
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.80	2.75	2.25
Discount rate	5.75	5.50	5.50

b) The assets and liabilities of the scheme on an FRS17 basis and the expected rates of return at period end are:

	Rate of return	Value at 30 June 2004	Rate of return	Value at 31 March 2004 Restated	Rate of return	Value at 31 March 2003
	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m
Equities	8.25	1,109	8.25	1,102	8.5	878
Bonds	5.1	473	4.75	469	4.5	438
Property	6.4	218	6.4	223	6.5	183
Others	4.0	27	3.75	28	3.75	26
Total market value of plan assets		1,827		1,822		1,525
Present value of plan liabilities		(2,099)		(2,147)		(1,877)
Pension liability		(272)		(325)		(352)

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No deferred tax asset is recognisable on the pension deficit at 30 June 2004 and 31 March 2004, based on application of the deferred tax accounting policy.

c) Analysis of the amount that would be charged to operating profit on an FRS17 basis:

	3 months ended 30 June 2004 (Gain)/loss	Year ended 31 March 2004 (Gain)/loss
	£m	£m
Operating profit		
Current service cost	9	35
Past service cost		1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total charge to operating profits	9	36
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Finance income		
Expected return on assets in the pension scheme	(32)	(106)
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	30	102
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net credit to finance income	(2)	(4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total profit and loss account charge before tax	7	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

d) Movement in plan deficit during the period on an FRS17 basis:

	30 June 2004	31 March 2004 Restated
	£m	£m
Deficit in plan at beginning of the period	(325)	(352)
Contributions paid	7	34
Current service cost	(9)	(35)
Past service cost		(1)
Other finance income	2	4
Actuarial gain (note 10 (e))	53	25
Deficit in the plan at the end of the period	(272)	(325)

e) History of experience gains and losses which would have been recognised on an FRS17 basis:

	30 June 2004		31 March 2004		31 March 2003	
	(Gain)/loss	As % of plan assets or liabilities	(Gain)/ loss Restated	As % of plan assets or liabilities Restated	(Gain)/loss	As % of plan assets or liabilities
	£m		£m		£m	
Consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses						
Actual return less expected return on post employment plan assets	16	1	(228)	(13)	410	27
Experience gains and losses arising on plan liabilities	1		34	2	(3)	
Changes in assumptions (financial and demographic)	(70)	3	169	8		
Actuarial gain recognisable in consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses before tax	(53)		(25)		407	
As % of plan liabilities at end of period	3		1		22	

f) Group reconciliation of net liabilities and reserves under FRS17:

	30 June 2004		31 March 2004	
	Net liabilities	Profit and loss account reserve	Net liabilities Restated	Profit and loss account reserve Restated
	£m	£m	£m	£m
As reported	(3,281)	(4,077)	(3,166)	(3,962)
SSAP 24 prepayment	(95)	(95)	(101)	(101)
Net liabilities excluding defined benefit asset	(3,376)	(4,172)	(3,267)	(4,063)
FRS17 pension asset	1,827	1,827	1,822	1,822
FRS17 defined benefit liability	(2,099)	(2,099)	(2,147)	(2,147)
Including FRS17 pension liability	(3,648)	(4,444)	(3,592)	(4,388)

No deferred tax asset is recognisable on the pension deficit or pension prepayment.

Table of Contents**PART IV FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Continued)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****11. SHARE CAPITAL/ESOPS**

British Energy Employee Share Trust (BEEST) and Qualifying Employee Share Trust (QUEST) hold shares in British Energy for the purpose of satisfying options exercisable under the Company's employee share option and sharesave schemes. At 30 June 2004, BEEST held 21,734,839 ordinary shares (31 March 2004: 21,734,839) and QUEST held 5,292,103 ordinary shares (31 March 2004: 5,292,103) and 19,165,471 A shares (31 March 2004: 19,165,471) in British Energy plc.

12. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
As at 1 April 2004 and at 1 April 2003	(3,259)	(3,476)
(Loss)/profit for the period	(115)	234
Translation differences on foreign currency net investment		(15)
Prior year adjustment (as explained in note 1)		(2)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
As at 30 June 2004 and at 31 March 2004	<u>(3,374)</u>	<u>(3,259)</u>

13. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING CASH FLOW

	3 months ended	Year ended
	30 June 2004	31 March 2004
	£m	£m
Group operating (loss)/profit continuing activities	(36)	340
Depreciation charges/(credit) (includes fixed asset write-up and lease amortisation)	21	(245)
Nuclear liabilities charged to operating costs	35	130
Nuclear liabilities discharged	(37)	(59)
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions	8	(3)
Regular contributions to decommissioning fund	(5)	(19)
Operating exceptional decommissioning fund movement		(13)
(Increase)/decrease in working capital	(47)	25
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	<u>(61)</u>	<u>156</u>

14. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	<u>£m</u>
Decrease in cash in the period	(88)
Increase in liquid resources	16
	<u> </u>
Increase in net debt in the period	(72)
Net debt at 1 April 2004	(310)
	<u> </u>
Net debt at 30 June 2004	<u>(382)</u>