



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016/0091, 27 April 2016

Future of coal-fired power station sites

David Hough
Ed White

Summary

This Debate pack has been compiled ahead of the debate on **Future of coal-fired power station sites** to be held on Wednesday 27 April 2016 at 2:30pm in Westminster Hall. The Member in charge of the debate is Amanda Milling MP.

This pack contains relevant news items, press releases and parliamentary material, and links to further reading.

Contents

1. Summary	2
2. News items	4
3. Press releases	6
4. Parliamentary Material	13
4.1 PQs	13
4.2 Other Parliamentary material	20
5. Further Reading and Useful link	22

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Summary

This debate is concerned with the redevelopment and re-use of coal fired power stations sites in the UK.

Unless carbon capture and storage becomes economical and can work at scale, electricity will no longer be generated in coal fired power stations in the UK. Domestic policy aims to deliver low carbon generation and no new coal-fired power station can be built without carbon capture and storage. European environmental standards also restrict the amount of coal that can be burnt. In November 2015, the Government [announced](#) plans to close all coal-fired power stations by 2025 and restrict their use by 2023.

One option for coal-fired power station sites might be to reuse any existing grid connection and other infrastructure (road or rail access etc) to develop another generation site. [There are examples where coal sites have been redeveloped to gas power stations.](#)

Any redevelopment of a power station site will need to be in conformity with the Government's planning policies in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) and its accompanying [Planning Practice Guidance](#). In the *Housing and Planning Bill 2015-16*, which is currently in the House of Lords, there are clauses which are designed to make it easier to identify and build on brownfield land for the purpose of housing. For more information see the House of Commons Library Briefing paper, [Housing and Planning Bill](#).

Regeneration and redevelopment can to be tied in with the work of local enterprise partnerships (LEPs). LEPs aim to create economic growth, rather than directly fund building and redevelopment. More information is set out in the House of Commons Library Briefing note, [Regional Development Policy 2010 – 2015: a Summary](#).

Examples of plans to redevelop some sites are contained in the press material later in this Debate Pack

Projections on the decline of coal fired power and locations of current power stations and recent announcements on closures are presented in the following tables.

UK coal-fired power stations: as at May 2015

Company	Power Station	Fuel	Capacity - MWe	Date of commissioning	Region
AES	Kilroot	Coal / oil	520	1981	Northern Ireland
Drax Power Ltd	Drax	Coal / biomass	3,870	1974	Yorks and Humber
E.On UK	Ratcliffe	Coal	2,000	1968	East Midlands
EdF Energy	Cottam	Coal	2,008	1969	East Midlands
EdF Energy	West Burton	coal	2,012	1967	East Midlands
Eggborough Power Ltd	Eggborough	Coal	1,960	1967	Yorks and Humber
Engie	Rugeley	Coal	1,006	1972	West Midlands
Lynemouth Power Ltd	Lynemouth	Coal	420	1972	North East
RWE npower Ltd	Aberthaw B	Coal	1,586	1971	Wales
SSE	Ferrybridge C	Coal / biomass	980	1966	Yorks and Humber
SSE	Fiddler's Ferry	Coal / biomass	1,961	1971	North West
Scottish Power	Longannet	Coal	2,260	1970	Scotland

Source: DECC DUKES Chapter 5 Electricity

Recent announcements of coal-fired power station closures

Company	Power Station	Fuel	Capacity - MWe	Date of commissioning	Date of announcement	Hansard Reference
Scottish Power	Longannet	Coal	2,260	1970	Mar-15	18 Jan 2016 PQ 21792
SSE	Ferrybridge C	Coal / biomass	980	1966	May-15	18 Jan 2016 PQ 21792
Lynemouth Power Ltd	Lynemouth	Coal	420	1972		18 Jan 2016 PQ 21792
Eggborough Power Ltd	Eggborough	Coal	1,960	1967	Sep-15	18 Jan 2016 PQ 21792
SSE	Fiddler's Ferry	Coal / biomass	1,961	1971	Feb-16	11 Feb 2016 Vol 605 c1723
Engie	Rugeley	Coal	1,006	1972	Feb-16	10 Feb 2016 Vol 605 c1575

Sources: DECC DUKES Chapter 5 Electricity and references in Hansard

Capacity of Major Power Producers - GW

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025	2030	2035
Coal	19	18	13	13	13	11	2	0	0
Coal and natural gas CCS	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	8
Interconnectors	5	5	5	5	5	8	14	15	17
Natural gas	33	31	33	31	34	33	37	37	34
Nuclear	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	13	16
Oil	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renewables	31	35	37	39	41	42	46	50	56
Storage	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total capacity	101	101	100	100	106	106	112	122	133

Source: DECC Updated Energy & Emissions Projections: Reference scenario - November 2015

Notes: 'Capacity of Major Power Producers' covers only the Major Power Producers and all other renewable generators.

These are net capacities after allowing for plant own use (but before allowing for derating, e.g. of wind plants).

2. News items

Express and Star

19 April 2016

No delays in Rugeley Power Station redevelopment, Minister vows

<http://www.expressandstar.com/news/2016/04/19/no-delays-in-rugeley-power-station-redevelopment-minister-vows/>

Independent.co.uk

March 31, 2016

Ferrybridge C: Experts call for more clean energy as landmark UK coal-fired power station closes; the station near Knottingley in Yorkshire employed around 400 workers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ferrybridge-c-experts-call-for-more-clean-energy-as-another-uk-coal-fired-power-station-shuts-down-a6962616.html>

The Guardian

March 24, 2016

How long can the UK's coal industry survive?

Karl Mathiesen

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/24/how-long-can-the-uks-coal-industry-survive>

The Guardian

March 24, 2016

Longannet power station closes ending coal power use in Scotland;

Terry Macalister

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/24/longannet-power-station-closes-coal-power-scotland>

Guardian

March 1, 2016

UK government moves to ease energy supply fears;

Fiona Harvey and Heather Stewart

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/01/uk-government-moves-to-ease-energy-supply-fears>

Financial Times

February 9, 2016

Engie: Rugeley closure

Kiran Stacey

<https://next.ft.com/content/b9eb0f1e-e1db-3918-bcd5-0de878f56093>

The Guardian

February 8, 2016

Government denies blackout risk as Rugeley coal plant unveils closure plan;

Rob Davies

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/feb/08/government-denies-blackout-risk-engie-rugeley-coal-power-station-shuts>

FT.com

December 11, 2015

Britain's former coalfield areas struggle to form a new future

Chris Tighe and Andrew Bounds

<https://next.ft.com/content/b74a638c-9fff-11e5-beba-5e33e2b79e46>

telegraph.co.uk

November 20, 2015 Friday 7:21 PM GMT

Ironbridge power plant shut down after 46 years;

Emily Gosden

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/12008878/ironbridge-power-plant-shut-down-after-46-years.html>

The Sunday Telegraph

November 8, 2015

Moving in on brownfield space;

Sabuhi Gard

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/business/building-for-the-future/11983519/brownfield-space.html>

Independent.co.uk

May 20, 2015

Ferrybridge coal power station to close over £150m losses - and Britain's move to sustainable energy; up to 172 workers face losing their jobs

Alan Jones

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ferrybridge-coal-power-station-to-close-over-150m-loses-and-britains-move-to-sustainable-energy-10262346.html>

3. Press releases

Scottish and Southern (SSE) Ferrybridge C ceases production

31 March 2016

Ferrybridge C power station will officially close on the 31st of March after 50 proud years of electricity production. The coal-fired power station has been operated by SSE since 2004, and at its peak could meet the needs of two million people from its four 500MW units.

The West Yorkshire station began generating on February 27th 1966. It has since produced an estimated 462 Terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity in its lifetime – enough to power the entire nation of France for a whole year. In May 2015 SSE took the difficult decision to close the ageing station, due to a number of factors; not least the significant losses the station was forecast to incur in the coming years.

De-synchronisation of Ferrybridge C, ie powering down of the remaining operational unit, took place on March 23rd with a special ceremony for staff in the station's control room.

The station will officially close on March 31st and will enter a decommissioning phase which many of the staff are staying on to assist with.

Mick Gee, Ferrybridge C's Station Manager, paid tribute to the people of the station and their 50 year contribution to the energy industry. He said: "In the eight years I've been Station Manager here I'm proud to have worked with some amazing people. I want to acknowledge the contribution from all those who've been part of the 'Ferrybridge family,' past and present. It's always been a special place to work where people help each other without asking."

I also want to thank the local community for their support over the years. Ferrybridge's cooling towers have been a distinctive landmark for half a century but people have always valued our contribution to the local economy and our role as a responsible neighbour. We're very proud of that too."

Paul Smith, SSE Managing Director, Generation, added: "It was with a heavy heart that we announced our plans to close Ferrybridge last year. "But today is all about recognising and thanking those who have played their part over the years in Ferrybridge's wonderful history and immense contribution to powering the nation. SSE is very proud of them and they should be too.

"SSE will maintain a presence at Ferrybridge thanks to the recent opening of its £300m Ferrybridge Multifuel (FM1) site.

Opened last year FM1 is capable of generating 68MW of low carbon electricity using a range of waste-derived fuels. A second multifuel station is now earmarked for the site, with construction expected later this year

Scottish Power

Longannet Closure Marks the end of Coal-Fired Electricity Generation in Scotland

24/03/2016

Longannet Power Station in Fife will switch-off the last of its four generating units today (Thursday 24th March) for the last time, concluding a 46-year shift for Scotland's largest power station, and signalling the end of coal-fired electricity production in Scotland.

Constructed over eight years, Longannet was the largest coal power station in Europe when it came online in 1969. Capable of producing 2,400 megawatts (MW) of electricity for the grid, Longannet powered over 2 million homes on average every year it was operational*.

Even through the final winter, Longannet has been essential to meeting the electricity needs of Scotland and on average produced enough electricity to provide more than 25% of all the homes in Scotland.

Hugh Finlay, Generation Director at ScottishPower, said:

"Longannet has contributed more electricity for the national grid than any other power station in Scotland's history, and it is a sad day for everyone at ScottishPower. The highly-skilled team at Longannet have worked hard in difficult circumstances over the last 6 months to ensure that the station continued to operate at a high level over the winter.

"Originally designed to run for 25 years, the success of Longannet has been driven by substantial investment over the years and by the dedication of the men and women overseeing the station's operations. Over the station's lifetime thousands of people have worked tirelessly to keep Longannet running safely, and our thanks go out to every single person involved.

"Coal has long been the dominant force in Scotland's electricity generation fleet, but the closure of Longannet signals the end of an era. For the first time in more than a century no power produced in Scotland will come from burning coal. Although ScottishPower is at the forefront of renewable energy development, we will be reflecting today on the important contribution that Longannet has made in keeping the lights on for millions of homes and businesses for nearly half a century."

ScottishPower has been working closely with the Trade Unions, Local Councils and The Scottish Government to assess and manage the impact of Longannet's closure. The station directly employs 236 people and ScottishPower has been in discussions with every individual employee. A number of opportunities have been made available for redeployment to other areas of the ScottishPower business, and early retirement and redundancy packages have also been offered. Around 45 team members will remain at the station until the end of December, working as part of the decommissioning team.

No decisions have been taken on the future of the site, but ScottishPower expects to outline its plans before the end of the year.

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Rugeley power station closure: task force launched

10 February 2016

A task force is being set up to support workers affected by the closure of Rugeley Power Station and to examine potential future uses of the site.

The task force will see Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Council, Lichfield District Council and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP work together with power station owners ENGIE to support the 150 staff whose jobs are under threat, and discuss any potential future uses for the site, which has been home to a power station for more than half a century.

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP chairman David Frost CBE commented: "Whilst this is clearly a blow, this closure comes at a time when the economy is performing well and unemployment is at a record low.

"Cannock Chase has shown time and time again to be resilient and have the ability to attract new investment and jobs."

Staffordshire County Council leader Philip Atkins said: "News that the station is to close for business this summer will undoubtedly come as a bitter blow for the 150-strong loyal workforce and their families, many of who will have worked at the station for a number of years.

"As a county council, we have an excellent track record of attracting fresh investment and creating new jobs and our priority now will be to work with partners to help support each and every one of these employees secure future employment."

ENGIE announced on Monday that the power station is expected to cease market operations in early summer 2016, due to the deterioration in market conditions for UK coal-fired power generation.

This closure will potentially lead to the loss of 150 jobs, subject to the outcome of an employee consultation exercise, and any further discussions with government bodies. The station is also known as Rugeley "B" and has been in operation since 1970. Rugeley "A" station, built on the same site back in the 1950s, was decommissioned in 1996.

Engie

Rugeley Power Station expected to cease operations this summer

8 February 2016

ENGIE is today announcing that its 1,000 MW Rugeley Power Station in Staffordshire is expected to cease market operations in early summer 2016 due to the deterioration in market conditions for UK coal-fired power generation.

This closure will potentially lead to the loss of 150 jobs, subject to the outcome of an employee consultation exercise, and any further discussions with government bodies. During the consultation period, ENGIE will seek to identify redeployment opportunities elsewhere across the business, in line with the Group's ongoing commitment to employees. A number of ongoing roles are expected to be required to support decommissioning and redevelopment of the site.

Unfortunately market conditions for UK coal plant have deteriorated rapidly in recent years, as a result of a continued fall in power prices on the back of commodity market decline, and increases in carbon costs. Under such conditions, there is no prospect of the power station recovering its future operating costs.

ENGIE remains one of the UK's largest independent power producers and will continue to invest in its energy and services capabilities as a long-term committed partner for the UK.

David Alcock, CEO of ENGIE's Energy Infrastructure division in the UK, said: "It is with deep regret that we have had to make this decision at Rugeley. Our priority now is to support the employees and help them through this period. We implemented a number of changes at Rugeley a year ago in order to help maintain operations at the site but a combination of falling prices and the impact of various market changes has now made this unviable.

"We will of course keep all options for the power station under review, and will maintain dialogue with all stakeholders as we proceed with the employee consultation process. I would personally like to thank everyone at Rugeley for their contribution to our business and for their loyal service to the Power Station."

Notes: Rugeley Power Station is jointly owned by ENGIE (75%) and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. (25%). It can provide enough electricity to power 1 million homes and is one of the most flexible and efficient coal-fired stations in the UK.

The Station is also known as Rugeley "B" and has been in operation since 1970. Rugeley "A" station, built on the same site back in the 1950s, was decommissioned in 1996.

DECC

Government announces plans to close coal power stations by 2025

18 November 2015

The Government has announced plans to close all coal-fired power stations by 2025 and restrict their use by 2023.

Announcing the decision ahead of a major speech this morning which will set out a new direction for energy policy which has energy security at the heart of it and delivers for families and businesses, Energy and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd said:

“Energy security comes first and I am determined to ensure that the UK has secure, affordable, and clean energy supplies that hardworking families and businesses can rely on now and in the future.

“We are tackling a legacy of underinvestment and ageing power stations which we need to replace with alternatives that are reliable, good value for money, and help to reduce our emissions.

“It cannot be satisfactory for an advanced economy like the UK to be relying on polluting, carbon intensive 50-year-old coal-fired power stations.

“Let me be clear: this is not the future.

“We need to build a new energy infrastructure, fit for the 21st century.

“Our determination to cut carbon emissions as cost effectively as possible is crystal clear and this step will make us one of the first developed countries to commit to taking coal off our system”.

Notes to Editors

The Government will consult early next year on when to close all coal-fired power stations. The consultation will set out proposals to close unabated coal-fired power stations by 2025 - and restrict use from 2023.

**Department of Energy and Climate Change
Ferrybridge multifuel 2 power station**

29 Oct 2015

New multifuel power station approved in West Yorkshire.

Multifuel Energy Limited has yesterday been given consent to construct the Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 Power Station at Knottingley, West Yorkshire.

Energy Minister Lord Bourne approved the development, which during construction will bring around 500 jobs to the area, with around 35 permanent positions once operational.

The power station will be capable of producing up to 90MWe of electricity, by burning fuel derived from refuse and industrial and commercial waste, such as wood, which would have originally ended up in landfill.

Energy Minister Lord Bourne said:

“This exciting project that will turn waste into energy is a great example of how innovation can help to power our homes and add to our energy mix

“This project will offer secure energy to Britain’s hardworking families and businesses, creating jobs and financial security for working people and boosting the Northern Powerhouse”.

Energy UK

Energy UK's comment on coal power stations closure

06 October 2015.

Lawrence Slade, chief executive of Energy UK, said:

“Phasing out coal-fired generation is part of the transition to a low carbon power sector, however we need a long term policy framework to ensure that coal generation can be replaced by a mix of lower carbon alternatives that not only provides affordable, clean supplies but also maintains secure and manageable supplies. We expect the Government to set that framework as a high priority over the coming months”.

Eggborough Power Limited

Staff Consultation begins at Eggborough Power Station

2 September 2015

It is with regret that Eggborough Power Limited (“EPL”) announces that Eggborough Power Station may cease generating power at the end of March 2016, with the potential loss of approximately 240 jobs, depending on the outcome of a staff consultation exercise and any further talks with government bodies.

The coal-fired power station requires additional funding of c£200 million over the next three years to continue generating power, which is financially unsustainable for the 53 year old plant.

The company has taken the difficult decision to commence consultation with employees and their representatives on the potential cessation of power generation, which could lead to redundancies. A number of roles may be required to support decommissioning and future opportunities for the business beyond March 2016.

Neil O’Hara, chief executive of Eggborough Power Ltd, said

“We are deeply saddened at the prospect of potentially ceasing generation at Eggborough Power Station and believe that Eggborough Power could have a significant part to play in ensuring security of supply in the UK electricity market, particularly while there remains great uncertainty around new-build gas-fired generation. We intend to conduct a thorough consultation process with our employees and their representatives while we continue to consider all options available to us, including seeking to engage with government bodies. Our priority is to support our staff during this difficult time.”

The 2000MW coal-fired power station has the potential to power 2 million homes – around 4% of UK homes, and is forecast to contribute through carbon tax alone (UK carbon price support mechanism) over £250m to the UK economy, over the next three years. The station had previously failed in its attempts to gain support from government to convert to biomass. EPL was acquired by Central European energy group Energetický a Průmyslový Holding (“EPH”), in November 2014 as part of a UK acquisition strategy.

- EPLs unsustainable financial position has arisen as a result of a combination of market and regulatory conditions, including:
- A continued fall in power prices driven by the decline in commodity prices, combined with continued high carbon tax, means that Eggborough is unable to cover its future operating costs. This fall in power prices has continued in spite of a number of plant closures and tightening capacity margins.
- Recent changes to the bidding rules for the government's Supplemental Balancing Reserve (SBR) which meant that this was no longer a viable option for Eggborough to recover some of its operational costs.
- Recent changes to Capacity Market rules which mean that this no longer represents a viable option to support life extension investment.
- Recent changes to the renewable subsidies available for biomass conversion which mean that this is no longer a viable option for Eggborough.
- Uncertainty regarding Eggborough's environmental permits from 1st January 2016 which could place greater constraint on emissions, impact operational flexibility and reduce profitability.

EPL has been working with the following agencies on the challenges listed above:

- ·DECC
- ·Environment Agency
- ·National Grid
- ·Ofgem

4. Parliamentary Material

4.1 PQs

[Coal Fired Power Stations: Construction](#)

Asked by: Davies, Philip

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make representations to the National Infrastructure Commission on assessing the potential merits of building ultra-super critical coal-fired power stations in the UK.

Answering member: Greg Hands | HM Treasury

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) will have a mandate to examine all sectors of economic infrastructure, including energy. The NIC will shortly undertake work on a National Infrastructure Assessment, which will set out the UK's infrastructure needs for the next 10-30 years.

Coal fired power stations without abatement are not consistent with meeting our decarbonisation objectives. This is why the Government has committed to consulting on phasing out unabated coal by 2025 and to restricting the amount of coal generation in 2023.

21 Mar 2016 | Written questions | 31059

[Coal Fired Power Stations](#)

Asked by: Chapman, Douglas

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what support her Department plans to provide to communities that will be affected by closure of coal-fired power stations.

Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department for Energy and Climate Change

The Government will work with local partners to ensure support is available to help all those affected move quickly into new jobs, including through Jobcentre Plus' Rapid Response Service. In Scotland, Jobcentre Plus will be an active partner in PACE (Partnership Action for Continued Employment), the Scottish Government's redundancy support initiative.

16 Mar 2016 | Written questions | 30788

[Coal-fired Power Stations](#)

Asked by: Michael Fabricant (Lichfield)

My right hon. Friend will know about the recent announcement of the closure of Rugeley power station, which is half in my constituency and half in that of my hon. Friend the Member for Cannock Chase (Amanda Milling). The station was sited there in the first place because of a

coalmine, which, like many others throughout western Europe, is long gone. However, the closure may mean that up to 150 people are made redundant, although ENGIE says it will try to redeploy them elsewhere. Will my right hon. Friend commit to speak to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about actively playing a role in making sure that those people can be re-employed somewhere else?

Answered by: Amber Rudd | Energy and Climate Change

I thank my hon. Friend for that question, and we have, of course, spoken already this week about this matter. I have also spoken to his neighbour, whose constituency covers half the Rugeley power plant area. I will, of course, actively engage with my hon. Friend and his colleague to make sure that we do what we can for the people who have lost their jobs.

11 Feb 2016 | 605 cc1723-4

[Coal-fired Power Stations](#)

Asked by: David Mowat

The Secretary of State will be aware that the day after the UK announced the closure programme, Germany commissioned a brand-new lignite building unabated coal power station as yet another addition to its coal fleet. In Belgium, Holland and Spain, coal use increased in 2014.

Much of that electricity will be imported to this country through interconnectors, yet in my constituency the closure of Fiddlers Ferry was announced last week. Many of the workers there ask me how these various factors can be part of a coherent European energy policy. What should I tell them?

Answering member: Amber Rudd | Energy and Climate Change

I start by expressing my sympathies for all those workers in my hon. Friend's constituency who have been impacted by the recent announcement of the closure of Fiddlers Ferry, as well as of Ferrybridge.

On different countries in the EU making different choices about how to deliver their renewables targets, it is up to them to address how they reduce their emissions. Germany, for instance, is also having an enormous amount of solar. It has 52 GW of solar at an eye-watering cost of €10.5 billion.

11 Feb 2016 | 605 c1723

[Engagements](#)

Asked by: Amanda Milling (Cannock Chase)

When I was growing up, I always knew I was nearly home when I saw the iconic cooling towers of the Rugeley power stations on the horizon. On Monday, the owners of the remaining power station announced its

likely closure this summer. Will my right hon. Friend ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to meet me to discuss further the Government support that can be given to the 150 workers, and the provision that can be made to ensure that the site is redeveloped as quickly as possible?

Answering member: The Prime Minister

I will certainly arrange for that meeting to take place. We should thank everyone who has worked at power stations that come to the end of their lives for the work that they have done to give us electricity to keep the lights on and our economy moving. My hon. Friend is right: as coal-fired power stations come to the end of their lives, we must ensure that proper redevelopment takes place so that we provide jobs for constituents like hers.

10 Feb 2016 | 605 c1575

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Michael Fabricant (Lichfield)

My right hon. Friend is keen, as am I, on building on brownfield sites. With the closure of coal-fired power stations, including the possible closure of one in my constituency, what are we doing to encourage building on brownfield sites that include contaminated land?

Answered by: Greg Clark | **Department:** Communities and Local Government

I am grateful for my hon. Friend's question. In the spending review the Chancellor established a fund to decontaminate brownfield sites so that they can be made available for house building in the way that my hon. Friend recommends.

08 Feb 2016 | 605 c1303

[Coal Fired Power Stations: Closures](#)

Asked by: Harpham, Harry

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, which coal-fired power stations her Department expects to close before 2020.

Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department for Energy and Climate Change

Decisions to close power stations are taken by their owners based on market conditions. The owners of Longannet, Lynemouth and Ferrybridge have announced their intention to stop generating by March 2016. The owners of Eggborough (2GW) have announced they may close by March 2016.

Following the European Commission's approval of state aid in December 2015 followed by its sale, EPH are converting Lynemouth to biomass. We expect this process to take about 18 months.

18 Jan 2016 | Written questions | 21792

[Fossil Fuelled Power Stations](#)

Asked by: Mann, John

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what percentage contribution she expects (a) coal-fired power stations and (b) West Burton and Cottam power stations to make to UK energy supply in each of the next 10 years.

Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department for Energy and Climate Change

In DECC's most recent reference scenario, the proportion of electricity produced in the UK (gross total electricity supplied) which will be generated by unabated coal-fired power stations over the next ten years is as follows:

- 2016 24%
- 2017 17%
- 2018 17%
- 2019 17%
- 2020 14%
- 2021 9%
- 2022 7%
- 2023 3%
- 2024 2%
- 2025 2%

This excludes electricity supplied from other countries via interconnectors.

The above data is taken from the reference scenario in Annex J of DECC's [2015 Energy and Emissions Projections](#) (calculated on 22nd October 2015).

This and other scenarios with differing economic growth and fossil fuel prices are available online at:

With regards to part (b) of this question, we do not publish projections for individual power stations.

17 Dec 2015 | Written questions | 19965

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Martin Vickers (Cleethorpes)

The port of Immingham in my constituency depends heavily on the import of coal. Many jobs rely on that both in the port and on the rail network. What assessment has my right hon. Friend's Department made of the loss of jobs in those associated industries, with less coal coming in as a result of coal-fired power stations closing?

Answered by: Amber Rudd | Department of Energy and Climate Change

I reassure my hon. Friend that that is something we intend to do, but it will be subject to a consultation. We will have the opportunity to look at that issue, but we are talking about 10 years hence, so I hope that there will be plenty of opportunities to ensure that areas can adapt and benefit from other areas of industry that will emerge.

19 Nov 2015 | 602 c820

Electricity Generation

Asked by: Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 2 November (HL3058), whether the measures taken to counter the loss of generating capacity resulting from the closure of coal fired power stations will include

- (1) the use of small diesel generators, and
- (2) the closure or interruption of industrial production by industry to maintain security of supply during the coming winter; and what is their estimate of the extra costs of those measures to energy consumers and taxpayers.

Answering member: Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth | **Department** for Energy and Climate Change

The operators of Ferrybridge and Longannet power plants have announced plans to cease generation in 2016 while the operator of Eggborough plant is currently consulting staff on possible closure. These announcements relate to closures from March 2016 and do not affect security of supply this winter.

Our priority is to ensure that British families and business have access to secure and affordable energy supplies that they can rely on. Since 2014 National Grid have had the ability to procure a Contingency Balancing Reserve (CBR), which consists of the Supplemental Balancing Reserve (SBR), where existing power stations stand by ready to generate additional electricity and the Demand Side Balancing Reserve (DSBR) where companies bid for contracts with National Grid to receive payments in return for reducing their electricity usage times of peak demand should National Grid so require.

National Grid and Ofgem agree that we should retain the ability to procure CBR for the next two winters. Government supports this position and we expect confirmation later this month following an Ofgem consultation.

Organisations contracted under DSBR can reduce their use of grid electricity in many ways while still remaining in operation. For example, an industrial customer could switch to a back-up generator or a supermarket chain might raise the temperature slightly on its refrigerators for a short time, using less energy but maintaining safe refrigeration levels.

National Grid's CBR is tendered competitively keeping procurement at the lowest possible cost to consumers, whilst ensuring electricity security. The additional reserve capacity that National Grid has purchased for 2015/16 represents less than 50p a year on the average annual consumer bill.

From winter 2018/19, the Capacity Market will take over as the long term solution for security of supply. The Capacity Market is a key part of our reform of the electricity market and it will drive new investment in gas and demand side capacity to help keep the lights on, as well as getting the best out of our existing power stations as we transition to a low carbon electricity future.

Small-scale flexible generation such as diesel can also bid into the Capacity Market – generation that can turn on quickly has a small but important role to play in securing our electricity system. It is typically run for short periods to meet peaks of demand or local system constraints, so emission impacts can be relatively limited.

18 Nov 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL3456

[Coal Fired Power Stations: Decommissioning](#)

Asked by: Lucas, Ian C.

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if she will publish a plan to phase out all unabated coal power.

Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department for Energy and Climate Change

Coal accounted for 40% of total UK electricity generation in 2012, falling to 29% in 2014. We expect the role of unabated coal generation to decline further as a result of deployment of low carbon alternatives, the cost of generation and the investment needed to meet new pollution abatement standards. The Department's analysis (central scenario) shows that unabated coal is expected to account for around 1% of total UK generation by 2025.

The Government's planning policy prevents the building of new coal power plants without carbon capture and storage.

Source: [DECC Updated energy and emissions projections 2014](#)

18 Sep 2015 | Written questions | 10068

[Derelict Land](#)

Asked by: Howlett, Ben

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to implement new planning provisions on redevelopment of brownfield sites.

Answering member: Brandon Lewis | Department for Communities and Local Government

We are committed to ensuring that brownfield land is used as much as possible for new development. We will require local authorities to have a register of what is available, and ensure that 90 per cent of suitable brownfield sites have planning permission for housing by 2020. We will provide further support by creating a Fund to unlock homes on brownfield land for additional housing. We will continue to support the regeneration of brownfield land through a range of measures, including £200 million to help create Housing Zones outside London, and in addition releasing enough public sector land for over 150,000 homes by 2020.

08 Jul 2015 | Written questions | 5174

[Coal Fired Power Stations](#)

Asked by: Davies, David T. C.

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what information her Department holds on which coal-fired power plants will be available for electricity generation in (a) 2017, (b) 2020 and (c) 2023; and what the generating capacity in mega watts will be for each plant in each of those years.

Answering member: **Andrea Leadsom | Department for Energy and Climate Change**

The Department's [Updated Emissions and Energy Projections](#) published in 2014 includes an estimate for the total amount of available coal-fired electricity generation capacity in Great Britain:

The relevant figures are:

Great Britain Coal fired generation capacity			
	2017	2020	2023
GW	16	10.8	8.8

Source: DECC

Note: EEP reference case (2014)

Unabated coal capacity with average carbon intensity of electricity generation of 100g CO₂/kWh in 2030

The position of individual plants is a matter for plant operators.

23 Jun 2015 | Written questions | 2425

4.2 Other Parliamentary material

Ministerial Statement

Written statements 18 Nov 2015 | [HCWS312](#)

Amber Rudd Department for Energy and Climate Change

Today I am setting out my priorities for the UK's energy and climate change policy for the coming Parliament and publishing the DECC Autumn Update which sets out our key priorities and the recent progress the department has made against them.

Affordable, reliable clean energy is critical to our economy, our national security, and to family budgets. We need secure energy so people can get on with their lives and businesses can plan for the future. Affordable energy so the people that foot the bill get a good deal, and clean energy to safeguard our future economic security and ensure we can meet our climate change commitments.

I am confident the steps we have taken alongside National Grid and Ofgem will ensure the security of our electricity supply in the next few years. In the long-term, our vision is of markets characterised by rigorous competition to keep costs down. We want to see a competitive electricity market, with government out of the way as much as possible, by 2025.

New nuclear and gas will be central to our energy secure future and we are encouraging investment in our shale gas exploration so we can add new sources of home-grown supply to our real diversity of imports. Today I am launching a consultation on a Strategy to Maximise the Economic Recovery of the North Sea.

We are world leaders in offshore wind and globally we can make a lasting technological contribution. Today I will announce that we will make funding available for three auctions in this Parliament with the first taking place by the end of 2016. This support will be strictly conditional on the delivery of the cost reductions we have seen already accelerating. If that happens we could support up to 10GW of additional offshore wind in the 2020s. We have already seen the cost of solar come down by 35% in the last 3 years.

One of the greatest and most cost-effective contributions we can make to emission reductions in electricity is by replacing coal fired power stations with gas. We will be launching a consultation in the spring on when to close all unabated coal-fired power stations. Our consultation will set out proposals to close coal by 2025 - and restrict its use from 2023. [Italics added]

If we take this step, we will be one of the first developed countries to deliver on a commitment to take coal off the system.

We have to demonstrate that the low carbon transition can be cost-effective and will deliver growth for the economy and affordable energy prices for consumers. We are on track for our current and next carbon budgets but the fourth carbon budget is going to be tough to achieve. We will need action right across the economy: in transport; waste and

buildings. We will be setting out our plans next year for meeting the fourth and fifth Carbon Budgets.

To reduce bills and carbon we will also work to cut energy use itself. Over the last 5 years, more than 1.2 million households are seeing lower bills due to energy efficiency improvements. We are committed to ensuring a million more get the same benefits by the end of this Parliament, and that support is concentrated on those in greatest need.

A fully smart energy system could help us to reduce costs further by tens of billions of pounds over the decades ahead. Smart meters are a key building block and every home and small business in Britain will get them by the end of 2020. Alongside the National Infrastructure Commission, we will work with National Grid, Ofgem and others to consider how to reform the current system operator model to make it more flexible, responsive and independent.

As well as taking action at home, we must work with others internationally. Climate change is a global problem, not a local one. This is why I am determined that we help restore the EU Emissions Trading System to full health and build stronger ties on energy within Europe, and why a global deal in Paris next month is so important. Paris must deliver that and help unleash the levels of private investment and local action needed.

5. Further Reading and Useful link

National Planning Policy

Redevelopment of a given area such as the sites of coal-fired power stations that have shut will need to be in conformity with the Government's planning policies as set out in the following:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#) and [Planning Practice Guidance](#).

Further information can be found in House of Commons Library briefing paper [Planning for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#) (1 June 2015) and House of Commons Library briefing paper [Housing and Planning Bill](#). (22 October 2015)

Regeneration

Regeneration associated with development of particular sites are often tied in with regional development and local enterprise partnerships, the House of Commons Library briefing paper [Regional Development Policy 2010 – 2015: a Summary](#). (23 December 2015) provides general background briefing

Local Council Development Plans

Cannock Chase Council

Cannock Chase Council has a [Local Plan](#) (part 1) from 2014 which states that "The need for a site-specific policy for the Power Station will be kept under review and considered further in Local Plan (Part 2)." (para 4.109).

Work on part 2 of the local plan has begun, but has not yet been completed. The timetable for this work, expected to finish in 2018, is set out in the council's [Local Development Scheme](#), 2016

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
[website](#)

East Lothian Council

[Redevelopment Cockenzie Power Station site](#)

Cockenzie energy station closed production in March 2013. The site has lain dormant since then with its structures being safely demolished by a company hired by ScottishPower.

Through its National Planning Framework (NPF) 3, the Scottish Government has identified Cockenzie as a national development site for thermal energy generation as well as a location of significance for renewable energy. East Lothian Council must reflect this national need in its Local Development Plan by proposing land that **could** be used for energy.

Wakefield Council

[Knottingley & Ferrybridge Delivery Plan 2012-2015](#)

EZ 18 Power Generation Employment Zone Land at Ferrybridge Power Station

Within this zone permissible development proposals will be restricted to employment development directly associated with power generation and related infrastructure, including the generation of renewable energy. Future development proposals must recognise, conserve and enhance the Fryston Wood Site of

The creation of an employment zone on part of the operational land at Ferrybridge Power Station, for power generation and associated uses and related infrastructure will encourage investment in power generation, including generation from renewable energy sources.

Sandbag [website](#)

1 April 2016

[*DATA: UK Coal is collapsing - And renewables, not gas, are filling the gap*](#)

9 February 2016

[*UK coal closures will make the UK a cleaner, greener place*](#)

18 November 2015

[*UK coal phase out: our initial reaction*](#)

About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publically available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).