



AHNE Bryniau Clwyd
Clwydian Range AONB

The Clerk
National Assembly Environment and Sustainability Committee
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

Eich Cyf • Your Ref

Ein Cyf • Our Ref

Dyddiad • Date

Gofynner am • Ask for

Rhif Union • Direct Dial

AJH/CS/P31/18

16 September 2011
Tony Hughes

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Dear Colleague

Inquiry into Energy Policy and Planning in Wales

Thank you for inviting submissions for this inquiry.

The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) for the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) considered the matter at a sub committee meeting earlier today and resolved to submit the following response:

“The JAC considers that all decisions on major energy infrastructure projects should be devolved to the Welsh Government. This should not only include new and replacement generating capacity but also major transmission and grid connection projects.

The Committee would emphasise the need to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities and features of Wales’ protected landscapes as well as their setting in making decisions on major energy infrastructure projects. This should include well advanced proposals to extend such protected areas, such as the proposed extension to the Clwydian Range AONB which is currently with the Minister.

Major energy projects should be considered as a whole to enable the full implications to be properly assessed as part of the decision making process. The currently fragmented approach to decision making on what are seen as separate elements of a scheme is disingenuous. For example, proposals for major new generating capacity should include full details of any associated new or upgraded grid connections. In Wales’ protected landscapes the JAC’s view is that default transmission option should be undergrounding.

The JAC is becoming increasingly concerned about the impact of a proliferation of proposals for very large individual wind turbines outside the TAN8 Strategic Search Areas (SSA). These are no longer small scale projects and now include proposals for turbines in excess of 70m in height. By way of comparison, this is equivalent to the height of a number of existing turbines erected in the Clocaenog SSA and threatens to change the character of the wider countryside outside SSA’s, including Wales’ protected landscapes.”

Yours faithfully,

Tony Hughes
For the Clwydian Range AONB Joint Advisory Committee

Ysgrifennydd

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