

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Inquiry into Energy Policy and Planning in Wales

EPP 139 – Peter Lewis

Dear Sirs,

I hope you will accept representations from people living in England as well as Wales since we have no democratically elected representation directly involved in the decision-making but are very much directly affected by the proposals, because of the prospect of pylons crossing Shropshire. Like many others living around here, on both sides of the border, the whole area is my home and I do not draw a sharp line on the map. My family background is mainly Welsh.

I am extremely concerned at the impact of the proposals for a number of reasons. The main points are, in brief:

1. The economy and employment of both Montgomeryshire and Shropshire are heavily dependent on tourism, to the tune of several hundred million pounds annually and some thousands of jobs. The works would have a drastic adverse effect: tourism is a highly competitive business and visitors have plenty of options elsewhere.
2. The environmental impact, on wildlife, is not easy to assess but would be considerable. However the impact on human health, psychologically and physiologically is potentially much more important and serious. For instance the idea of a major substation on the edge of Abermule - a village with a lot of young children - is simply inconceivable.
3. Much outstanding countryside would be destroyed.
4. Unfortunately wind power will not solve the national energy shortfall: it is variable, expensive and unpredictable. To provide reliable supply, as needed by domestic and industrial users, expensive back-up is required. This has to be kept on 'tick-over' which makes it more polluting than on full power, so defeating the aim of wind power. Also a double investment is needed at a time of stringent financial restraint.

I am disappointed that TAN 8 is not included in your remit and would urge you to seek wider scope from the Welsh Assembly Government for your deliberations.

This is necessarily a brief submission but I am happy to provide you with detail if need be.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Lewis