

COAL KEEPING THE LIGHTS BURNING BRIGHT....

OLD King Coal is keeping the lights of frozen Britain burning bright.

Around 43 per cent of all the electricity being generated in a UK firmly in the grip of the worst winter spell for decades, is being produced by coal-fired power stations.

And at morning and evening periods of peak demand, the 16 coal stations located mainly in the Midlands, Yorkshire, the North West and Scotland, are producing 47 per cent of demand. At peak periods this week, gas stations have met around 34 per cent of demand and nuclear stations 19 per cent. During the same periods, renewables, including wind and hydro power, have collectively produced less than 1 per cent of national peak-time needs.

Such is the demand for coal that thousands of miners at deep and surface mines will be working during the Christmas and New Year festive period to maintain supplies to power stations, industry and homes.

David Brewer, Director General of the Wakefield-based Confederation of UK Coal Producers (CoalPro) says that without coal, many parts of Britain would be without power.

“Coal is doing what other fuels are failing to do at this difficult time – helping keep Britain’s households lit and warm,” says Mr Brewer, adding: “It’s at times like this that the nation feels the full benefit of a fuel that’s easy to transport, handle and store, is abundant in the UK and around the world, flexible in its use and never fails to deliver.

“Only a week ago, the Government announced its timetable for reforms of the power station market, stating that £110 billion of investment is needed in new power stations and grid updates over the next decade. We shall be urging the Government to ensure that coal remains a cornerstone in the renewal of our energy infrastructure – it’s the only fuel that delivers consistently in the most demanding of conditions.”

CoalPro represents and promotes the interests of 20 independent privately owned UK coal producers and other related businesses on issues ranging from planning and environment legislation to the promotion of new clean-burning coal technologies.