

SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP



## **Drax in bilateral discussions with UK government on large-scale Power BECCS**

MAR 31, 2023

The UK government has confirmed its commitment to support the deployment of large-scale power bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) projects by 2030, and that the Drax Power Station BECCS project has passed the deliverability assessment for the Power BECCS project submission process.

Drax said it has been invited to enter formal bilateral discussions with the government immediately, to move the project forward and ensure the government is able to fulfil its restated commitment to achieving 5Mtpa of engineered Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs) by 2030. The company added it believes that BECCS at Drax Power Station is the only project that can enable the Government to achieve this goal. The government has also committed to publish its biomass strategy by the end of June 2023, which will set out how the technology could be deployed. During 2022 carbon removal projects, including Power BECCS, were progressed in parallel with the Track 1 process for gas, hydrogen and industrial CCS projects.

While Power BECCS and other shortlisted projects are not included in the immediate Track 1 process, the government has confirmed that in 2023 it will set out a process for the expansion of Track 1 and has today launched Track 2. BECCS is eligible for both.

Separately, the government has stated it will work closely with electricity generators currently using biomass to facilitate a transition to Power BECCS. The Government has also confirmed that its response to the Power BECCS business model consultation, which took place in 2022, will be published imminently, providing further clarity on the delivery of BECCS as soon as possible.

“Delivery of BECCS at Drax Power Station will help the UK achieve its net zero targets, create thousands of jobs across the north and help ensure the UK’s long-term energy security,” said Will Gardiner, Drax Group CEO. “We note confirmation that our project has met the government’s deliverability criteria and government remains committed to achieve 5Mtpa of engineered Greenhouse Gas Removals by 2030 – a goal that cannot be achieved without BECCS at Drax Power Station. We will immediately enter into formal discussions with government to take our project forward. “With the right engagement from



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government and swift decision making, Drax stands ready to progress our £2bn (€2.2bn) investment programme and deliver this critical project for the UK by 2030.”

## **UK health and safety regulator drops Drax prosecution**

FEB 27, 2023

A prosecution against the owners of the UK's largest power station has been dropped by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), it has been announced.

The UK's Health and Safety Executive, the government agency responsible for the encouragement, regulation and enforcement of workplace health and safety, had alleged failings at the plant. These related to workers' exposure to wood dust, with five employees developing asthma.

Drax Power denied the allegations, and legal proceedings by HSE began after it was told about the affected employees in 2015. The regulator investigated the control of exposure to wood dust present in biomass. HSE said a causal link between the occupational asthma and handling of the biomass could not be established to the criminal standard.

The [BBC](#) reported that new information from Drax surrounding the design and commissioning of infrastructure at the North Yorkshire power station showed it "intended to minimise" workers' exposure to the dust. As the matter progressed to trial, further expert evidence had been provided by the defence, HSE said.

*That evidence undermined the original prosecution evidence leading to HSE deciding to discontinue the prosecution.*

*During the investigation, HSE served two improvement notices relating to the control of biomass dust, which Drax complied with, it said.*

A HSE spokesperson said: "This has been a lengthy and thorough investigation involving a complex area of regulation.

"New information emerged towards the end of last year as part of the legal disclosure process, which HSE had a duty to review. As a result of this review, there is no longer a reasonable prospect of securing a conviction for the most serious failings alleged and it is not now in the public interest to continue with the prosecution.

"There is no evidence of continuing risk of harm from exposure to wood dust at the Drax Power Station."



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