

Ukraine-Russia war: Putin bombs energy plants hours after telling Trump he would halt attacks

19 March 2025 • 3:39am

Russia bombed Ukraine energy infrastructure just hours after Vladimir Putin told Donald Trump he would halt attacks on the grid.

Putin's forces conducted an airstrike on the energy infrastructure of Slovyansk, a city of 100,000 people in the Donetsk region, according to local reports, leaving part of the city without electricity.

After what the Kremlin called a "frank" phone call with Mr Trump, US special envoy Steve Witkoff said ceasefire talks would continue on Sunday in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah.

Mr Witkoff told Fox News the 30-day ceasefire would involve "energy and infrastructure in general".

"I think both of those are now agreed to by the Russians. I am certainly hopeful that the Ukrainians will agree to it," he said.

Putin ordered the Russian military to halt attacks on energy plants in Ukraine without delay, the Kremlin said after the 90-minute phone call ended. Soon after the call, air raid sirens wailed and explosions rang out in Ukraine.

The Kremlin also said that the "complete cessation of foreign military assistance and the provision of intelligence information to Kyiv" is a condition for any permanent peace deal. Ukraine, and much of

Europe, is highly unlikely to agree to this.