

Irish peat plant reopens following EPA closure

A peat-fired power station in Ireland is to reopen after being shut down for three months, according to the Electricity Supply Board (ESB). Lough Ree power plant in County Longford was closed in July after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said it was prosecuting the station for discharging hot water into the River Shannon. As a result, 70 workers at Bord na Móna, the peat and biomass firm in charge of the plant, lost their jobs.

According to a report by *RTE Ireland*, a change in climate conditions on the river has allowed operations to continue at the plant, however, there are major concerns over the future of the plant and hundreds of jobs at Bord na Móna across the country.

Peat harvesting and burning have taken place for centuries in Ireland. However, with the global drive

toward sustainability and cleaner, greener energy, the peat industry has come under fire. In August planning organisation An Bord Pleanála refused planning permission for the ESB to burn biomass at the West Offaly power station in Shannonbridge, due to a clause that would have allowed the plant to continue burning peat during the transition period. ●



Münch celebrates recent successes in Asian market

Münch, a German company specialising in state-of-the-art wood pellet machinery, is celebrating the installation of its machinery at three new bioenergy facilities in Vietnam.

The firm collaborated on large projects in the provinces of Binh Dinh, Thua Thien Hue and Nghe An, on the coast of Vietnam, where its customers designed and coordinated the construction of the facilities. Münch contributed its pellet presses, which will utilise the raw material of acacia tree wood, for the production of wood pellets.

By the end of November the presses will be installed at the facility in Thua Thien Hue. In December, Münch will ship presses to the project in Binh Dinh, and by the end of January 2020, presses will be shipped to Nghe An province.

The firm's latest projects in Vietnam are just a few examples of its recent successes in Asia. The company already has new projects in the pipeline. A spokesperson for the company said: "Recent orders and enquiries and the most recent data presented at the International Biomass Congress & Expo substantiate the trend of the coming years. New technologies for power generation also play an enormous role in the biomass market." ●



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