Responses by Dr Henry Adams on behalf of SLACCtt to Statera's applications to SLDC for a gas peaking plant at Old Hutton near Kendal, Cumbria

A hub document providing relevant links. Link to this document: www.bit.ly/gasrecip
SLACCtt – South Lakes Action on Climate Change *towards transition* @henryadamsUK

In summary, SLACCtt is objecting to gas reciprocating engines because research shows these are a very high carbon option for balancing the grid at times of peak demand, a purpose much better fulfilled by much lower carbon alternatives such as batteries, and/or even better: methods that shift some of potential peak demand to other times of day when supply is higher than demand (Demand Side Response and Smart Grid technology). The battery alternative would also make irrelevant the siting of a grid balancing plant near a suitable gas pipeline, such as at Old Hutton.

On 2nov18 Statera's application was refused by a narrow single vote margin. Link to SLDC Decision Notice

Links to relevant online documents by Henry Adams

www.bit.ly/gasrecip5
Oral presentation on behalf of SLACCtt at SLDC planning committee meeting on 2nov18 re Statera's re-application for a gas peaking plant at Old Hutton

www.bit.ly/gasrecip4
SLACCtt's letter in Westmorland Gazette on Statera's proposed gas power station at Old Hutton

www.bit.ly/gasrecip2
SLACCtt's main submission document in 2018 to SLDC on Statera's re-application for a gas power station at Old Hutton

www.bit.ly/gasrecip1
First oral presentation on behalf of SLACC to SLDC Planning committee meeting re Statera's proposals for a gas peaking plant (and battery storage) next to the NG substation at Old Hutton – written by Dr Henry Adams with help from Chris Rowley (Final version as written and spoken on 4 January 2017)

(links to documents by other people/groups below News section)

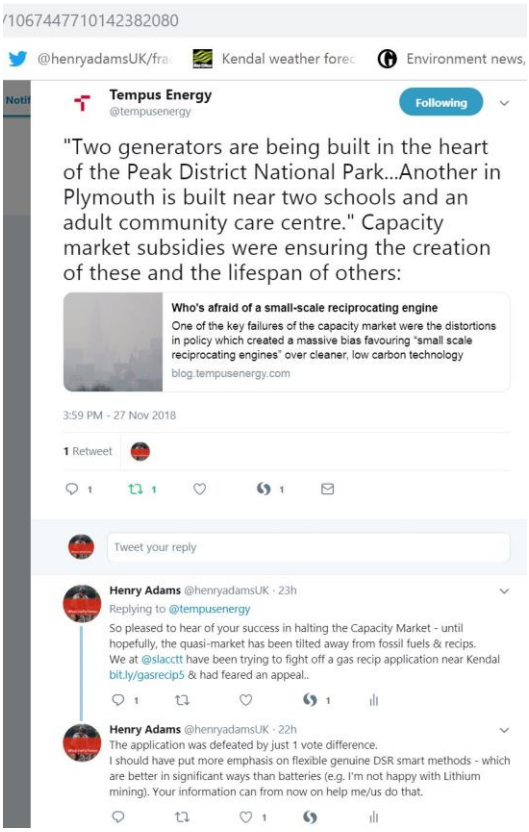
News

15nov18 **UK's backup power subsidies are illegal, European court rules - Surprise judgment means government must halt capacity market scheme** - Adam Vaughan
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/15/uk-backup-power-subsidies-illegal-european-court-capacity-market

And re reciprocating engines (as Statera propose):
https://blog.tempusenergy.com/blog/2018/11/22/why-were-small-scale-reciprocating-engines-favoured-in-the-capacity-marketnbsp

Now studying the recent ECJ ruling that halts UK's Capacity Market and its subsidy-like payouts to firms who provide responses to cope with electricity demand peaks (eg winter 4pm-7pm).

This is nicely timed, as I was considering how best to pre-empt a possible appeal by Statera for their proposed gas power station.

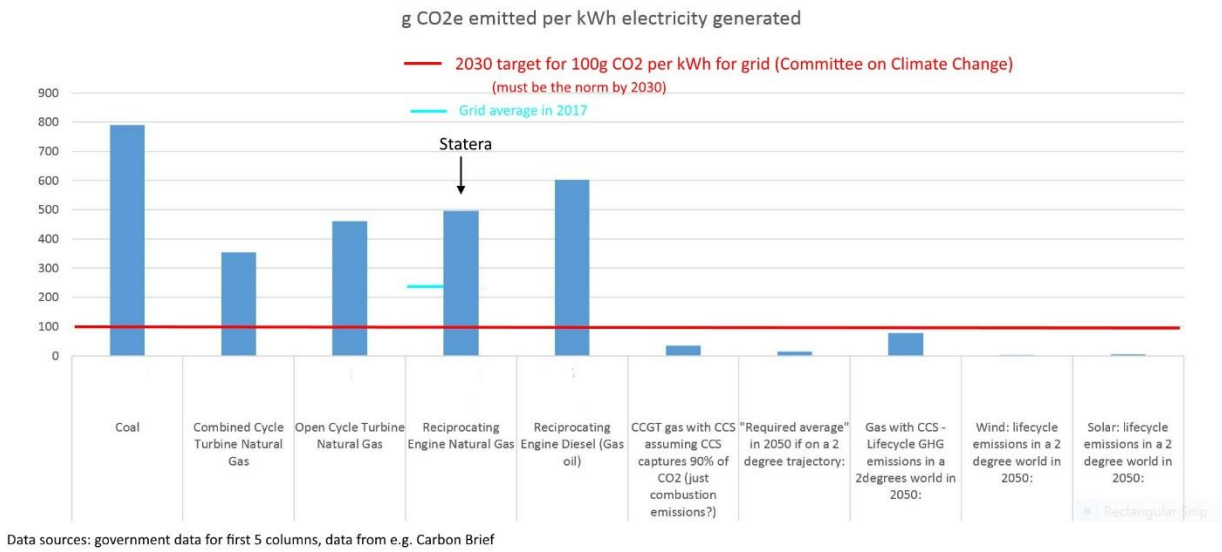


Studying this matter highlights to me and anyone how government imbalanced the capacity market to favour its fossil fuel chums (providers of electricity from gas and even coal and diesel) by allowing them up to 3 to 15 year contracts (existing [if refurbishing] to new power stations respectively) whereas allowing DSR companies only 1 year contracts (DSR = Demand Side Response = smart systems enabling customers to shift energy use from expensive demand peaks to cheaper demand lulls - so saving money and reducing C-emissions - by reducing demand for electricity from coal/gas).
So it appears that the financial future for new gas power stations that want to "compete" in the capacity market (including Statera's proposal I hope(?)) is put on hold.
So - hats off to Tempus Energy and its CEO Sara Bell - a small DSR company who challenged the fossil-bias of the Capacity Market!
Let's hope the UK is forced to un-bias the capacity market (and hopefully add a carbon-based disincentive to fossil fuels?).

27nov18 **UK's 'illegal' backup power scheme subsidised fossil fuels – a greener alternative should now replace it - Marcelle McManus Professor of Energy and Environmental Engineering, University of Bath**
https://theconversation.com/uks-illegal-backup-power-scheme-subsidised-fossil-fuels-a-greener-alternative-should-now-replace-it-107290
Some quotes from this: "Under EU state aid rules, member states are obliged to consider alternative ways of meeting market demand for power before subsidising polluting generators. They also require any capacity boosting measures to be designed in a way that provides "adequate incentives" for operators of new, cleaner technologies." ...
"**Subsidising fossil fuels**
Tempus data shows that the capacity market had predominantly supported fossil fuel providers. Therefore, the UK had effectively been state funding fossil fuel power generators to be on standby to produce power when, and if, there was a shortfall in the electricity being produced. The concern is that by using the scheme to predominantly fund fossil fuel provision, Britain will continue to rely on such technologies into the future, reducing the ability to cut climate change targets and uphold agreements." ...

I have more refs on this. Ask me if you want more info.

The carbon intensity of gas reciprocating engines in grams CO2e emitted per kWh of electricity generated as compared with coal, other fossil fuels, wind and solar, the grid average in 2017 and CCC's target for 2030 of 100g CO2 per kWh



Data sources: government data for first 5 columns, data from e.g. Carbon Brief

Gas reciprocating engines are most definitely HIGH CARBON, with a carbon intensity of around 60% that of coal, 5 times higher than CCC's 2030 target, over double the average carbon intensity of our grid in 2017, and of order of magnitude around 100 times or more the life-cycle carbon intensity of clean green renewables such as wind and solar

Links to related online documents by Henry Adams

Submission to Planning Inspectorate of objection to Drax proposal for gas-fired electricity generation
www.dragonfly1.plus.com/DRAXGAS.pdf
Correction: For "very dangerous climate breakdown conditions that lie above the approximate 2 degrees 'tipping points' to unstoppable climate change" I should have expressed a higher degree of uncertainty as to where these tipping points might lie. Around 2 degrees is a possibility of where these tipping points might lie, not a definite. The precautionary principle is apt here: we should not be taking the risk of reaching the tipping points, and the upper temperature limit of the Paris Agreement was very appropriately stated as "well below 2°C"

www.bit.ly/growth-cc-nppf
ECONOMIC GROWTH and CLIMATE CHANGE – annex re NPPF
The 2018 revised NPPF and the planning system in relation to 'economic growth' and climate change

www.bit.ly/growth-cc
ECONOMIC GROWTH and CLIMATE CHANGE
To councillors and everyone on the folly of promoting ECONOMIC GROWTH above other more vital requirements this century such as tackling climate breakdown, environmental degradation, species extinction and excessive inequality
http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/EconomicGrowth&ClimateChange.pdf

www.bit.ly/SLACCttNOtoCOAL
http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/SLACCobjectiontoWhitehavenCOALmine.pdf

Links to some related online info by other people or groups

Stop Old Hutton Power Station https://www.facebook.com/stopoldhuttonpowerstation/

SLDC's online information on Statera's 2018 re-application:
http://applications.southlakeland.gov.uk/planningapplications/detail.asp?AltRef=SL/2018/0388&ApplicationNumber=SL%2F2018%2F0388&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&Submit=Search
From which I've selected:

Decision Notice Summary
http://applications.southlakeland.gov.uk/planningapplications/decision.asp?AltRef=SL/2018/0388&ApplicationNumber=SL%2F2018%2F0388&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&Submit=Search
"Reasons for refusal":
"The development of this green field site for a gas fired power station and associated development would introduce very substantial development of a predominantly urban character into the open countryside. By virtue of its scale, design and appearance, the proposal would appear incongruous and intrusive to the detriment of the rural setting of the locality and which would have a detrimental impact upon the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The proposal would thereby be contrary to Policies CS8.2 of the South Lakeland Core Strategy, and DM1 of the South Lakeland Local Plan Development Management Policies (Publication Document - November 2017), and to the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework."
[Note: no mention of carbon emissions or climate change despite the proposal being high carbon]
Link to full Decision Notice: http://kdc-pam.southlakeland.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00221418.pdf

Report by SLDC Planning Officer case officer - 25oct18 "Committee Report"
http://kdc-pam.southlakeland.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00220282.pdf