

5 September

Press release

ASH FROM POWER STATIONS CAN BE USED BY THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

Official approval means resources are saved and less goes to landfill

A Quality Protocol to promote the use of ash from power stations in the building sector will be published on Monday. It is the result of nearly two years of work by the electricity industry together with Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Environment Agency. Although ash has been used successfully as a versatile building material for fifty years, unduly tight environmental regulation has limited its use in recent years.

Commenting on the successful conclusion of the Quality Protocol work, David Porter, Chief Executive of the Association of Electricity Producers, said:

“The development of the Quality Protocol is an opportunity to make the use of ash from power stations easier for other industries. In a world where resources are becoming ever more precious, we cannot afford to send pulverised fuel ash to landfill rather than re-use it. Ash can replace virgin materials in cement and concrete manufacturing, for example. Power station operators have long regarded ash as a by-product and resource, rather than a waste. We are delighted that the Quality Protocol recognises that ash should be regulated with a very light touch.

‘For power station operators, selling the ash for re-use is preferable to putting it into landfill. In the past, onerous requirements under waste regulations have sometimes made this difficult as potential customers shy away from the additional administrative burden. The Quality Protocol will allow the industry to access a wider market by removing the stigma of waste regulation. Environmentally, this is also the better solution – requiring less landfill and less virgin material to be used in construction.’

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Notes:

The Association of Electricity Producers (AEP) represents large, medium and small companies accounting for more than 95% of the UK generating capacity, together with a number of businesses that provide equipment and services to the generating industry. Many members own and operate coal-fired power stations. Members have a keen interest in the success of a competitive electricity market– not only in delivering power at the best possible price, but also in meeting environmental requirements.