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Plans approved for opencast mine in Northumberland

Plans for an opencast coal mine at Steadsburn in south-east Northumberland have been approved by the County Council. UK Coal, who will operate the site, plans to extract over one million tonnes of coal and 350 000 tonnes of fireclay up to 2012. Northumberland County Council approved the development after hearing the work would be conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner, with limited impact on the local community. Work is scheduled to commence in July 2007 with the aim of supplying good quality coal to local markets.



Opencast coal mine

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Source: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/>

Cement firm appeals against pollution fine

Following on from a story in last month's industry news, cement firm Cemex, which owns Rugby Cement in Warwickshire, is appealing against a large fine following a prosecution by the Environment Agency. Cemex pleaded guilty to poor maintenance at the site which resulted in an emission from the plant on the 14 October 2005. Cemex feel the size of the fine is "excessive and disproportionate" to the offence.



UK cement production

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Source: <http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk>

Centrica plans new power station on Teeside

Centrica, who owns British Gas, has announced provisional plans for the construction of a new coal-fired power station on Teeside. The plant will be the first to combine Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) capabilities to create what the company claims will be the UK's cleanest fossil fuel powered plant. The planned plant will cost around £1 billion to build and will be capable of supplying power to one million homes.

Source: <http://www.centrica.co.uk/>

UK Coal announces extensive land sale

UK Coal, Britain's largest coal producer, has announced plans to sell thousands of acres of land for housing and commercial development. The land, with a value of £800 million, once planning permission is granted, will be disposed of during the next six years. The majority of the land is close to old pits; therefore some clean-up work will be necessary at a number of sites. UK Coal Chief Executive, Gerry Spindler has suggested that most of the revenue generated from land sales will be used to fund new mines.

Source: <http://www.ukcoal.com/>

Proposed LNG plant for Anglesey

Canatxx LNG Ltd has proposed plans to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility on the former Great Lakes Chemical Corporation bromine plant at Amlwch on the Anglesey coast. The plant will receive imported LNG from tankers, via a platform 3 km offshore, and convert it to gas to supply the National Gas Transmission System. The planned facility could create up to 60 jobs. A full local consultation process is in progress.

Source: <http://www.angleseyenergy.com/canatxx-lng.html>

Plan for wood-fuelled energy plant in Scotland

Northern Ireland-based Balcas Timber, who have just opened the UK's largest renewable energy combined heat and power (CHP) plant at its Enniskillen site, has announced plans for a £24 million biomass 5MW CHP facility on the former Alcan site at Invergordon on the Cromarty Firth. Highlands and Islands Enterprise is investing £5.5 million in the venture. It

will be powered using the cuttings and other waste left over from forest felling in the Highlands. The plant will create 38 full-time jobs and will also produce wood pellets that will provide 48 MW of thermal energy, displacing 60 million litres of oil per year.

Source: <http://www.hie.co.uk/>

Further successful drilling at Parys Mountain

Anglesey Mining has announced that twelve holes have now been completed near the Morris Shaft on its Parys Mountain copper-lead-zinc deposit near Amlwch in Anglesey. Eight holes on the White Rock Zone proved its continuation from the 280 metre 1990 exploration level to the surface, including a 68 metre intersection of about 4% Cu+Pb+Zn. Four holes targeted on the Upper Engine Zone showed that mineralization extends at least 150 metres above the 280 metre level. Intersections included 2.7 metres at 16.1 % Cu+Pb+Zn and 3 metres at 11.3% Cu+Pb+Zn. A new small, near-surface zone of mineralization was also found within the Penmynydd Fault Zone. The next phase will be detailed mine planning to access these near-surface zones through a decline.

Source: <http://www.angleseymining.co.uk/>



Morris Shaft and White Rock at Parys Mountain

Photo Copyright: BGS NERC

Hafod quarry waste tipping to continue

The Welsh Assembly Government Environment Minister, Caerwyn Jones, has decided not to overturn a decision by Wrexham council to allow a Liverpool company to use Hafod Quarry, near Wrexham, as a landfill site – see Industry News August 2006.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk>