



## ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS OF ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

### ARREST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**[REDACTED] – NOT FOR PRESS RELEASE- 15TH APRIL 2009**

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| <b>Background</b> | <p>Whilst the UK Government faces the long term challenges around the provision of energy and addressing climate change, environmental protest has increased and we have seen regular protest activity directed towards power stations and energy providers in the UK.</p> <p>Of particular concern to environmentalists is the use of coal at power stations and the intended re-development of the E.ON power station at Kingsnorth in Kent into coal fired production. As a result, E.ON has been the focus of protest activity.</p> <p>Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station, located in Nottinghamshire, is a coal fired power station operated by E.ON. It is located in open countryside close to the county borders of Leicestershire and Derbyshire. This power station has been subject to protester incursion in the past.</p> <p>On occasions protesters have scaled chimney stacks and also locked on to the conveyor belts carrying coal into the furnace area with a view to disrupting energy supply from power stations.</p> <p>August 2008 - Climate Camp held near Kingsnorth in Kent in protest against coal power</p> <p>June 2008 - Protestors block the track and lock onto a coal train in Yorkshire. 29 people await trial</p> <p>April 2008 - Actions around the country for "Fossil Fools Day" include a blockade of E.On's offices in Nottingham</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> April 2007, 12 protestors breached security at the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station. 6 of these protestors proceeded to lock themselves onto the coal chute, where they remained until they were removed by police</p> <p>August 2006 - About 600 people take part in the first Climate Camp at Drax power station, Yorkshire</p> |
| <b>Incidents</b>  | <p>In January 2009, three environmental activists were seen by security guards at Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station surveilling the vicinity and taking photographs of the power station.</p> <p>Overnight on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2009, over 100 activists gathered at the Iona School in Sneinton, Notts, 10 miles from the power station.</p>   |

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| <p><b>Police Response</b></p>                                | <p>The police have carried out an intelligence led operation.</p> <p>At 00:15 on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 200 police officers from Notts and surrounding forces attended the school and carried out the arrests of 114 people for conspiracy to commit aggravated trespass and criminal damage at the power station.</p> <p>A large quantity of equipment was found in searches at the school including bolt croppers, climbing equipment, D locks etc as well as food. The intelligence (not in the public domain at present) indicates that the protestors intended to shut down the power station and remain on site for several days.</p> <p>A further individual has been arrested subsequently taking the number to 115.</p> <p>All detainees have now been bailed whilst further enquiries are carried out. A number of activists had their homes searched following arrest.</p> |
| <p><b>Company Response</b></p>                               | <p>A spokesperson for E.ON has made a press release; "We can confirm that Ratcliffe power station was the planned target of an organised protest during the early hours of this morning. While we understand that everyone has a right to protest peacefully and lawfully ... we will be assisting the police with their investigations into what could have been a very dangerous and irresponsible attempt to disrupt an operational power plant."</p>   |
| <p><b>Gov Inter-departmental Delivery Group Response</b></p> | <p>Nil required</p>  |
| <p><b>Media</b></p>  | <p>All media relating to this incident is being handled by (Gold Commander – Notts) and his team, together with E.ON media spokesperson.</p> <p>This is now a live operation and comments to media should remain limited and directed by Gold.</p>   |

**Circulation List:**