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Spotlight falls on gas as UK energy options narrow

As UK politicians return to parliament after the summer break, high on the political agenda will be the urgent reform of energy policy to avert a looming electricity supply crunch. The clear narrowing of policy options presents a major challenge: the government's stated position is for coal to be phased out, a process already under way through carbon policy and market forces. Renewables will continue to grow, but there are questions over pace and the challenge of intermittency. New nuclear could be a non-starter, depending on the controversial review of EDF's proposed Hinkley Point C project in Somerset. Oil is history. Biomass is niche. And interconnectors can only achieve so much. Which leaves natural gas – but only if the government can find more effective ways to incentivise investment. Gas Matters examines the UK's options in the second of a two-part series.







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