

19<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

The Secretary,  
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

I consider that the energy policy of the UK in general and Wales in particular is outdated and misguided and is urgently in need of revision and redrafting.

Especially flawed is the policy in relation to wind farms the electricity from which is the costliest to produce and which Denmark and Germany are belatedly realizing. The fact is that its development in Britain is creating untold profits for foreign companies at the expense of the British public who are paying ever more increasing fuel bills which are inflated by a stealth tax of 12% on their fuel costs.

These subsidies are driving the market in ROCs, which strangely are being traded in the financial institutions, and which these foreign developers see as an endless gravy train and for what? The misguided stampede by the Welsh Assembly in deciding on-shore wind farms would be their favourite renewable energy resource must now be seen at the best as unfortunate and the worst as a scam; this is starkly shown up by carefully researched work on the equivalent carbon emissions as between those expended in construction of the wind farms and those gained from the “free” but sadly very intermittent electricity generation. The wind farm owners say, “Never mind since we will be paid whether the turbine blades revolve or not”.

Looking now at the effect of wind farms on Mid-Wales and the Cambrian Mountains they will have a devastating result on tourism on which this area depends equally with farming. Already questions are being asked by visitors from Europe if holiday property either overlooks or is overlooked by wind turbines since the reason they wish to holiday in Wales is to escape the wind turbine proliferation in their own countries. Major job losses will result from the industrialisation of these pristine areas.

A conservative estimate calculates that something over 400,000 heavy lorry journeys of which 2,500 will be of an exceptional nature, i.e. 15 ft. wide, will be required to transport turbines and construction materials followed by further, as yet unquantified, further transports of sub-stations and transmission lines. This additional traffic on already sub-standard rural roads is unacceptable and local police forces have already raised the fact that they will be unable to staff the road problems which will result. How ambulances, fire engines and other emergency vehicles will be able to operate is very worrying since the privately funded air ambulance helicopters cannot afford to be available throughout every day.

Property prices are already being adversely affected by National Grid proposals in the area and experience from other parts of the UK indicate up to 70% reduction of property values in wind farm areas and close to transmission lines. Such reduction in house and business values will certainly lead to people leaving the area, yet more school closures and further degrading of village life. Who, especially with small children, will want to live close to transmission lines and transformer sub-stations where such health risks have been identified by the Draper Report.

There is no doubt in the minds of the majority of the residents of Mid-Wales that Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8) should be scrapped ; if a replacement Advice Note is considered necessary then this should be more carefully put together by technically qualified persons from all fields and not just those with a pecuniary interest in the outcome as for TAN 8. A most important and salient feature of any future Advice Note must be the cumulative effect on the environment of wind farm and pylon infrastructures.

As far as alternatives to wind power are concerned I would urge that some of the colossal subsidies, currently being bled from we poor fuel bill payers (£billions?) be siphoned off and used to research urgently thorium fuelled power stations, harnessing wave power, thermal extraction from the earth's core and the like all of which are practical alternatives.

Finally as a proud Welshman I would plead that the Welsh Assembly abandon their short term, ill advised, on-shore wind power policy which is leading to the desecration of our last few semi-wilderness areas by the short-lived and hideously obtrusive wind turbines. Instead, cherish our heritage which is the envy of the world. I leave you with this thought – would the Westminster Government plaster the site of the Battle of Hastings with 400ft+ metal and fibre-glass turbines? I think not and yet this is exactly what is proposed at Nant-y-Moch where Owain Glyndwr's famous successful battle against huge odds at Hawddeg is to be so desecrated. Shame on you and don't forget that Saunders Lewis went to prison for railing against such desecration.

The current energy policy and planning processes in Wales are wrong-headed and must be reversed and rethought in their entirety.

Yours faithfully,

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