

Press release

Licence issued for clean electricity production

Nuon chooses Eemshaven as location for new power plant

Amsterdam, 19 July 2006 – Leading Dutch utility company Nuon has chosen Eemshaven in the Dutch province of Groningen as the location for its big new power plant (1,200 megawatts). Understandings have been reached with the authorities in Groningen and with the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. Nuon has also obtained from Royal Dutch Shell plc the licence to use that company's state-of-the-art coal gasification technology.

'Eemshaven is a superb, spacious location with a modern sea port, good infrastructure and excellent facilities for connection to the high-voltage grid,' says Øystein Løseth, a member of Nuon's Management Board. 'In addition, the Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Karla Peijs, has stated her intention to have the channel leading to Eemshaven deepened after a number of statutory conditions have been met. This means that deep-drafted vessels carrying fuel would be able to enter the port, an essential factor in ensuring the continuity of the new power plant.'

Nuon has also obtained from Shell the licence to use that company's state-of-the-art coal gasification technology. This technology is regarded throughout the world as the standard for clean coal processing for electricity production. Coal gasification leads to a sharp reduction in the emission of harmful substances and enables more CO₂ to be captured in comparison with conventional coal-fired plants. Coal gasification is also very well suited to co-firing biomass, as has been proved at Nuon's power plant in Buggenum in the Dutch province of Limburg.

As well as coal and biomass Nuon wants to use gas in the new power plant, to be able to react flexibly to new developments in the fuel market. Nuon expects the necessary permits for the Eemshaven location to be issued in the spring of 2007. A definitive investment decision can then be made in mid-2007, after which construction can start. The first production of electricity is scheduled for 2011.

About Nuon

Nuon is a leading energy company that serves customers in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany with electricity, gas, heating and related services. The company is active in the production, trading, transport and supply of (renewable) energy. Nuon pursues balanced growth for all stakeholders: shareholders, employees, customers, the environment and society. Total net turnover for 2005 amounts to EUR 5.0 billion. The number of employees at the end of 2005 was 9,665 FTEs. The larger shareholders of Nuon are the provinces of Gelderland, Noord-Holland and Friesland and the municipality of Amsterdam.

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