Gas fired peaker plants

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Gas-fired peaking plants, often known as peak-lopping or peaker plants, are power plants designed to balance the fluctuating power requirement in the electricity network and operate during periods of high-level demand for electricity or shortfalls of electricity supply.

This demand and supply variation is due to increases in renewable energy sources (wind and solar) connected to the electricity grid as part of the UK"s effort to cut CO2 emissions. As such, these intermittent and unpredictable renewable sources pose a risk of increased fluctuations in energy supply.

The Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) recent report published and updated in 2023 by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy states that renewables" share of UK generation was at a record level of 46.4 per cent, up 4.7 per cent in 2022. This has grown significantly since 2000 when renewable generation was just 2.6 per cent.

Maximise trading avenues

Increased electrical output

Modular plug and play approach

Balance power fluctuations within the grid caused by intermittent renewable supply

Support the growth of renewable generation onto the network

Peak-lopping power plants provide important balancing services where weather conditions prevent output either when the wind isn"t blowing or the sun isn"t shining. Peaking plants address this imbalance and reduce stress on the electricity grid, providing power stability - to potentially avoid blackouts and maintain the security of electricity supply.

Unlike base load power plants, reserve peak-lopping plants operate in standby mode when not in use and are called to operate by the electricity grid when there is a demand to supply electricity.

Payments are made to either generate in periods of high electrical demand or reduce electrical load to balance the electricity grid.

Read our Peaking Plant Key Site and Development Considerations guide to expedite the energisation of your project.

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