

Belgium: Engie gives bonuses to secure jobs despite plant closures

January 2022

Belgian energy producer Engie has presented a plan for retaining the 2,000 workers at its Doel and Tihange power stations. The company announced that its seven nuclear sites would cease operations by 2025.

Amid fears its workers could depart before the closure to retrain for other industries, Engie is offering staff on permanent contracts job guarantees until the end of 2027, two years later than the planned shutdown of the seven nuclear reactors. For employees aged 45 or over (half of the workforce), the company guarantees job security until the end of their career.

Finally, for those who plan to leave in any case, Engie is offering a bonus equivalent to one year's gross annual salary if they commit to staying on until July 2026. A budget of €18 million has also been set aside for staff training.

The proposal will be validated once the federal government has confirmed that nuclear power will be phased out by the end of 2025. Especially - but not only- the Green Party wants these political options to be honoured. Then enough gas centrals should be built to replace the nuclear plants. The whole discussion about nuclear energy and gas is complicated and a final decision cannot be expected before March 2022.

Edited by industriAll Europe