

ANOTHER GAS-FIRED POWER STATION FOR PEMBROKESHIRE

A proposed new gas-fired power station, operating on the shores of Milford Haven, is unlikely to be opposed by environmentalists if it will productively use its waste heat to re-gasify LNG which is imported on tankers at around minus 160° C. Concern has also been expressed that the proposal should not cause any further harm to the important local marine environment [1].

News of the new power station, which would be situated close to the South Hook LNG terminal on the north side of the Milford Haven waterway, was revealed by ITV Wales News yesterday. It comes shortly after the UK Government announced backing for a major expansion in gas generated electricity [2].

Gordon James, campaigner with Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, said:

"We have been led to believe that the proposed new gas-fired power station near the South Hook LNG terminal would use its waste heat to re-gasify the LNG that is imported on tankers at around minus 160° C.

"We welcome this as, from the outset, we have argued that LNG imported through Milford Haven should only be used to generate electricity in power stations that use the waste heat productively in these Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems. These are far more efficient than conventional power stations, emits far less carbon dioxide, and do not use the hugely damaging water cooling system that has triggered so much opposition to the new Pembroke power station [3].

"Environmentalists have reacted strongly to the government's recent announcement of a major expansion in the use of gas to generate electricity as this will make it more difficult to tackle climate change [4]. A 'dash for gas' in conventional power stations would emit excessive amounts of carbon dioxide and undermine the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"Gas has a role to play in our shift to a low carbon society but only if it is burnt as efficiently as possible, such as in CHP systems.

"It is also vitally important that the new power station does not adversely impact on the very important Pembrokeshire marine environment."

ENDS

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NOTES

1. The Milford Haven waterway is part of the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation. As such, it is granted the highest form of environmental protection under European law.
2. http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn12_025/pn12_025.aspx
3. http://www.foe.co.uk/cymru/english/press_releases/Damaging_Pembrokeshire_power_station_set_to_go_ahead_091111.html
4. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/mar/17/dash-for-gas-proposals-campaigners>