



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Will Gardiner
Chief Executive Officer
Drax

6 July 2022

Dear Will,

RE: Message to the Staff and Management of Drax

As you know, last month, I wrote to National Grid Electricity System Operator to request they work with the operators of Great Britain's three remaining coal plants with the aim of securing their continued availability over the coming winter. Following Russia's criminal invasion in Ukraine, it is prudent for government to explore all possible options to bolster security of supply in an unprecedented situation.

On 6 July, NGENSO concluded an agreement with Drax to temporarily extend the operation of your coal fired units, for the purpose of reinforcing our nation's energy security over the coming winter.

On behalf of Her Majesty's Government, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to all involved at Drax for your engagement and co-operation throughout this process, which has facilitated the timely agreement of a contract with the Electricity System Operator at the request of Government.

In this context, I would also like to express my sincere thanks in advance to the staff and management of Drax for your work over the coming months.

I recognise that the decision to extend the operation of your coal units was complex and posed considerable challenges for Drax. I hope that you will take pride in knowing that you are playing your part in reinforcing our country's energy security this winter.

I understand that following the closure of your coal units in 2023, you plan to redevelop the site as part of a bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) project by 2027.

As you will know, my department is working hard to develop the policy framework for BECCS, building on the expression of interest process for eligible BECCS projects with an interest in requesting access to Track 1 clusters. On 4 November 2021 I published a Biomass Policy Statement, which noted that power-BECCS is expected to deliver a steady increase of engineered greenhouse gas removals in delivering on our Net Zero ambition of 5MtCO₂/year of engineered greenhouse gas removals by 2030. I am also committed to publishing a Biomass Strategy later in the year, which will give further details on the role of BECCS, as well as a launching a consultation on power BECCS business models in the power sector over the summer.

I therefore welcome the enthusiasm and future engagement with Drax on your proposed BECCS project.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng
Secretary of State Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy