



Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood

Committee Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Andy Cooper, Managing Director, GE Power Conversion UK Ltd, Rugby (via email)

18 October 2021

Dear Mr Cooper,

I am writing on behalf of the House of Commons Defence Committee to request information about the potential sale of GE Steam Power to EDF Energy. The Committee is concerned that the sale may negatively affect the UK's submarine fleet.

The Committee has been informed that the potential sale would include the sale of a GE site in Rugby that manufactures turbines for the UK's Astute and Dreadnought nuclear submarine programmes. The Committee is concerned that this would result in a change in foreign ownership of intellectual property related to one of the UK's most important national security projects. The Committee is also concerned that the new ownership could increase the chance of the Rugby site closing and capacity for MoD classified work being transferred from the UK. You will be aware from the Committee's statements in 2019 that the Committee believes the closure of the GE Rugby site would lead to a loss of sovereign capability and security.

In order to help the Committee properly assess the implications of this potential sale, please can you confirm whether the GE Rugby site would be included in any sale of GE Steam Power to EDF Energy and what discussions you have had with Government on the national security implications of any sale? In 2019 the Committee was told that the deed poll put in place in 2011 when GE acquired the site stipulated that MoD approval was required for any changes in operations at the site: have you informed the MoD of this potential sale?

The Committee will also be writing to the Secretary of State for Defence and BAE's Astute and Dreadnought team to seek their views on this issue.

Yours sincerely,
P.P. Jonathan Edwards

Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair of the Defence Committee