

ATOM POWER NEARER

Britain's first commercial nuclear power station, at Berkeley, Gloucestershire, is only six months away from generating electricity for the national grid. As these films were shot it was taking in its first fuel - not by filling oil tanks, or coal bunkers, but by loading uranium elements into the reactor. It's a delicate job, taking a long time. In the reactor they'll generate heat to make steam, to drive dynamos.

Berkeley's output of a quarter-million kilowatts will be about half that of Battersea Power Station, for example, and six other nuclear stations are now under construction. Britain's crying need is for greater productivity, and that demands more power; so the nuclear contribution is both welcome and necessary. But don't let's jump to the conclusion that electricity will be any cheaper, somehow, that never seems to be the way things work out.