

Media Release

19 October 2004

Origin commences approvals and consultation processes for potential gas power station developments

Origin Energy today advised that it has commenced seeking development approval for a possible future high-efficiency gas fired power station near Mortlake in Western Victoria. A similar process is also being undertaken in south east Queensland.

In announcing the decision to seek approvals, Origin Energy Managing Director Grant King said "Over the next several years Origin expects the National Electricity Market (NEM) to move from a position of significant over-supply to a position where investment in additional base-load electricity generation plants is required.

"The timing of upward price pressure in the electricity market, and ensuring that a new plant can produce electricity at a total cost that is competitive in the electricity market, will be key factors that influence the timing and nature of any final decision to invest in new plant.

"Undertaking the development approval and community consultation processes now will provide Origin with greater flexibility in responding to market conditions as they evolve.

"In addition, Origin's recent gas discoveries in the Otway Basin and significant gas reserves in south east Queensland provide an opportunity to develop least cost natural gas-fired power stations that minimise environmental impacts, diversify the generation fuel mix in the NEM and enhance system reliability and security."

The approval processes are expected to take place over the next 12 to 18 months, after which time final decisions will be made on the project or projects proceeding.

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