

The Editor  
East Lothian Courier

Cockenzie power station site

In all of the hullabaloo about the proposed energy park on the site of the now redundant Cockenzie coal fired electricity generating the authorities seem to have missed two crucial points.

First, where is the market for the proposed development? Already there is a tried and tested site visible across the water at Methil doing exactly what it is proposed to do at Cockenzie. It started life in the early days of North Sea development and is still going. So what is the justification for another site? What evidence has Scottish Enterprise of the need of another facility at a site without all of the necessary infrastructure and track record?

Second, with the closure of the power station we have lost a valuable source of reliable electricity generation used at times of the day and the year when demand was high: what is known in the business as a 'peak shaving station'. The renewable generation facilities, other than hydro-electric, will not be able to replace this because of their unpredictability. So surely what we need at Cockenzie is a new generation gas plant. After all the site is near to the gas grid and we are getting too close to power cuts at the height of winter demand if we do not replace outmoded generating stations with new thermal generating capacity using gas which has lower emissions than coal. Let's ensure this happens at Cockenzie.

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