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## UZBEKISTAN LOOKS TO NUCLEAR POWER FOR ENERGY SECURITY

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The Times of Central Asia (25 March 2025)

*Uzbekistan is moving forward with plans to build its first nuclear power plant, a project that officials say is critical to the countrys long-term energy security. In an interview with the Alter Ego YouTube project, Azim Akhmadkhodjaev, head of Uzbekistans Atomic Energy Agency, argued that nuclear power is the only viable alternative to continued reliance on imported fossil fuels.*

Lets continue to import high-calorie coal, burn it, and poison our environment. Lets import tens of billions of cubic meters of gas and spend money on it. Or we can build a few nuclear power plants, reduce the cost of electricity, and become energy independent. Will we achieve energy independence? Undoubtedly, yes, Akhmadkhodjaev said.

The nuclear power project is being developed with Russian technical support, but Akhmadkhodjaev emphasized that this does not compromise Uzbekistans sovereignty. The plant will be fully owned and operated by Uzbekistan, with local specialists overseeing daily operations.

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