

My considerations are these:

The supply of coal now has become financially superior to any other form of fuel to drive power turbines and consequently the moth-balling of coal fired power stations should be reconsidered for the following reasons:

1. Stable and suitably priced coal is available to supply turbines.
2. Good, reliable technology for the provision of smoke washing to prevent serious pollution exists.
3. Imports not a political issue.

We have had to rethink our opinions regarding renewable sources of energy and what the effects on global warming are, and whilst these are still being rationalised, alternatives should be implemented.

So, it is not at all politically or morally inconceivable that we could rebalance our opinions of burning fossil fuel provided we can off-set the pollution effects.

There are specific non-toxic micelle encapsulation technologies for the cleansing and washing of carbon particulates in smoke that are not expensive nor do they leave hazardous substances to be disposed of after the initial operation. So, it is very feasible to realign the smoke dispersal channels of the closed power stations which will enable them to be re-opened under a higher standard of toxic effluent discharges both to atmosphere and water courses.

Recent tests have shown that noxious micelle encapsulation with a combination of water and a non-ionic mix of aliphatic surfactant can mitigate up to 70% of the carbon effluent currently discharge by coal burning power stations. This should now be seriously considered as a viable option.

If these stations were upgraded and held in reserve, then, should excessive demands be made during the coldest months they would be able to fill the gap and lessen the need for power cuts or applying expensive imports of power.

In addition:

The power generation aspect of the whole issue of supply is clearly the most profitable, as opposed to distribution and resale and with this in mind a new generation of supply tariff could be offered to those who find current payments for fuel too disadvantageous.

Insurers and Suppliers could fund the upgrading and re-opening of the coal fired power stations using the new technologies as described above.

The most vulnerable purchasers could apply to the new Supply Authority for a reduction in their retail purchase of electricity. The supplier would be a not-for-profit agency.

As the near European Ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam are already upgrading their storage facilities the steady flow of coal/bio fuel would not be difficult, particularly for our eastern seaboard power stations.

The challenge is not the cost, nor the technology, nor the pollution, but the will to do it well!