


Newsletter

Its time for yet another newsletter and yet it doesn't seem to be three months from the last one. How time flies when you are having fun! As usual the UKQAA has been busy on a range of matters, ranging from the definition of waste through to starting new research projects.

A new member

 STEAG PowerMinerals Ltd has recently joined the UKQAA as Associate members. Though they are yet to supply ash to the UK market, they are developing links within the industry and are to develop ash marketing capabilities similar to those they have within Germany and other EU countries. We welcome them to the association and look forward to a long a fruitful relationship over the years. One issue STEAG have been actively involved with is the situation in the UK on Ash as Waste. The following is an update on the current situation.

The Waste Framework Directive

WRAP/EA Quality Protocol

As you are aware the UKQAA, in conjunction with the Joint Environmental Programme (JEP – an industry body designed to co-ordinate the environmental approach by the power industry in the UK) and the Association of Electricity Producers (AEP), has been active in the WRAP/Environment Agency project to produce a Quality Protocol for fly ash.



 The issue of the Quality Protocol was raised at a recent Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Waste Group meeting and subsequently with Rob Marris, MP. It is hoped the apswg and Rob Marris will be able assist in ensuring completion of the project in a reasonable time.

Material Shortages – a chance for Fly Ash

While the UKQAA does not cover commercial aspects of the sale of the products and rarely mentions markets, the recent well published problems in obtaining cement and GGBS due to shortages have

led to a situation where the interest in fly ash for concrete has never been greater. Well it is environmentally friendly, reduces overall CO₂ emissions and makes beneficial use of a UK sourced by-product – what more could one ask!

REACH

One of the issues often raised recently is REACH. Apparently ECHA have put forward a 248 page document to the Commission with suggestions on how to make the whole system work. As the ash producers, e.g. the power stations will have to pre-register separately as producers of fly ash, FBA, etc.



Each producer/importer of fly ash will have to pre-register their products from 1 July 2008 to December 2008. In this registration a list of applications will have to be included, e.g. concrete, fill, grouting, etc. Therefore, ash marketing companies need to produce a list of ALL possible applications for ash products and to ask their down stream users whether they want them to register that use (which presumably most will want the industry to do). ECOBA, the European ash association, will co-ordinate this process to ensure consistency across the EU by the ash producers.

Members Training

The UKQAA has started to give training sessions for members of the UKQAA. These are designed to explain the producers of coal fired power stations products what is required by the various users. The first course is TC1A, which is an introduction to fly ash and its use in concrete. We expected the interest in these courses to be small, whereas to date over 30 people have attended the first course.

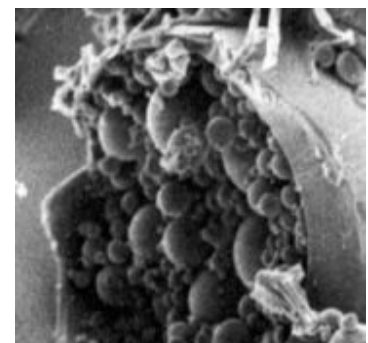
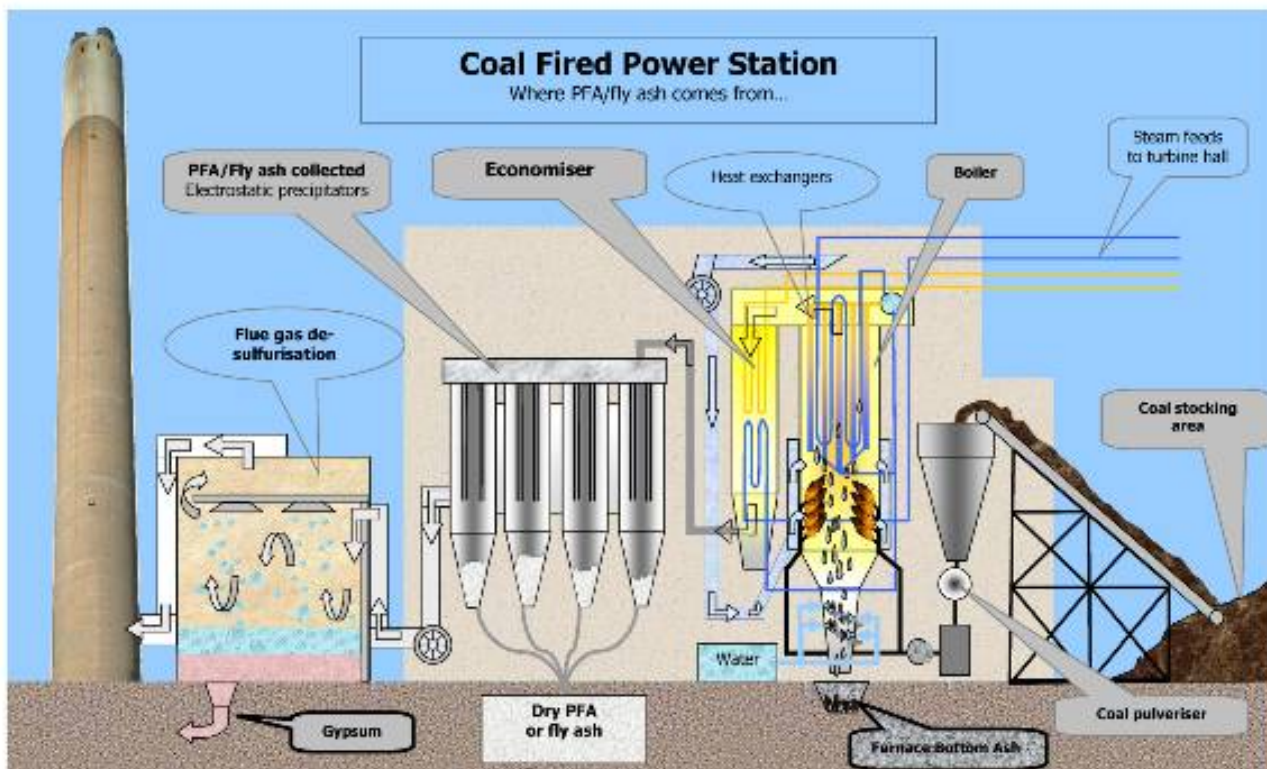


Figure 1 - A cenosphere in fly ash

A series of similar training courses are planned to take place in due course – but for members only



Standardisation

Materials in contact with drinking water: This work was started many years ago to harmonise the testing of construction materials that were to be used in contact with drinking water. It was known as the European Acceptance Scheme (EAS). However, it has transpired after many years of work the original instruction to CEN was not legal under EU law and as a result the EAS is dead in the water.

In the UK concrete made with fly ash conforming to EN450-1:2005 can be used in contact with drinking water without any environmental testing. For further information see DWI Advice Sheet 7. - Construction products for water retaining structures in water collection, treatment and distribution systems. The UKQAA can supply a PDF copy if you are unable to find it on the DWI web site.

TC104/WG4 EN450 Fly ash for concrete – 2010 revision: The UK has put together a series of proposals for the revision of EN450-1:2010. These are significantly different to those developed by ECOBA and it is likely to cause a lively debate.

In the meantime, TC104 have resurrected TG5. This group produced the text for EN206-1 on k-value. The UK is sending two delegates, Denis Higgins and L Sear – UKQAA Technical Director. There is a series of UK and EU meetings expected on this issue over the next few months.

And finally ...

The time spent on the traditional aspects of the UKQAA, e.g. standardisation, research projects, etc

has continued to shift ever more towards EU related aspects, e.g. REACH, Dangerous Substances, Waste Framework Directive, etc. This type of work is very time consuming, if only because of the length of the documents involved and the time it takes to read them. Increasingly we see some of this bureaucracy is untenable and will eventually fail – REACH being one of the most likely to fall apart as it is currently implemented.

This newsletter is a shortened version of a more detailed newsletter restricted to the members of the UKQAA. If you have interest in becoming a member please see our web site which has details of joining as an affiliate or associate member. NB: Membership is only open to corporate bodies – we do not have personal membership categories.



The UKQAA is primarily a source of information to all users of UK coal fired power station ash products. If you have a question, a problem, or similar you think we can help you with please do not hesitate to contact us. If we are unable to answer a question we probably know somebody who can. The only issue we cannot address is price, for which you should consult the appropriate members of the UKQAA.

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