

# Cockenzie CCGT Power Station and Gas Pipeline Project

ScottishPower Energy Wholesale



## Community Newsletter

[www.cockenziepowerstation.com](http://www.cockenziepowerstation.com)



Welcome to the first edition of the **Community Newsletter on the future of Cockenzie Power Station, a Newsletter updating the residents and businesses of East Lothian on the future of Cockenzie Power Station.**

The Newsletter will be issued on a regular basis throughout the remainder of 2009 and will supplement a series of community consultation events undertaken by ScottishPower and their advisors. This and future newsletters, as well as other project information, will be available at ScottishPower's community consultation website [www.cockenziepowerstation.com](http://www.cockenziepowerstation.com).

### Overview

Cockenzie Power Station is one of Scotland's largest electricity generating plants with a capacity of 1,200 MW. The Station consists of four coal-fired generating units, the coal being delivered to the Station by train and by road. The Station operates as a flexible station, guaranteeing seasonal and peak supply when electricity is not available from other facilities.

A by-product of the burning of coal is ash. Most of this ash has been, since 1967, mixed with water and piped to large lagoons at Musselburgh where a substantial proportion is sold for industrial use. The remainder has been used in land reclamation and in the creation of a nature reserve.

### History

Construction of the existing Power Station started in 1962. The majority of the site formed part of the former Preston Links Colliery, although the northern-most part of the site was reclaimed from the Firth of Forth. The Station became operational in 1967 and following significant investment by ScottishPower in 1989/90, continues to generate electricity to the present day.



Throughout its operational life the Station has been a valuable contributor to the local area, maintaining links to community groups and a wide range of local biodiversity, arts and historical groups, as well as being a regular host to school field trips. The staff at the Station look forward to maintaining and building upon these established links over the coming years.

#### **Current Issues**

Under the Large Combustion Plant Directive, European law dictates that Power Stations such as Cockenzie must fit emission reducing technology before 31 December 2015. That option was not feasible at Cockenzie Power Station and ScottishPower is currently examining the potential replacement of the coal-fired units with modern, low emission gas-fired units.

It has been reported that without significant investment, there could be inadequate electricity supplies to meet demand by 2015. Unless Cockenzie is modernised it will have to close by 2016 thus exacerbating this potential 'energy gap'.

Major ongoing investment in wind based renewable energy sources and other forms of renewable energy is being progressed on sites across Scotland by various developers including ScottishPower. However, such developments will be unlikely to meet the deficit that the loss of current energy production from existing coal and nuclear stations will create at times of peak demand.

The potential energy gap is recognised by the Scottish and UK Governments and both have taken measures to address the issue. These measures include the identification by Scottish Government of continued energy supply from Cockenzie Power Station as a priority 'national' development in the National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2). This status is evidence of Scottish Government's acknowledgement that maintaining electricity generation at Cockenzie is essential to Scotland's ability to sustain and promote growth over the next 20-25 years.

#### **The Future of Cockenzie Power Station**

ScottishPower proposes a new gas-fired Power Station. It will include Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) units which are cleaner and more efficient than the existing coal-fired units.

The new gas-fired Power Station will require a supply of gas. In parallel with the new Power Station, ScottishPower will seek consent for an underground pipeline route that will link the new Station to the existing gas network. The pipeline will extend approximately 17km from the site of the new Station to a new

installation adjacent to the existing National Grid gas compound at East Fortune.

#### **The Process**

The decision-making process involved differs significantly from the typical planning process of which many local residents and businesses may have experience. The proposed new Power Station and gas pipeline require the consent of Scottish Government Ministers, who will be responsible for determining ScottishPower's applications, rather than East Lothian Council. However, the Council will be a statutory consultee in the decision making process.

Comprehensive environmental impact assessments are currently being undertaken in respect of both the new Power Station and the associated gas pipeline. A series of surveys have been undertaken to inform these assessments. Submissions have already been made to Scottish Government to gauge the exact scope of this assessment, but it is clear that it will cover construction, operation and the decommissioning phases of the proposed developments, covering matters such as ecology, emissions, socio-economics, transport etc.

In terms of timescales, ScottishPower and their team are targeting November 2009 for the submission of the applications for both the new CCGT Power Station and the new gas pipeline with further community consultation exercises being undertaken in September and November. Local residents and businesses will be invited to comment on more detailed proposals at that time.

#### **Website**

ScottishPower has set up a website dedicated to the Cockenzie project. The site, [www.cockenziepowerstation.com](http://www.cockenziepowerstation.com), provides local residents and businesses with the opportunity to stay up-to-date with ScottishPower's progress, as well as providing an online facility for viewing consultation materials. Local residents and businesses are invited to register their email addresses at [www.cockenziepowerstation.com](http://www.cockenziepowerstation.com) in order to receive further editions of this newsletter, details of future community consultation events, and other information in respect of the project.

#### **Public Information Events – June 2009**

On 9 and 10 June 2009, ScottishPower held its first public information events in respect of the future of Cockenzie Power Station. The first of the events was held on 9 June in Athelstaneford Village Hall, the second the following day in the Port Seton Centre.

The events took the form of exhibitions, with members of ScottishPower's project team available to answer questions on the future of Cockenzie Power Station. Facilities were on hand for members of the public to record any comments or to ask any questions and to provide their contact details so they can be kept up-to-date as the project progresses.

The exhibition itself provided an overview of the history and current status of Cockenzie Power Station, a summary of Scotland-wide energy supply and demand issues, and an early introduction to ScottishPower's intentions to replace the existing coal-fired Cockenzie Power Station with a gas-fired CCGT Power Station. It also included a summary of the CCGT process and an overview of site selection options.

The information events were very well attended. The event at Athelstaneford was attended by approximately 51 local residents, with approximately 160 attending the event at the Port Seton Centre. A broad range of issues were raised and will be taken on board as ScottishPower progresses its proposals for the future of Cockenzie Power Station. A number of queries were received and ScottishPower has sought to address these on the project website.

[www.cockenziepowerstation.com/faqs](http://www.cockenziepowerstation.com/faqs)



### Principle of continued electricity generation

National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2) was formally published by Scottish Government on 25 June 2009. It sets out Scottish Government's aspirations for a wealthier and fairer, greener, smarter, safer and stronger and healthier Scotland. It identifies a series of priority 'national' infrastructure developments, 'essential' to facilitating these aspirations.

'New non-nuclear baseload electricity generating capacity and associated infrastructure' at existing Power Stations, including Cockenzie, is identified as one of these essential 'national' developments. Identification as such is a strong indicator of Scottish Government's recognition of the need for continued electricity generation at Cockenzie and as a result, their likely support for the principle of a CCGT Power Station to replace the existing facility. The NPF2 also sets out the matters to be

considered as part of the determination of an application for continued generation at Cockenzie, focussing on environmental and design issues.

In addition to the principle of continued generation at Cockenzie being established at a national level, East Lothian Council's adopted Local Plan states that the site of the existing Cockenzie Power Station should be safeguarded for continued power generation.

### Security of Supply

A broad spectrum of electricity generating sources is beneficial to both ScottishPower and Scotland as a whole. In Scotland, ScottishPower currently operates coal, pumped storage, hydro and wind generating plants, and is keen to add a gas-fired Power Station to its portfolio in order to ensure there is no over-reliance on any one fuel source.

In terms of gas-fired electricity generation, CCGT is recognised as being 'best available technology' by the European Commission. In addition, CCGT Power Stations are flexible, which allows them to come 'online' at short notice. Given the increased role of renewable sources of electricity generation, this flexibility will be invaluable to Cockenzie Power Station which, as well as contributing to baseload generation, will be available to pick up shortfalls in supply on occasions when renewable sources are unable to generate.

The CCGT Power Station will be fuelled by natural gas from the National Grid. In addition, ScottishPower owns and is investing further in Gas Storage Facilities elsewhere in the UK, which can be used for storing gas in order to ensure sufficient availability during peak periods. In opting to progress with a gas-fired Power Station at Cockenzie, ScottishPower fully considered the ongoing availability of fuel and remains confident that sufficient gas supply exists to maintain generation throughout the life of the CCGT Power Station.

### Pipeline Route

Based upon initial engineering and environmental studies, ScottishPower has identified its preferred pipeline route extending from the new CCGT Power Station at the west, to a new installation adjacent to the existing National Grid compound at East Fortune. However, the exact definition of the route is dependent upon further landowner discussions and engineering studies.

A series of environmental surveys have been undertaken along the length of the route within a 1km-wide corridor. The preferred route avoids the most sensitive of environmental designations including Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. Furthermore, minor deviations will be made to avoid localised sensitivities such as badger setts and mature trees, once the survey findings have been assessed.

It is proposed that the gas pipeline will be 600mm in diameter and, with the exception of road and watercourse crossing points, will lie approximately 1.2m below ground. Construction and installation of the pipeline will require a period of 6-9 months. The construction process will require a 'working width' of up to 30m along the length of the route within which construction activities will take place.

Upon completion of the construction process, land will be restored to its present condition. The majority of the route is arable land, which will be available for farming shortly after the completion of the construction process. As is the case with a number of existing pipelines which cross East Lothian, some of which are much larger than ScottishPower's proposed pipeline, there will be no long-term or permanent visual evidence of the pipeline's presence.

The pipeline will undergo rigorous testing to ensure its compliance with UK and European Standards, and will be monitored on a regular basis throughout its operational life.

### Site Selection

At the time of the June consultation events, ScottishPower was undertaking a feasibility study to consider the suitability of redeveloping either the existing Power Station site, the coal yard or the Preston Links area for the CCGT Power Station. This feasibility work has now been completed and based upon a wide range of factors (including environmental, engineering, technical and planning considerations, as well as feedback received from the community at the June consultation events), has identified the site of the existing Power Station as the most suitable.

Further feasibility work has since been undertaken, which has identified the redevelopment of the existing Power Station, with modest extensions to the north and east, as preferable to constructing a standalone CCGT Station on either the eastern or western elements of the existing site.

As such, redevelopment of the existing Power Station building is ScottishPower's preferred option that will be progressed to the application stage. This option allows the retention and re-use of much of the existing infrastructure, although some physical alterations to the appearance of the building are required. These alterations include the phased removal of the two existing 150m (492 feet) chimney stacks and their replacement with three approximately 82m (269 feet) stacks. The coal conveyor belt will also be removed.

Initial images of the CCGT Power Station will be on display at the 22/23 September 2009 consultation events (see below). However, please note that the images are only indicative at this stage and the possibility remains that the ongoing engineering studies may result in some amendment to the dimensions and appearance of the new Station. The images do however represent ScottishPower's latest design thinking.

The future of ScottishPower-owned land in the vicinity of the Power Station was also raised at the events. This is the subject of ongoing consideration and ScottishPower hopes to be in a position to advise of its aspirations at the next round of community consultation events.

Don't forget to check out our website for further information [www.cockenziepowerstation.com](http://www.cockenziepowerstation.com). Register your email address there for updates.

### Emissions from Cockenzie Power Station

A number of queries were received during the June community consultation events regarding the ongoing operation of Cockenzie Power Station. Queries or comments regarding ongoing operations at the Station should continue to be directed to the relevant individuals within the Power Station rather than the project team.

The proposed gas-fired Power Station would produce significantly reduced levels of emissions. For example, carbon dioxide levels would be less than half of those of the existing station, nitrogen oxides less than one-third of existing, and sulphur oxides would be negligible compared with existing levels. There will also be a significant reduction in noise and dust emissions from the plant. Further details will be provided in the Environmental Statement that will accompany the application for consent and at subsequent public exhibitions.

### Community Consultation

The public information events held in June were the first of a series of community consultation events. The June events were intended as an introduction to the project, as ScottishPower were very much in the early stages of considering where to locate the new CCGT Power Station. Prior to that, ScottishPower had considered a number of alternatives for the future of Cockenzie Power Station and had concluded that the option that they wish to progress is to replace it with a CCGT Power Station.

Although much work has still to be done in terms of engineering studies, significant progress has been made since the June events and ScottishPower is returning on 22 and 23 September 2009 at Athelstaneford Village Hall (4-8pm) and Prestonpans Library (12-8pm) respectively to consult further with local residents and businesses. Members of the project team will be available at the events to talk you through any individual elements of the project and to answer any queries.

Further community consultation will be undertaken in November following the submission of the application to Scottish Government, but within the 28-day public consultation period. At this stage, full details of the proposals will be available and the process for formally commenting upon the application will be explained.

Outside of the formal consultation exercises, the project website [www.cockenziepowerstation.com](http://www.cockenziepowerstation.com) is available for updates. Alternatively, comments can be submitted at any time to [cockenzieconsents@gvgrimley.co.uk](mailto:cockenzieconsents@gvgrimley.co.uk)



ScottishPower and the project team look forward to seeing you at the Athelstaneford Village Hall on 22 September, or at Prestonpans Library on 23 September.

 **GVA Grimley**

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