

The Chairman

Environmental sustainability Committee

Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff CF99 1NA

17th September 2011

Dear Sir

RE WAG policy for the development industrial sized wind farms
across large areas of Mid Wales

Much has been written on this subject; however, there are still a large number of people ignorant of the true facts of this matter. Unfortunately this includes people who are making decisions on this important and complex subject.

For the sake of brevity I will not go through all the arguments regarding wind farm developments, instead I would ask the committee to consider the following points:-

The Royal Academy of Engineers produced a paper illustrating the energy costs for different fuels. (Coal, Gas, Nuclear and on shore and off shore wind turbines.) The results of that study show both forms of wind energy were the most expensive form of energy production. Why is this ignored by developers and politicians?

Wind farm developers and many politicians always quote the installed capacity of a wind farm knowing full well that that figure is totally unrealistic and is quoted to mislead the public. In practice they achieve a maximum of 25% availability.

Why is there no transparency in the way subsidies for wind energy are made. Every household's electricity bill has a hidden component to cover the huge cost of these subsidies. The general public should be made aware of the true cost of wind energy.

Members of my local Community Council have had to declare any interest they or their close family might have in wind farm developments, any member declaring such an interest takes no part in wind farm discussions. I believe the same rule applies to the Powys County Council planning committee. Why is it the same rule is not applied to all those dealing with wind farm developments. Some people are making vast profits and this should be carefully and publicly monitored. You could start with the current Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister both of whom have family members who stand to profit from such developments. I'm sure there are many more who haven't yet surfaced.

The German utility EON state in their annual report that wind energy that due to its intermittence and unpredictability requires 90% backup from conventional fossil fuel generation. This is expensive and carbon producing, yet this fact is totally ignored by the wind farm developers and is another case of mis- informing the public.

There has never been a full comprehensive independent carbon foot print study made for wind turbines. Why not? This is another case of accepting blindly what the developers choose to tell you.

The full impact of the proposed wind farm developments in Mid Wales has never been properly studied. The impact of the turbines themselves on the countryside, the transporting of a huge number of abnormal loads and the effect on the highway infrastructure and peoples everyday lives, the building of miles of overhead lines across the whole of Mid Wales. All these matters need public independent studying.

Finally, TAN 8 was created by people with wind farm interests and they ignored the problems of wind energy. They also ignored other possible sources of clean energy. The public have been badly informed and in some case deliberately mis-informed. An open honest debate needs to take place to set the way forward and decide what is best for Wales and not the developers

I trust you and your committee will consider these points and hopefully bring a fresh approach to these problems.

Yours faithfully

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Robert Horler