



Matthew Hancock MP
Minister of State
Department of Energy and Climate Change
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Delivering deep offshore Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) for the UK

I would like to introduce my company, Cluff Natural Resources, and myself in the light of your new role at DECC and given the excellent relationship which we enjoyed with your predecessor, Michael Fallon.

CNR has been awarded eight conditional deep offshore underground coal gasification (UCG) licences around the UK by the Coal Authority to develop stranded coal resources and produce syngas for electricity generation, energy intensive industry and other gas-hungry sectors.

I have watched your recent appearance before the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee on the issue of coal mining and you are clearly well aware of the challenges facing those remaining UK miners as conventional coal plants come to the end of their generating lives and mines struggle to remain competitive against cheaper imported coal and a smaller marketplace. As mines close then billions of tonnes of the UK coal resource will become stranded and effectively abandoned. As with shale fracking, UCG allows us to build a new gas sector using proven unconventional energy technology – but our technology will turn vast stranded coal resources into gas and we already know where the coal is located.

CNR is particularly interested in the billions of tonnes of coal which lies offshore and which could be gasified to provide the UK with a vast new gas supply for future decades. Importantly deep offshore UCG has been heralded by the Government before; in 2006 the Department for Trade and Industry (which then covered energy policy) highlighted in its report 'Creating the Coalmine of the 21st Century' that the Firth of Forth, out of all of the UK's offshore coal resource, is the best location for deep offshore UCG development. This was, of course, a document commissioned and published by the then Labour Government. CNR has a conditional licence in this location.

Can I please meet with you at the earliest opportunity so as to introduce our plans, ambitions and answer any questions you may have on deep offshore UCG? On Thursday, 2nd October, we met with Duarte Figueria and [REDACTED] at DECC who also suggested we should meet so to explain our plans and establish a similar working relationship as we enjoyed with your predecessor.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Algy Cluff
Chairman & Chief Executive

cc Duarte Figueria
Office of Unconventional Oil and Gas