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In a sign of the growing rift between Conservative and Liberal Democrat factions in the UK's coalition government, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has unequivocally backed gas as a future component of the UK energy market. The statement came as a July report by the UK Energy and Climate Change Committee (ECCC) picked holes in the Draft Energy Bill – the legislation for Electricity Market Reform (EMR) – by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), slamming it as “unworkable”, while saying that Treasury intervention in the bill could stymie investment in low-carbon technology. We examine reactions to the Energy Bill and uncertainty surrounding the future role of gas.



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