



Press Release  
4 August 2021

## **Uniper confirms it will close its coal-fired power station at Ratcliffe-on-Soar in September 2024, with one unit closing earlier in September 2022**

Uniper has decided to end generation at its Ratcliffe-power station, after it has fulfilled its commitments under the capacity market, with one unit closing earlier, at the end of September 2022, in line with Government policy.

We are taking this opportunity to reduce coal generation on the GB system by closing one of the four 500MW units, two years ahead of the Government's announced coal phase out date. Uniper's strategy includes our ambitious target to make our power stations in Europe carbon neutral by 2035 and this action is part of our ongoing decarbonisation commitment, whilst still continuing to provide reliable power to support the GB system. The remaining three units at Ratcliffe will continue to provide reliable power to support the GB system until the end of September 2024, in line with our existing Capacity Market agreements with the Government.

Our people are important to us. We've briefed our employees on site and our recognised Trade Unions, on the announcement, and what it means for them at this time and will keep them updated.

Ratcliffe power station, has been supplying reliable electricity to the UK energy market for over 50 years. During this time, it has made a significant contribution to the regional economy, supporting thousands of skilled jobs and supplying enough electricity to power two million homes and businesses every year. As the power station nears the end of its life, we are exploring options for the redevelopment of the site. We've been working closely with stakeholders from across the region, including the Midlands Engine, local councils, Local Enterprise Partnerships, universities and business to understand how the Ratcliffe site can be part of continued economic growth in the East Midlands.

**Mike Lockett, UK Country Chairman and Chief Commercial Office Power said;** *"Over the past 54 years Ratcliffe power station and our colleagues, have made a critical contribution to power generation in the UK. We're proud of the contribution that Ratcliffe has, and continues to make in keeping the UK's lights on. And we'd like to say a big thank you to all those colleagues past and present, who have been part of Ratcliffe's story. We're now looking at what comes next for the site and exploring options with our local and regional stakeholders."*

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Our vision for our Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site is to move towards becoming a zero-carbon technology and energy hub for the East Midlands. We see the site development creating employment based around modern industrial and manufacturing uses, with sustainable onsite energy generation. We are exploring options for the redevelopment of the site in advance of the power station closing to allow us the best opportunity to retain and reskill the workforce.

In July 2020, Uniper submitted a detailed application for planning permission to Nottinghamshire County Council for the development of an energy recovery facility on part of the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site – known as the East Midlands Energy Re-Generation (EMERGE) Centre. It will be the first step towards delivering our wider vision for the site, by generating sustainable electricity and heat for use by world-class businesses and institutions who choose to locate to Ratcliffe-on-Soar in the future.

Earlier this Summer, our plans for the EMERGE Centre were approved by Nottinghamshire County Council, subject to conditions, and our aspirational target is that construction is expected to start in late 2022, with the facility expected to be fully operational by 2025. This is one of a number of options we're currently looking at for the future of the site. In the meantime, Ratcliffe power station will continue to deliver reliable and flexible generation, making an important contribution to UK supply security.

## **Notes to editors**

### **Ratcliffe Facts**

- Four coal units, each capable of generating 500 MW, with 2000MW combined output
- Ratcliffe is the only coal fired power station in the UK fitted with selective catalytic reduction technology, which has the capability to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 70-95%. It is also equipped with a Flue-Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) plant to remove sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) from the exhaust flue gases before they enter the atmosphere.
- When fully generating, Ratcliffe can produce electricity for approximately two million homes
- Ratcliffe has produced about 4% of the total electricity supplied to the UK in the last 50 years



## **About Uniper**

Uniper is an international energy company with around 12,000 employees in more than 40 countries. The company plans to make its power generation CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral in Europe by 2035. With about 35 GW of installed generation capacity, Uniper is among the largest global power generators. Its main activities include power generation in Europe and Russia as well as global energy trading, including a diversified gas portfolio that makes Uniper one of Europe's leading gas companies. In 2020, Uniper had a gas turnover of more than 220 bcm. Uniper is also a reliable partner for municipalities, public utilities, and industrial companies for developing and implementing innovative, CO<sub>2</sub>-reducing solutions on their way to decarbonising their activities. As a pioneer in the field of hydrogen, Uniper has set itself the target of operating worldwide along the entire value chain in the future and implementing projects that will make hydrogen the mainstay of the future energy supply.

The company is headquartered in Düsseldorf and currently the third-largest listed German utility. Together with its main shareholder Fortum, Uniper is also the third-largest producer of CO<sub>2</sub>-free energy in Europe.

## **About Uniper UK**

In the UK, Uniper operates a flexible generation portfolio of seven power stations, and a fast-cycle gas storage facility. A broad range of commercial activities are offered through the Engineering Services division, while the Uniper Engineering Academy delivers high-quality technical training and government-accredited apprenticeship programmes for the utility, manufacturing and heavy industry sectors.

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