

Committee Clerk

Environment & Sustainability Committee

I am writing to you to express my deep concern over the proposals to build huge wind-farms and all the other associated facilities in Mid-Wales.

These are NOT efficient and will cost the UK a huge amount of money. The money would be better spent making sure our housing etc. was better insulated. Include Solar/PV panels or other small scale power generating units when building new developments and helping to install such things on existing properties. Also perhaps manufacturers could go back to including an on/off switch on their goods. Why can't I switch off my TV, my Digital box or my radio, these are all using electricity on "standby". It is difficult to reach behind the furniture to get at the wall mounted sockets and these are just a few things using electricity needlessly.

These multi-national companies (not British) are in line for huge handouts from the UK for building and running these developments. We the UK taxpayer are going to have to pay through increases in electricity tariffs and there are already pensioners dying of cold in 21st century Britain. The figures are likely to get worse in the present economic climate. There has to be profits involved and these will go out of the UK to countries that no longer invest in on-land wind-power themselves.

There are gas powered stations coming on line which would provide the electricity needed and will have to run to cover for the vagaries of the wind. Nuclear has been given a bad name but with France having so many, we are not in the clear if one of theirs failed. There is another type which does not produce radio-active waste; surely it would be better to investigate this? We are just giving way to the idea of going "Green". It will not be green when all the roads, the foundations for the turbines and the foundations for the cranes used to build them are installed. It is not very green to actually produce all this cement etc. or to dig out the peat which absorbs so much CO2. No thought seems to have been given to the accumulative effect on the environment. The uplands of Wales play an important part in soaking up the rainfall and then allowing it to disperse slowly. With so much concrete covering the landscape, the runoff will be immediate and more severe for areas down stream. Problems already occur from covering front gardens to allow parking where the land can't absorb the water. This is likely to be on a much grander scale if the uplands of Wales are covered. What will be the effect on wildlife when hedges and trees are uprooted to make way for the transport vehicles?

There is also the social problem; we rely to an enormous amount on tourism. Not everyone wishes to see these huge structures dominating the landscape, the visual distraction of turning blades or the cumulative noise. Because of their height it has been mentioned that they will be illuminated, it will make the country look more like London and how will they power these lights if the wind is not blowing. The very act of constructing these farms will disrupt everyday life for years to come together with their maintenance in all the following years. People will not visit. Families already living here will leave because of the clusters of cancer being associated with the overhead power

lines. Those that have bought have been told to expect a huge decrease in the value of their homes. Mid-Wales will be dying and no-one seems to care. As you can read I am extremely upset by these proposals, I feel that we hold this land in trust for future generations not to be desecrated for an outdated idea.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Ann Lawrence