

Environment & Sustainability Committee
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

18 September 2011

Dear Committee Members

No to TAN8 wind farms & high voltage lines

I believe that wind power should not be expanded under TAN 8 because it is a flawed technology, and funding should be channelled to other renewables like photo voltaic micro-generation, tidal power and solar.

Wind farms do not work in the terms claimed by the wind industry. They do not reduce carbon emissions and fail to give energy security. Wind turbines are grossly inefficient, and the highly variable power produced does not easily integrate with the National Grid. Therefore they need constantly running back-up generation from gas power stations as a guarantee to cover loss of supply due to the variability of the wind. Nuclear power cannot be used for this purpose and coal is seen as too pollutive. We therefore rely on gas imports, so there is no gain in security of supply. Also carbon emission reductions from wind generation are compromised by these gas turbines having to be powered up and down to cover for wind's variability. This creates more carbon pollution than would normally be produced – the equivalent to town driving compared to constant speed motorway running. There is an enormous carbon footprint from peat disruption, road building, concrete bases, infra-structure modifications, National Grid connections, traffic congestion, etc. So negligible carbon emission reduction is gained by wind turbine generation.

The Wind Industry Lobby group: RenewableUK deny these points in documents such as 'Top 7 Wind Farm Myths Dispelled'. Here they mix out-dated research, unrelated studies, misinformation and outright trickery with a total disregard of public opinion and concerns. This is summed up by a quote regarding the impact of nearby wind farms on house prices as being "simply not an issue". Such arrogance is very hard to tolerate. There is a growing discontent at having these massive industrial schemes imposed on the largely unspoiled beauty of mid-Wales by misguided target-driven Governments and uncaring greed motivated multi-nationals, both funded by the public either through taxes or inflated energy bills. We are being made to pay these organisations to destroy our own land. There is a wrongness here.

In global terms the contribution that British wind farms can make to carbon reduction is literally unnoticeable, yet the local destructive impact they have is massive.

The impact of the mid-Wales project under TAN 8 is grossly disproportionate to any supposed environmental gain. At no point have the cumulative effects of such large scale developments been taken into account. Visual amenity is already being destroyed across the region, with many more and higher turbines waiting planning permission. There is no overall planning strategy concerning transport issues. There has been no regard to difficulties over power line and sub-station construction or associated health issues. There has been no consideration of job losses in tourism as a result of industrialisation of Mid-Wales. Also no consideration of cumulative effects on radar. Each wind farm creates radar interference. What would be the effect of an almost continuous ribbon of wind farms across Mid-Wales? This serious problem is being under-played, and mobile radar stations are too glib an answer.

Wind farms do not deliver in terms of energy security, carbon emission reductions or affordable energy. They are destructive of the environment, and are disproportionate to any supposed gain. They need power line infrastructure that does not exist and is not wanted by the majority of communities affected. They cause serious problems to radar; they have a negative impact on the local economy, road congestion and house prices. They supply massive profits for developers who conveniently deny all the above points. They are not wanted in mid-Wales and thousands of people have already made this clear.

Yours sincerely

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William Beament