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Carbon Capture & Storage Association

Suites 142-152
Grosvenor Gardens House
35/37 Grosvenor Gardens
London SW1W 0BS

t +44 (0)20 7821 0528
f +44 (0)20 7828 0310
e info@ccsassociation.org
www.ccsassociation.org

RESPONSE TO THE ENERGY WHITE PAPER

The Carbon Capture & Storage Association (CCSA) welcomes the publication of the Energy White Paper. The Association particularly acknowledges the clear statement of the premium on early action on carbon capture and storage (CCS).

Currently in the UK there are at least ten power plants under development to incorporate CCS. The total capacity of the ten plants will be almost 13GW. All of these plants and more will be needed to replace old coal-fired and nuclear facilities due for decommissioning over the next decade. Almost all of these plants will be coal-fired and must be equipped with CCS if UK greenhouse gas emissions are not to increase.

The White Paper states that early demonstration of CCS will be vital. To this end, the Government is defining the basis for a competition which will determine where support to CCS is best directed to achieve the long-term goal of reduced UK and global emissions. The Association looks forward to continuing to work with the appropriate functions within Government to achieve clarity on the Government's level of ambition with respect to the several CCS technologies that will be required if the ultimate goal of climate stabilisation is to be achieved.

Dr. Jeff Chapman, Chief Executive of the CCSA noted, "There is a major opportunity for the UK in future world markets to benefit from early commitment to a range of technologies for carbon capture and storage. Members of the Carbon Capture & Storage Association will be working with Government to ensure that the UK gains maximum benefit from a market that will be measured in trillions."

Dr. Chapman added, "The Association also looks forward to continued close engagement with DTI, Defra and the Treasury to ensure a satisfactory resolution of the regulatory issues that stand in the way of large-scale adoption of carbon capture and storage."

President: Lord Oxburgh KBE
Registered in London
Company number 5650208

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a process by which Carbon dioxide (CO2) is separated from industrial and energy-related sources, either pre- or post-combustion, then transported via pipelines to either an onshore or offshore underground storage site. These storage sites can be of three types; gas reservoirs, oil reservoirs and deep saline aquifers. CCS can also be used for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), a process in which CO2 is injected into near-depleted oil reservoirs, thereby facilitating the recovery of large quantities of additional oil. It is cost-effective and it retains the essential flexibility of fossil fuel power generation.

2. CCS can remove 85-90% of the carbon emissions associated with conventional fossil-fuel power generation, such as coal- or gas-fired. CCS therefore makes a significant contribution towards meeting the UK Government's national target of a 60% reduction in Carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

3. The UK has 10 proposals for power projects incorporating CCS in the public domain, ranging from technologies using pre-combustion as well as post-combustion capture as well as advanced oxyfuel combustion.

For further information contact:

Dr Jeff Chapman, Chief Executive	07747 761065
Lord Ron Oxburgh, President	07796 260734
Ian Brass, Public Affairs Director	07801 318872