



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr P G Davies
Parish Clerk
Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council
37 Leofric Close
Kings Bromley
Burton-on-Trent
D13 7JP

24th May 2016

Dear Mr Davies,

I wanted to update you about Rugeley B Power Station.

On Friday 20th May an announcement by ENGIE, the owners of Rugeley B, explained that they will be closing the plant in June. This is incredibly disappointing news; although not unexpected given ENGIE's announcement in February that the Power Station would be likely to cease operations this Summer, due to the deteriorating market conditions.

This news is a real blow to Rugeley but most particularly the employees, contactors and wider supply chain. The employment base for the station is drawn from a wide area around the power station and many surrounding towns and villages will be as affected as Rugeley.

Since the original announcement regarding the potential closure I have visited the power station on several occasions and held numerous meetings with ENGIE's management team, trade union representatives and Government Ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

At this difficult time it is most important that we all work together to help affected staff, contractors and the wider supply chain. I am calling on local businesses that have both skilled and unskilled vacancies to contact the Power Station and the Cannock Job Centre Plus so the workforce are aware of any vacancies. I have also organised a Jobs Fair at the Rugeley Rose Theatre on Friday 17th June, 10am until 1pm, which is open to everyone impacted by this announcement and any other jobs seekers in the area. Neighbouring MPs are also supporting this event and I have been speaking to the power station's trade union representatives and management to make sure that everyone on-site is aware of this event.

It is important to note that 30 people will be kept on for several months for the decommissioning stage so this valuable time allows for more employees to find new jobs.

Turning to the future of the site. Although this news is hugely disappointing, it does mark the beginning of a major opportunity for Rugeley. With its significant size the site could potentially accommodate numerous development opportunities that would provide both employment and housing for the area.

The redevelopment of the Rugeley A Power Station and Lea Hall Colliery sites demonstrate what can be achieved - now these sites are home to housing, business parks and logistics centres - which have created thousands of new jobs.

I have been speaking to a significant number of businesses interested in the site and will continue to work with the Taskforce, local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, the Government and owners to ensure that the site is redeveloped in such a way that it creates new jobs in the future.

On the issue of the sports and social facilities on the site. The owners have already served the Social Club with 12 months' notice. They have done this because, for safety reasons, the whole site has to be completely vacated during demolition. I am calling on all local facilities and community groups to come forward to offer support to the clubs and groups affected in an effort to re-home them, at least for the short term. The vast majority of the current sporting and social facilities lie within the boundaries of Lichfield District Council, so I will be writing to both Lichfield District Council and Cannock Chase District Council, to make sure that adequate weight is given to the provision of sporting and social facilities for the local community as part of the planning process for the future of the site. I will also be asking the council to do all they can to help support and relocate any homeless sports clubs.

In addition it is likely some of the current sporting provision may well remain after the site is redeveloped, however at this early stage it is too soon to say if this will be the case. The future of the site will be subject to a full public planning process and local residents will have their say in the site's future.

For many months now I have been raising the issue of the power station, the workforce, the site's future and value to the local community and economy in speeches, questions and debates in Parliament. You can read more about this on my website at www.amandamilling.com.

If you need any further information please let me know and I will do anything I can to help all those affected by the closure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda', with a stylized initial 'A'.

Amanda Milling MP



20th May 2016

Rugeley Power Station: Update

In February 2016 ENGIE announced that its 1,000 MW Rugeley Power Station in Staffordshire was expected to cease market operations in early summer 2016. This decision was due to the deterioration in market conditions for UK coal-fired power generation and is in line with ENGIE's strategy to move towards a less carbon-intensive energy system.

Following consultation with employees and unions, ENGIE is now confirming that Rugeley will cease operations by the end of June 2016.

ENGIE is planning a staged reduction in the number of employees on site in line with its decommissioning plan. There will be no compulsory redundancies before end of June. Outplacement support is being made available to all employees and, where possible, ENGIE continues to identify redeployment opportunities for Rugeley employees elsewhere across the business. Many of the 150 employees have already found new employment opportunities in the area.

Enabling works for decommissioning have commenced and ENGIE expects the full decommissioning of the plant to last up to 9 months with a workforce of approximately 30 people in place through this period. The subsequent demolition phase will take around three years.

ENGIE is in the early stages of exploring a range of redevelopment options for the site and will remain engaged with relevant local stakeholders who will be kept fully updated on progress as these plans are developed over the coming months.

The closure of coal-fired generation capacity in the UK reflects a wider energy transition that is taking place towards a less carbon-intensive and more decentralised energy system. ENGIE remains one of the UK's largest independent power producers and is a major supplier to commercial and industrial energy and services customers. ENGIE will continue to invest in its energy and services capabilities to support this energy transition as a long-term committed partner for the UK.





Notes:

Rugeley Power Station is jointly owned by ENGIE (75%) and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. (25%). It can provide enough electricity to power 1 million homes and is one of the most flexible and efficient coal-fired stations in the UK.

The Station is also known as Rugeley "B" and has been in operation since 1970. Rugeley "A" station, built on the same site back in the 1950s, was decommissioned in 1996.