



## Industry news : August 2007

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### **Waste disposal plans for disused mine**

NPL Estates is to re-open the former anhydrite mine in Billingham, County Durham . The company plans to inspect the site to determine its suitability for the storage of low level hazardous waste. However, a petition, with up to 2 000 names, highlights fears that the mine will be used to store toxic or nuclear waste.

The mine closed in 1971 but became the focus of attention in the 1980s with the proposal of a controversial scheme to store nuclear waste. This plan was eventually defeated by local residents. NPL Estates specialise in the regeneration and remediation of brownfield sites.

Source : <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tees/6923620.stm>

### **Welsh coal**



Minehead

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

The Unity Mine at Cwmgwrach, South Wales has reopened and underground development work is ongoing. Coal is currently being extracted from this drift mine to make way for further engineering work. The mine owners, Unity Power, expect full industrial production of 1million tonnes per year to begin in early 2008. The mine has estimated reserves of 90m tonnes and will employ approximately 120 staff. This mine is the first underground operation to be opened in Wales since Betws colliery in Ammanford in 1974.

This development follows news that Energybuild, a company that mines Welsh coal, floated on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM). Capital raised will be used to develop the Aberpergwm Mine and adjoining Treforgan underground coal mines in South Wales .

Source :

[http://www.growingbusiness.co.uk/Energybuild\\_joins\\_AIM\\_raising\\_15m.YUFSaYRoEmfC1w.html](http://www.growingbusiness.co.uk/Energybuild_joins_AIM_raising_15m.YUFSaYRoEmfC1w.html)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/6925416.stm>

### **Tarmac sale**

Anglo American has announced plans to sell Tarmac, the aggregates and road building company. The sale is part of a continuing process of restructuring by Anglo American which intends to refocus on mining. Anglo American is currently the 3 rd largest global mining company. Based in Wolverhampton , Tarmac currently employs more than 12 500 people worldwide.

Source : [http://www.angloamerican.co.uk/article/?afw\\_source\\_key=FE65FD32-D61B-4E3D-AAAD-EB8E04A17914&xsl\\_menu\\_parent=/](http://www.angloamerican.co.uk/article/?afw_source_key=FE65FD32-D61B-4E3D-AAAD-EB8E04A17914&xsl_menu_parent=/)

### **Low level nuclear waste**

A consortium of private firms, led by the USA-based Washington Group International, has been chosen as the preferred bidder for a contract to manage the UK 's national low level nuclear waste repository. Located at Drigg, in west Cumbria , the site is expected to receive increased levels of waste due to the planned decommissioning of obsolete nuclear facilities within the UK . The successful contractor will manage the site for an initial period of 5 years, with extensions up to 17 years. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) hopes to finalise the contract by October.

Source: <http://investor.wgint.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=70435&p=irol-newsroomarticle&ID=1040775&highlight>

### **Proposed Rigg Coal Mine**

ATH Resources has lodged a planning application to extract 1.3 million tonnes of coal from a site near Kirkconnel in Dumfries and Galloway . If the plans are successful, the mine will operate for more than 2 years and employ 100 staff. ATH Resources currently have three operational open cast coal mines in Ayrshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway . The majority of coal extracted from these sites is used for electricity generation with additional significant domestic coal use. The proposal is currently being considered by the Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Source : [http://www.ath.co.uk/html/news/archive/14\\_08\\_2007.html](http://www.ath.co.uk/html/news/archive/14_08_2007.html)

## Offshore wind farm proposals revised



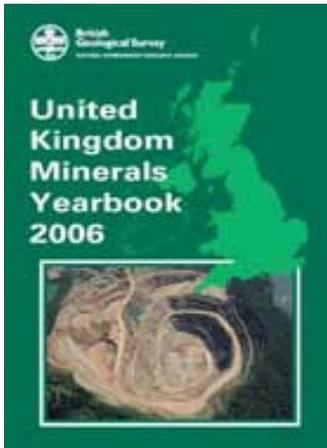
Wind turbine

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

Npower renewables, the company behind plans for a proposed wind farm off the North Wales coast, have submitted a revised application to planning authorities. This follows local opposition and calls for a public enquiry following the submission of the original plans in 2005, for the site at Gwynt y Môr, nine miles off Llandudno. The original plan for 200 turbines has been changed, reducing the area of cover by 20% and lowering the visual impact from the mainland. The proposed wind farm has a 750MW capacity, sufficient to supply 500 000 homes.

Source : <http://www.planningresource.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Development-Control/login/732030/>

## The British Geological Survey releases the UK Minerals Yearbook 2006



The United Kingdom Minerals Yearbook 2006 is now available for free download from [www.mineralsUK.com](http://www.mineralsUK.com). This annual publication by the British Geological Survey provides comprehensive statistical data on minerals production, consumption and trade to 2005, estimates of production for major mineral commodities in 2006 and a commentary on the UK's minerals industry during 2006. It is of value to all those interested in the many facets of Britain's minerals industry and its contribution to the national economy.

Source : <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/commodity/uk/ukmy.html>

## Government gives go-ahead for gas power station



Power station

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

A £400 million project to build a gas-fired power station on the River Usk, near Newport, in south Wales, has received government approval. Severn Power Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Carron Energy, announced that the building of the 800MW plant would generate 650 construction jobs and is due to open in 2010. The new plant is to be constructed on the site of the former Uskmouth coal-fired power station. An underground pipeline will supply the gas to the new plant from an extension of the local gas distribution network, owned by Wales and West Utilities.

Source :

<http://www.severnpower.com/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=8&cntnt01returnid=15>

## Study predicts blossoming UK renewables market

A market study by Ernst and Young has ranked the UK second in its quarterly Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index. The UK has gained this rating as a result of the recent publication of the Energy White Paper and the Planning for a Sustainable Future White Paper. The United States retains its ranking at the top of the index.

Source : [http://www.ey.com/global/content.nsf/UK/Media - 07 08 06 DC - Global investment in renewable energy to hit 750bn USD by 2016](http://www.ey.com/global/content.nsf/UK/Media_-_07_08_06_DC_-_Global_investment_in_renewable_energy_to_hit_750bn_USD_by_2016)

## Gas storage facility receives investment

Gaz de France plans to invest £350 million to develop gas storage facilities in salt cavities in Cheshire. In a deal reached with the chemical company, INEOS, who have planning permission to develop the site, the French utility company has agreed the investment over a 30-year period. The site will be the UK's second largest gas storage site, providing up to 12% of the nation's average daily consumption.

Source : [http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,2157961,00.html#article\\_continue.html](http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,2157961,00.html#article_continue.html)

## Coal: opencast coal mining statistics 2006

The results of the Opencast Coal Survey for 2006 are now available. This annual survey is carried out by the BGS in collaboration with the Coal Authority and planning authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. It includes data on opencast coal production, permitted

reserves, planning permissions and sites that ceased operations during 2006. The information may be viewed at:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/minequar/coal/occ/home.html>