

UK Hydrographic Office 2018-2019 **Annual Report released**

The UK Hydrographic Office has released its Annual Report and Accounts for 2018 to 2019.

In addition to its performance review, accountability report and financial statements, the document contains information about the organisation's transformation to become a marine geospatial information agency and a number of case studies that showcase its work.

You can download and view the document using the links below:

[UK Hydrographic Office Annual Report and Accounts for 2018 to 2019](#)

[UK Hydrographic Office Annual Report and Accounts for 2018 to 2019 \(accessible version\)](#)

The UKHO is an executive agency and operates as a trading fund within the Ministry of Defence. This paper was laid before Parliament in response to a legislative requirement or as a Return to an Address and was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons.

Drax Re-power station proposal granted development consent

Development consent has been given to modify up to two of the coal-fired generating units (known as Units 5 and 6) at Drax Power Station, Selby, to become gas-powered generating plant. The proposed Project comprises up to four new combined cycle gas turbines (CCGT) (up to two for Unit 5 and up to two for Unit 6), each powering a dedicated generator of up to 600MW in capacity. The project is located at the Drax Power Station in North Yorkshire.

The application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration by Drax Power Ltd on the 29 May 2018 and accepted for examination on 26 June 2018. Following an examination during which the public, statutory consultees and interested parties were given the opportunity to give evidence to the Examining Authority, a recommendation was made to the Secretary of State on 4 July 2019.

The Planning Inspectorate is committed to giving local communities the opportunity of being involved in the examination of projects that may affect

them. Local people, the local authority and other interested parties were able to participate in the 6 month long examination. The Examining Authority listened and gave full consideration to local views before making their recommendation.

The Planning Inspectorate's Chief Executive, Sarah Richards said:

"This is another example of The Planning Inspectorate demonstrating its ability to examine Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) within timescales laid down in the Planning Act 2008."

"The certainty of knowing when a decision can be expected provides developers and investors with the confidence to build and improve the infrastructure this country needs to secure future economic growth."

It is the 78th Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project to be examined and decided and brings the total of energy projects to 52.

The decision, the recommendation made by the Examining Authority to the Secretary of State and the evidence considered by the Examining Authority in reaching its recommendation is publicly available on the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#)

ENDS

Journalists wanting further information should contact the Planning

Inspectorate Press Office, on: 0303 444 5004 or 0303 444 5005 or email:

Press.office@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Notes to editors:

The Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Programme of Projects details the proposals which are anticipated to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as applications in the coming months. It can be viewed at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

[South Shields waste crime offender ordered to pay over £6,000](#)

On Tuesday 1 October, Mr Paul Catley, aged 54, of Bonsall Court, South Shields was successfully prosecuted by the Environment Agency. He was fined £1,384 by the Court and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £135 and costs of £4,483.90.

The overall total amounting to £6002.90.

This was after Mr Catley entered a guilty plea to the charge under regulation 38(1)(a) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, having being arrested the previous day (30 September) for failing to attend court.

Mr Catley was prosecuted for operating an 'end of life' vehicle waste activity and depositing waste without a permit between January 2017 and September 2018 at Bolden Lane in South Shields, South Tyneside.

Mr Catley ignored all of the advice and guidance provided to him by the Environment Agency and failed to co-operate in the investigation. He continued to operate his unlawful business and disregarded the need to obtain a permit.

By failing to obtain a permit Mr Catley put the environment and the surrounding communities at risk, and also obtained a commercial advantage over legal operators.

Mitigating, Tracey Wood told magistrates that Mr Catley had fallen on hard times and "buried his head in the sand" when it came to operating the site, as he had been sole carer for his mother who suffered from dementia.

Jamie Fletcher, Area Environment Manager for the Environment Agency, said:

End of life vehicles contain fuels and oils which are classed as hazardous waste. These crimes are serious offences that will not be tolerated.

The laws exist to ensure that operations involving chemicals and other waste substances do not have a detrimental impact on the environment. Any company thinking of getting involved in scrap cars, especially those that contain hazardous waste must make sure they know the rules and are meeting all of their legal obligations.

Mr Catley has also been ordered by the Court to have all of the offending waste removed by 1 December 2019.

If you see or are aware of waste crime, you can report it by calling the Environment Agency's incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

[Cleaning chemicals firm must sell acquired business](#)

The decision follows an in-depth Phase 2 investigation by the Competition and

Markets Authority (CMA), which concluded that the merged organisation is likely to face limited competition from other suppliers.

Ecolab and Holchem, who completed their merger in November 2018, are 2 of the largest suppliers of cleaning chemicals to food and drink manufacturers in the UK. The merger will create a new organisation which is much larger than any of its remaining competitors and would leave only three players of any significant size competing in the UK market.

Food and drink manufacturers place a high value on their cleaning chemical supplier's reputation and experience in keeping food and drink safe and free from contamination. This merger reduces the choice available to these customers. The CMA is concerned that this could mean food and drink manufacturers face higher prices or a lower quality of service for cleaning chemicals.

Whilst the group of independent CMA panel members considered alternative ways of addressing its concerns about the merger (as set out in their provisional findings published in August) it has concluded that the only effective way of addressing the significant loss of competition is to effectively block the merger. Now, Ecolab must sell off Holchem to a new owner, which must be approved by the CMA.

Kirstin Baker, the Inquiry Chair said:

We have carried out a thorough investigation analysing a large amount of data from the companies as well as evidence collected from both customers and competitors. We concluded that these two companies compete closely and this deal could have very serious effects – prices could go up or quality standards in crucial support services could get worse.

Having carefully considered how these issues could be resolved, we decided that only blocking the merger and requiring Ecolab to sell Holchem would address our concerns.

Further details on this case can be found on the [Ecolab/Holchem webpage](#).

Notes to Editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer law. For CMA updates, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
2. On 6 August 2019, the CMA published its provisional findings and notice of possible remedies and invited views.

3. The CMA's decisions in phase 2 merger inquiries are made by inquiry groups chosen from the CMA's independent panel members. The members of the inquiry group are: Kirstin Baker (Inquiry Chair), Maria da Cunha, Robin Foster and David Thomas. The CMA's panel members come from a variety of backgrounds, including economics, law, accountancy or business; the membership of an inquiry group usually reflects a mix of expertise and experience.
4. All media enquiries should be directed to the CMA press office by email on press@cma.gov.uk, or by phone on 020 3738 6460.

British Embassy Tokyo Call for Bids: Translation Services

Outline

The Japan Network (British Embassy Tokyo and British Consulate-General Osaka) seeks a team of professional, highly experienced and reliable linguists providing high quality translation services between Japanese and English. The translation service provider will provide efficient one-stop translation services to meet timelines and various requirements to help the Network to deliver UK government objectives.

Specialisation

We expect the translation service provider's expertise to spread across a wide range of specialist subject areas. The translation service provider should assign someone appropriate who understands the business/political environment and the context and, if possible, has sector knowledge – to each translation request.

The subject area for specialisation includes:

- Law and Contracts
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- Economics and Finance
- Science and Technology

Sector knowledge specialisation (if possible) includes:

- Global Sports

- Cyber Security
- Energy including Nuclear and Offshore Wind
- Financial Services
- Consumer and Retail
- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Defence
- Life Sciences

Flexibility

The translation service provider should also provide one-stop services to meet additional requirements upon request. That includes:

- Style and formatting
- Layout
- Native language editing to meet word limits and deliver high quality prose

Please find this [Request For Quotes Document](#) (MS Word Document, 130KB) for further information including how to bid.