PROJECT REPORT Dossier: CHP BENEFITS AND COSTS STATUS: Final Report

Combined Heat and Power Association

Time to Take a Fresh Look at CHP...

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INTRODUCTION

The CHPA is re-evaluating the benefits of CHP in the face of UK Government scepticism as to the benefits of the use of CHP. This issue has been fuelled by the problems the CHP sector has faced over the recent years with a very tough commercial environment and the simple fact that Government responsibility for CHP is with Defra and all other energy policy is with DTI. In recent modelling assessments undertaken by the DTI CHP has been shown in a very unfavourable light and with the DTI concluding that the benefits of CHP are very limited and questioning the need to support CHP development assuming that the market will build CCGTs. It is also true that over the same timeframe of the last 6 years only one CCGT project has been contracted in mainland UK and none are presently under construction.

This study has investigated the impact of CHP for environmental impacts and benefits.

BASICS

CHP has long been recognised as a technique that reduced the energy consumption required to supply heat and power. Principally, most CHP plants produce electricity and heat, in the form of hot water or steam. However, CHP can also produce mechanical power, cooling through absorption chillers from the heat output and other heat outputs, such as thermal oil and the direct use of the exhaust gases. Attendant with the reductions of energy use come other benefits, such as reductions in emissions and especially carbon dioxide.

The degree of energy and carbon savings will depend on the technology and fuel used in the CHP scheme and on the alternatives displaced. The characteristics of a CHP scheme are well defined, so the main uncertainty in assessing carbon savings is in the fuel and efficiency assumed for alternative sources of the heat and power displaced. For practical purposes, certain conventions must be adopted to calculate carbon savings, particularly for portfolios of schemes. The choice of convention, and the assumption to be made regarding fuel and efficiency for alternative sources, will be determined by the purpose and scope of the calculation and whether the savings are to be assessed now or into the future.

A CHP scheme is installed to meet a heat demand, either existing or new, that would otherwise be provided by boilers, along with an economic electricity supply. Existing boilers have well-known characteristics and it is relatively straightforward to calculate avoided emissions. Where the heat demand is new or the existing boiler has reached the end of its lifetime, it may be more appropriate to calculate the avoided emissions based on the characteristics of a new boiler. There are now very limited

possibilities to improve the efficiency of new boilers.

THE CURRENT UK GOVERNMENT COMPARISON

The current views of the benefits of CHP were presented in a paper in Energy Trends in the summer of 2003. The paper was prepared by Future Energy Solutions (FES) for the DTI. In various meetings of the members of CHPA and the staff of the CHPA, this paper has been discussed.

The initial conclusions from this paper are that the analysis is not transparent, that the choices made in the analysis tend to discriminate against CHP and that the overall conclusions underestimate the benefits of CHP.

The paper concludes with an assessment of the savings in terms of carbon from CHP of 0.7 MtC per 1000 MWe installed in the short term reducing to just 0.1 MtC per 1000 MWe as CHP displaces new CCGT plant.

INSERTS FROM ENERGY TRENDS

Table 5 Annual emissions savings from new CHP installed to meet the Government target of 10 GWe installed capacity

Table 6 Annual emissions savings from new CHP installed to meet the Government target of 10 GWe installed capacity

It is not the intention of this paper to re-calculate the FES results, but to represent the data in a much more transparent manner, so that a proper debate can be undertaken.

As a general comment the approach that presents the benefits of CHP in terms of MtC per 1000 MWe installed is also somewhat misleading, as this does not provide information on technologies and usage. It would be better to present the data in terms of kg/MWh of electricity produced and this is presented in the results.

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THE MODELLING APPROACH

This study is based on a series of spreadsheets, which develop the analysis of the benefits of CHP. The spreadsheet model is not presented with this report, but is available to the CHPA and can be reviewed should this be necessary. The approach has been to make the whole analysis as open and transparent as possible. This will allow a more productive debate on the benefits accruing from CHP. The aim is to provide a realistic assessment of CHP and its alternatives.

For the analysis five CHP schemes have been analysed. These are:

- 1 kWe domestic CHP plant for a single-family house;
- 1 MWe gas engine CHP scheme in a public sector building, a hospital;
- 9.6 MWe gas turbine CHP scheme in the food industry;
- 41.6 MWe gas turbine CHP scheme in the chemicals industry;
- 350 MWe CCGT CHP scheme in oil refining.

These are designed to be representative of the range of CHP schemes seen in the UK. In each case actual data have been obtained from similar plants, which have then been adapted to present more generalised schemes. The key data for each of these schemes is given in Annex 1.

All calculations in the study have been undertaken using the Gross Calorific Value (Higher Heating Value) of the fuel. This approach is consistent with the methods used in the UK, but is not consistent with European conventions and the CHP Directive, which use Net Calorific Value (Lower Heating Value). Note this has no effect on carbon emissions or carbon savings, only on reported efficiencies.

CHP performance has been compared with reference power plants and boiler plants. Here two alternative approaches have been adopted:

- **Avoided Investment Approach**. This is a comparison with new investments in the electricity and heating. CHP investments are compared against the next power sector investment, a CCGT of 410 MWe block size. The CHP also displaces investment in new boilers for the same heat output as the CHP plants.
- **Most Likely Displacement Approach**. This comparison compares the CHP plants with the average fossil fuel fired electricity production on the UK electricity system and older and therefore less efficient boiler plants.

In both cases the data used are taken from published sources, especially the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics and the web-site of VGB Power Tech e.V., the German power plant operators association, which publishes data on power station performance.

The key data are presented below, with more details given in Annex 2 and Annex 3:

• A CCGT power plant with a manufacturer rated efficiency of 52.5% (57.7% LHV), which is based on the Siemens SCC5-4000F. The efficiency of this power station is then adjusted downwards to take account of expected peak performance in operation, in house loads and degradation over time. For

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baseload operation the annual efficiency is 48.7%. If the CCGT is not run baseload then the efficiency is lower than baseload operation. This is because of the increased number of stops and starts, ramping from part-load to full-load and sub-optimal operation. Thus mid-merit CCGT operation has an efficiency of 46.2% (95% of the efficiency of baseload operation) and peak load operation is 43.8% (90% of the efficiency of baseload operation).

- A sensitivity run has been undertaken taking the claimed efficiency of a GE Hclass CCGT of 54.6% (60% LVH). However, this technology is beset with operational problems and thus is as yet unproven operationally. If 54.6% was achieved then the baseload efficiency would be 50.6%, but the off-baseload performance suffers more greatly than for less efficient machines. In this case mid-merit efficiency would be 47.1% (93% of the efficiency of baseload operation) and peak load operation is 44.5% (88% of the efficiency of baseload operation). It should be stressed that these data are not measured as there is still no field data for the H-class CCGT.
- The delivered efficiency of electricity from the power plant to the site on which the CHP plants are located is adjusted to take account of grid losses. The average grid loss in the UK was 8.7% in 2003. However, this does not give any indication of the real delivered efficiency. Data from COGEN Europe on theoretical grid losses has been used. This approach estimates the losses that occur at different voltage levels in the electricity system, looking at both transformer losses and heating losses on the wires. Thus for customers connected at high voltage the grid losses are 2.6%, at medium voltage the losses are 6.4% and at low voltage 12.2%.
- Where a CHP plant only displaces imported electricity then the grid losses for that voltage level are incorporated in the delivered electricity efficiency. Where the CHP plants also exports electricity to the network, then the exported electricity is assumed to displace the power station and the losses on the grid for the next voltage level up from the connection. Thus a CHP plant situated in the low voltage network displaces grid losses of 12.2% for the power consumed on site and 6.4% for power exported from site.
- The current efficiency of CCGTs in the UK is 46.4%, excluding own use according to DUKES (2004), giving an average electricity supplied efficiency of around 44%.
- The fossil fuel mix comprises 49.6% coal, 49.7% gas and 0.7% oil, with an overall efficiency of 38.8%. It excludes the role of nuclear power and renewable energy sources. In practice nuclear and renewables are unlikely to be displaced by CHP generation: existing fully depreciated nuclear is a low cost generator and renewables are subjected to obligations. In both cases this will entail these sources to be "dispatched" in preference to all other generators.
- The reference boilers for displaced investment are adjusted for load factor and cycling. Typically boilers lose between 5 and 15% of their efficiency on an annual basis due to these factors. The boiler efficiencies used are: 88.5% for

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domestic condensing boilers; 75.3% of the boilers in the hospital; 73.7% for the industrial boilers in the food industry case and 72.1% for the boilers in the chemicals and oil refinery cases.

- The older boilers are less efficient than new boiler investments. There is conflicting data available on these boiler performances. Discussions with some operators in the course of this study and data from VIK in Germany and the CEA in the UK indicate that operation old boilers are generally slightly less efficient than new investments. For the domestic sector it is assumed that the old boiler is more than 15 years old, non-condensing and oversized, which is typical of the UK. This boiler has an annual efficiency of 60%. For the hospital the boiler is 75% efficient and in industry all boilers are 73% efficient. There is a very wide variation on these numbers.
- Carbon emissions are based on the carbon content of the fuel and are based on DUKES and other sources. It is assumed that refinery gases have a carbon emission 15% less than natural gas. The carbon emissions from each source, be it power, heat or CHP, is a factor of the carbon content of the fuel and the efficiency of the cycle.

RESULTS

The results of the study are presented in the following tables. The discussion is kept short and only highlights the key points.

Technical specifications of the CHP plants:

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Summary of CHP Operation:

Avoided Investment Approach:

Basis for Comparison

In the standard case the power station displaced is a new investment in a CCGT. However, for the large CHP schemes that run continuously the displacement is against a CCGT running baseload. For the hospital and small industrial CHP schemes these are assumed to displace mid-merit CCGT operation. Finally the domestic CHP is assumed to displace a CCGT running in peaking duty.

Energy Savings

The energy savings calculations are based on the avoided electricity imported from the grid, displaced electricity for any export and the use of boiler plant for the heat provision. These are compared with the fuel consumed by the plant and the savings are then calculated. All data are for annual operation.

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It can be seen that the energy savings from CHP range from 17% to 26%, and are in the range of 5200-7100 MWh per MW of installed capacity per year.

Carbon Savings

The carbon savings are substantial and much greater than those calculated in the FES report. Carbon savings are between 0.25 MtC and 0.40 MtC per 1000 MWe installed per year. The carbon savings are affected by the hours of operation of the various schemes and this is dependent on the heat demand and the seasonal nature of space heating. The upper carbon saving is increased due in part by the fact that the oil refinery burns refinery off gases. These have a lower carbon content than

natural gas and also displace a small amount of flaring, typically between 1 and 5%.

Most Likely Displacement Approach

The same analysis is undertaken for CHP displacing the most likely mix of plants; that is the fossil fuel mix for the power sector and an older boiler on site.

Basis for Comparison

Energy Savings

In this case where the displaced power is the fossil fuel mix, supplied at lower efficiency than the best new investment case and old boilers then the energy savings almost double. In reality this case is the most likely scenario for real savings from CHP. This is because it is unlikely that the most modern investment will be displaced, but something that already exists.

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Carbon Savings

Once again it can be seen that there are substantial carbon savings from CHP. In this case they are more than double the savings in the avoided investment approach.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

GE H-Class CCGT

A sensitivity analysis was undertaken to look at the impact of increased efficiency, if achieved, of the introduction of the GE H-class CCGT. Here a simplified table is presented with only the new data and results.

Basis for Comparison

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Energy Savings

Carbon Savings

The higher efficiency of the CCGT plants delivers some reductions in both energy savings and carbon reductions. Overall this reduction is around 1% point.

Note: For a fair comparison the CCGT technology should be fully commercial and proven, not based on field trails or laboratory data. The principle should be based on an alternative option to CHP that must be economically justified. In the industrial sector this means that novel plant options are never installed without special arrangements with the supplier of the equipment. A plant, be it utility or process, is not deemed to be fully commercial until it has achieved 3 years of operation in the field. The same principle must also apply to a competitive electricity industry, where the risk of equipment failure is borne fully by the operating company. Thus, new technology such as the GE H-class CCGT is not yet fully commercial and should not be included as a reference technology.

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CONCLUSIONS

The modelling has shown that CHP provides substantial energy and carbon reductions. When comparing with the avoided investment approach of a high efficiency CCGT and new boilers CHP saves in the range of 17-26% energy consumption, dependent on the size plant. The carbon savings are in the range of 0.25-0.4 MtC per 1000 MWe of CHP installed per year. This is far greater than the estimates given by FES in 2003 of 0.1 MtC per 1000 MWe per year.

Under the most likely displacement approach CHP saves in the range 27-40% of energy consumption and reduces carbon emissions by between 0.72 and 1.03 MtC/a per 1000 MWe installed. This again is greater than the saving given in the FES paper of 0.7 MtC per 1000 MWe per year.

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ANNEX 1: DATA ON CHP SCHEMES

INSTALLATION DATA FOR CHP PLANTS

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INSTALLATION DATA FOR CHP PLANTS

Key: Cells in these tables that are coloured light blue are input data and cells coloured yellow are calculations.

The data have been supplied by various CHP operators in the CHPA and thanks are given to them, though the names of the companies are not released to protect commercial interests. (The full-load load factor is the MWh of power generated divided by the plate rated capacity times the hours in the year.)

The CHPA and DELTA Energy and Environment are keen to ensure that the input data is correct and thus any comments or new data sets are welcome.

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ANNEX 2: DATA REFERENCE PLANTS (AVOIDED INVESTMENT APPROACH)

Base case power data

REFERENCE POWER PLANT DATA

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Sensitivity Case with GE H-class CCGT

REFERENCE POWER PLANT DATA

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Reference Boiler Plants Data

REFERENCE BOILER PLANT

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Grid Losses

Carbon Emissions

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

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ANNEX 3: DATA REFERENCE PLANTS (MOST LIKELY DISPLACEMENT APPROACH)

Source DUKES 2004

DUKES 2004 ANALYSIS FOR DATA OF 2003

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The Digest of UK Energy Statistics

The UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) produces a large number of energy statistics, amongst which is the annual Digest of UK Energy Statistics. DUKES also reports efficiencies of CCGT plants in the UK (www.dti.gov.uk/energy/inform/dukes/), which is based upon operational data from the UK power producers.

This paper uses the data from DUKES 2004, which is for power station performance in 2003. On 29 July 2005 the 2005 report was published. This new data has not yet been analysed.

Statistics on efficiency can be found in Table 5.10 of the report. The CCGT plants in operation in 2003 are found in Table 5.11. In total 33 CCGT sites are in the report with a total capacity of 23000 MW.

Figure 1 gives the increase of CCGT capacity in the UK over the years from 1991 to 2004. The CCGT capacity grew from 1800 MW in 1991 to 23000 MW in 2003. The UK has by far the largest and most modern state-of-the-art CCGT capacity, so it is a good source for reference efficiency values, and the official DUKES report fulfils the above mentioned criteria for defining the reference values.

Figure 1: CCGT capacity in the UK in 2003 (source DUKES 2003)

In conclusion, from the three sources discussed before the DUKES reporting on CCGT efficiencies is the only one that reports real operational data and fulfils the criteria of the Directive. Therefore it is proposed to use these data as input for the reference efficiency values for electricity production of gas fired CHP.

DUKES report on CCGT operation efficiency

The CCGT efficiencies can be found in Table 5.10 of the report. These figures are gross efficiencies on gross calorific basis. The reporting period is from 1996 to 2003.

Figure 2 gives the reported efficiency of the UK CCGT plants as net efficiencies based on lower heating value. They have been corrected as follows:

 $LHV = 0.9 * GCV$

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• net efficiency = 0.975 $*$ gross efficiency (note this is also based on data reported in DUKES)

Figure 2: net CCGT efficiency (source DUKES 2003)

From these data it can be concluded that the huge increase of CCGT capacity with new state-of-the-art CCGT units has resulted in only a slight increase of CCGT operational efficiency from 48.5% in 1996 to 50% in 2003.

The effect of older less efficient CCGTs on the reported average annual efficiency is small, because the older capacity is small compared to the newly installed capacity, and due to market forces the production of the older units will have decreased in favour of the new units.

Table 5.10 also shows that after 2000 the CCGT plant load factor has decreased. This is an illustration of the more cycling operation of CCGT plants, because of market conditions, instead of baseload operation in the past.

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REFERENCE BOILER PLANT

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