

## **Large Combustion Plant Directive**

### **Background**

- The Revised Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD) applies to all existing plant greater than 50MW covering emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter. The new limits will come into force in 2008 and will be revised down again in 2016. The revised directive was transposed into UK National Law towards the end of 2002.
- Member states have two different ways in which they can implement the LCPD: use of the Emissions Limit Values (ELV) outlined in the Directive or through a, supposedly, more flexible National Emissions Reduction Plan (NERP). Individual plant may also opt-out and agree to operate for a maximum of 20,000-hrs post Jan 2008.
- The UK government has adopted a hybrid approach of ELVs for electricity generation and a NERP for all other installations covered by the directive.

### **What is it? How does it work?**

- Emission Limit Values (ELVs) are based on the concentration of emissions in flue gases. Unabated plant would find this a major constraint on the instantaneous level of generation, thus limiting both output and flexibility. There is, however, no constraint on their total annual emissions.
- The National Emissions Reduction Plan (NERP) sets an annual cap but allows some flexibility on how this is met through the ability to trade in any proposed SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> trading schemes. Constraints on instantaneous emissions will remain in the form of local air quality limits and IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) requirements. Allocation will be based on average generation in 5 years to 2000 times the ELV.
- Companies may also opt-out plants (or individual generating units) in order to avoid the need to incur abatement costs, and agree to operate for a maximum of 20,000-hrs post Jan 2008 and then close.
- The UK governments 'hybrid' approach (ELVs for generators and a NERP for everyone else) was submitted to the EC for approval in November 2004 and a decision is expected by June 2005.
- The deadline for plants to opt out of the LCPD was 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004. However, plants that have declared this intention may still reverse this decision and opt back in. The UK government has proposed a deadline for opt-in of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 to give companies time to make investment decisions following the EC decision on the UK hybrid plan.

### **British Energy's position**

- British Energy supports the Government's 'hybrid' approach in implementing the LCPD.
- The company has fitted Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) equipment to two of its four units at its Eggborough coal station to enable operation within the LCPD limits after 2008.