

7<sup>th</sup> February 2014

## **Time to Retake the Lead on Carbon Capture and Storage**

A leading industry voice is calling for the UK Government to retake the lead on carbon capture and storage (CCS), following the publication of a compelling new report this week.

A joint document was published on Tuesday by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and the Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA), stating the strong case for an ambitious roll-out of CCS, which would generate a large number of jobs, create a market worth £15-35bn by 2030, and reduce household electricity bills by £82 a year.

The report is being backed by the Association of UK Coal Importers (CoalImp), which says that in today's energy mix, coal is currently generating 40 per cent of our electricity, and that it can and should fuel the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) equipped plants of the future.

However, CoalImp – which represents major coal users, rail companies, ports and other infrastructure operators in the UK coal supply chain – says that, in order for coal to play a key role in an affordable, sustainable energy mix, it requires robust new support from Westminster.

“It's never been more important to maintain and develop the existing coal infrastructure as we make the transition towards a low carbon future”, says Nigel Yaxley, managing director of CoalImp.

The TUC/CCSA report – entitled ‘The Economic Benefits of CCS in the UK’ – shows that a number of actions need to be taken by Government in the immediate future to boost CCS and deliver significant benefits to the UK economy in the lifetime of the next parliament and beyond.

The document positions CCS in a key role that can help meet statutory targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent come 2050. It has been estimated that, without CCS, the cost of meeting this target will rise by £30-40bn per year.

Inclusion of CCS in the mix of low-carbon technologies will also result in a substantial 15 per cent reduction in wholesale electricity prices.

Furthermore, each new-build CCS power plant will generate between 1,000 and 2,500 jobs in construction, with a further 200-300 jobs in operation, maintenance and the associated supply chain.

"The new report backs our long-held belief that inclusion of CCS within a mix of low-carbon technologies is the lowest-cost route to decarbonisation," says Yaxley.

"CCS represents an opportunity for the UK's coal industry to participate sustainably in the future energy mix, securing a valuable indigenous fossil fuel resource base and a vital importation infrastructure, providing access to a competitive and well-supplied international market.

"In the meantime, affordable electricity from existing coal plants, with their tried-and-tested infrastructure, can play a key role as we make the transition to a low carbon future."

He added: "Despite initially spearheading CCS innovation, we have fallen behind other countries in recent times. However, there is now a real chance to make up that ground, by showing that coal-fired power is a viable option within a secure, affordable and flexible electricity system.

"Attitudes towards coal in the UK have suffered in comparison with other countries that value its security, affordability and flexibility, but with growing concerns about energy prices, there has never been a better time to place it back at the centre of the debate through sustainable CCS technology.

"Coal is the world's fastest growing and cheapest fuel, reflecting its abundant supply across all continents – and it can still have a role in the future low-carbon energy mix through CCS.

"As electricity customers become increasingly concerned about their bills, coal is a key factor in keeping energy costs under control."

**Ends**

**For Additional Information**

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**Notes for Editors**

*The Economic Benefits of CCS in the UK* is a summary of a longer study entitled *A UK Vision for Carbon Capture and Storage*. Both the summary report and the longer study can be found on <http://www.ccsassociation.org/press-centre/reports-and-publications/> and [www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/UKVisionforCCS.doc](http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/UKVisionforCCS.doc).

The CoalImp report '*Coal – from security to sustainability*' is available from the CoalImp website [www.coalimp.org.uk](http://www.coalimp.org.uk) or in hard copy on request.

CoalImp represents major coal users, rail companies, ports and other infrastructure operators in the UK coal supply chain. The twenty two members account for the handling, transportation and use of the majority of imported supplies into the country, and are responsible for the transportation and receipt of the majority of all coal carried on the rail network for the electricity supply industry.