

Environment and Sustainability Committee  
Inquiry into Energy Policy and Planning in Wales  
EPP 121 – Frances Buckingham

September 20 2011

Committee Clerk  
Environment and Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Sir/Madam

**INQUIRY INTO ENERGY POLICY AND PLANNING IN WALES  
CONSULTATION PROCESS – FEEDBACK**

I believe that the energy policy in Wales, and in the UK, is flawed and requires a total review for the following reasons:

- 1 The economy of Wales, and particularly of Montgomeryshire, will be adversely affected by planning policy surrounding wind farms.
  - (a) Tourism will be reduced leading to a loss of revenue for the country and to major job losses both for tourism itself and for supporting industries.
  - (b) Roads will be blocked and damaged by transporting turbines and infrastructure – a process that will last for many years.
  - (c) House prices and business values will be reduced leading to people – particularly those with young families – moving from the area. This is likely to lead to school closures.
- 2 There are increased health risks from sub-stations and pylons as outlined in the Draper report published in the British Medical Journal in March 2005.
- 3 The overall cumulative effect of the wind farm and pylon infrastructure is not considered in any of the planning policies in Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8) – for this reason alone TAN 8 should be scrapped.
- 4 On-shore wind turbines are less efficient than other forms of renewable energy such as off-shore turbines and domestic solar energy. Their carbon footprint is about twice that suggested at the time TAN 8 was produced with about half the realistic output.

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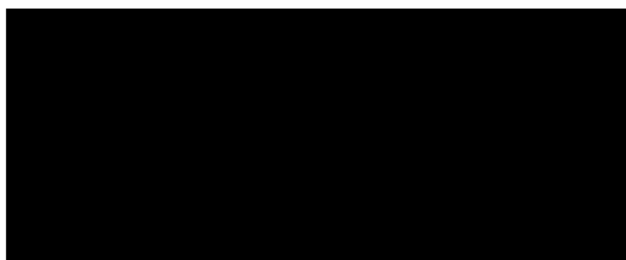
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- 5 Wind turbines and pylons are visually obtrusive and will ruin our landscape and our environment. Apart from the immediate destruction of forests and hedgerows during construction – some of which I accept will recover in time – I understand little investigation has been carried out into the long term effects of noise, both from turbines and pylons, and the permanent consequence of altering the water table and its subsequent effect on flooding.
- 6 Projects such as the Severn Barrage tidal power scheme should be revisited. Tidal power would be predictable and efficient, generate more power than the proposed wind farm schemes and have additional advantages in improved flood protection and the creation of additional transport links between Wales and England.
- 7 Although nuclear power divides opinion – particularly after recent events in Japan – it seems inevitable that it will form an increasing source of energy for the UK and internationally. The output from these will negate any requirement for wind farms.

The subsidies being paid to wind farm developers are being raised by increasing costs to tax payers and electricity customers like myself. Fuel poverty is already a problem in Wales and I resent the extra money I am being forced to pay being wasted on such an inefficient and damaging technology.

In conclusion I am opposed to the current energy policy and planning process in Wales.

Yours faithfully

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Frances Buckingham