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BRITISH ENERGY PLC
Form 6-K
April 02, 2004

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

April 02, 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.

Form 20-F..X.. 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 ..X..

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

Exhibit Index

The following document (bearing the exhibit number listed below) is furnished herewith and is made a part of this Report pursuant to the General Instructions for Form 6-K:

| Exhibit | Description |
|---------|---|
| No. 1 | RNS Announcement, re: March Output Statement dated 02 April 2004. |

2 April 2004

BRITISH ENERGY plc - OUTPUT STATEMENT

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A summary of net output from British Energy's power stations in March 2004 is given in the table below, together with comparative data for the previous financial year:-

| | 2002/03 | | | | 2003/04 | | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | March | | Year to Date | | March | | Year to Date | |
| | Output (TWh) | Load Factor (%) | Output (TWh) | Load Factor (%) | Output (TWh) | Load Factor (%) | Output (TWh) | Load Factor (%) |
| UK Nuclear | 5.59 | 79 | 63.76 | 76 | 5.91 | 83 | 64.96 | |
| UK Other | 0.45 | 31 | 5.67 | 33 | 0.67 | 47 | 7.62 | |

OVERVIEW

The UK nuclear plants annual output was 64.96TWh for the financial year ended 31 March 2004 as compared with 63.76TWh the previous year. This level of output was below the revised target of around 65.5TWh, announced previously, as a result of unplanned outages at several stations (referred to below) which resulted in losses in excess of the remaining allowance.

As announced on 12 March 2004, our indicative target for nuclear output for 2004/05 is 64.5 TWh after factoring in the need to replace the cast iron pipework at several stations following the review of the implications of the recent unplanned outage at Heysham 1.

Planned Outages for March

- A refuelling outage was commenced on one reactor each at Dungeness B and Hartlepool.
- Low load refuelling was carried out on both reactors at Heysham 2 and on one reactor at Hunterston B.

Unplanned Outages for March

- At Hinkley Point, several problems were encountered including a generator transformer which required shutdown for inspection and repair, the combination of which resulted in a total loss of 0.5TWh. Hinkley Point has since returned to service.
- At Dungeness, the internal failure of a feed heater caused damage to pumps which had to be taken out of service for repair resulting in a loss of 0.2TWh. The Dungeness reactor is expected to return to service shortly pending completion of the repairs and refuelling.
- At Torness, a series of minor problems were encountered resulting in a combined loss of 0.2TWh. Torness has since returned to service.
- There were several other, less material, unplanned outages aggregating to 0.1TWh.

Contact:

