

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

We believe that the energy policy in the UK and in particular Wales flawed and requires a total review and we set out below our reasons for this belief:

Putting aside the aesthetics and possible health issues for those of us that live here and are bringing up our families here, there is no doubt that the economy of Wales as a whole and Montgomery in particular, would be adversely affected by the planning policy surrounding wind farms. Tourism is the major contributor of income to the economy on the land suggested for the wind farms.

A reduction in tourism would lead to major job losses. The transporting of the materials would cause major ongoing road blockages endangering the passage of emergency services and compounding reasons for people not to visit these parts of our countryside. House prices would undoubtedly be adversely affected and the health concerns would mean people would move away from the areas affected leading to school closures.

The wind farms proposed will be owned and maintained by foreign companies with little or no financial benefit to the local area or the UK. It would appear that these firms are receiving huge subsidies to erect and maintain these wind farms all paid for by us paying higher energy bills. It seems to be a lose-lose situation for Wales and win-win for the wind farm owners, taking money out of Wales and the UK and sending it abroad. The Telegraph has quoted "Two thirds of wind turbines in the UK are owned by foreign companies, raking in half a billion pounds in subsidies added to household bills".

What is proposed here will wreck our countryside without any benefit to Montgomeryshire.

TAN8 was written when it was assumed that wind would be a much more efficient and effective energy source than has proved the case. This needs to be reviewed

with the new facts. The overall cumulative effect of the wind farm and pylon infrastructure is not considered in any of the planning policies.

Wind turbines and pylons are visually obtrusive and will ruin our landscape and our environment, forests will be destroyed, the noise pollution should be considered and the possibility of increased flooding by the sheer volume of concrete and land movement that will be inevitable for the construction and maintenance of such a project.

The turbines proposed for Wales are much larger than any built so far in the UK, how has the impact of these much larger structures been reviewed and tested?

Concerns have been raised by the Snowdonia National Park Authority, the CCW, The Environment Agency and Dyfed Powys Police. These concerns should all be addressed within the review.

There should be a full Cost/Benefits Analysis completed taking all parties into consideration not just those of the energy/wind farm owners, but showing the costs and benefits to the communities affected.

This should be compared with a similar Cost/Benefits Analysis on the idea of a Severn Barrage.

Research shows that a tidal bar would generate far more power and would do so from both incoming and outgoing water with only a small break between tides. Wind farms are at best erratic in their energy production. Tides are at least more predictable.

A scheme such as the barrage option would have significantly less environmental impact and generate more useable power, providing local jobs and providing a boost to the UK economy rather than a foreign one. There have been many UK based firms expressing an interest in involvement in such a scheme.

Any large-scale barrage would create leisure-friendly water conditions behind it. Flood protection would be provided by the barrage, covering the vulnerable Severn estuary from storm surges from the sea. New road and/or rail transport links could be built across a barrage if demand rises in the future. Any barrage could provide a boost to the local economy — construction industry in the short term, tourism and infrastructure in the long term.

In conclusion, we are opposed to the current energy policy and planning process in Wales.

Yours faithfully

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Mr C J & Mrs H A Kappel