

22nd September, 2011

Committee Clerk,
Environment and Sustainability Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff.
CF99 1NA

Dear Committee Members,

INQUIRY INTO ENERGY POLICY
TAN 8 and TRANSPORT OF WINDTURBINES and
RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

We refer to the above, but first wish to place on record to the Committee the following:

- 1) As Campaign Co-Ordinators against National Grid's Purple North Pylon Route through the Trewern Valley, we raised a Petition against the proposals and this was signed by 2,056 people and this was forwarded to National Grid.
- 2) Alongside this, a Conservation of Upland Powys Petition against windfarms and TAN 8 Policy was signed by approximately 1,500 people and handed to Alison Davies of CUP.

The Committee will realise this is a huge number on Paper Petitions raised in such a rural community.

But to date, we have only received a "generic" reply to the Petition forwarded to National Grid - they have refused to reply specifically and acknowledge receipt of the Petition and the number of signatures upon it. This highlights National Grid's arrogance, and disregard to the Communities affected by their plans.

With reference to the Committee's Inquiry into the Energy Policy TAN 8 and the Transport of Windturbines and related infrastructure, we wish to place before you our concerns:

TAN 8 ENERGY POLICY AND INLAND WIND TURBINES and
TRANSPORT OF WINDTURBINES AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1) We are greatly disturbed and concerned at the plans envisaged for inland wind turbines through Wales, and particularly those proposed in Powys.

This unique and beautiful area is a treasure we cannot afford to despoil - too much and too many depend upon the riches it generates - whether it be those who visit this wonderful region on the Borderlands and upland Powys for peace and refreshment, or whether it be those business' and their employees who pick up the rewards of those who do visit. The costs to our region will be immense should the despoilation of this area be allowed through huge windturbines and all the infrastructure that would go with it in order to take the power into England.

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ENERGY INQUIRY cont.....

2) And for what benefit - and to who?

The Multi National Power Companies will pay Tax on their profits from this so-called "green" energy in the Country of their Registration - i.e. taking all from Wales and the Borderlands and paying nothing.

Our historically beautiful area's landscapes would be ruined for all time, and the Tourist trade be finished.

We are personally in the Tourism Business, and already Visitors are telling us that they will boycott Wales should these plans proceed - due to the ruination of the landscapes and the heavy construction traffic hauling materials into the area.

We only have to look at the problems in Welshpool since the introduction of the one-way traffic system - again, for the benefit of another Multi National - Tesco's. Car Parking profits are down - proving shopper/visitor numbers are down too, and consequently small local business' suffer and soon the High Street will be dead like loads of others across the UK where the same thing is happening !! Welshpool is no longer a pleasant experience to visit - our own visitors have told us and we agree. What was a vibrant and attractive Market Town has been turned into a dangerous race track (or hold up spot, depending on the day) filled with fumes, and has been ruined. The original system must be reintroduced immediately before all the business' go to the wall - and we must learn the lessons from this experience as to how people vote - and that is with their feet; and that is what will happen to this region if the Power Plans continue.

Where is the sense in all this ? It is like cutting off the hand that feeds us - or cutting a hole in a famous old Master.


We ask that the views of the people are adhered to. There ARE other alternatives In these days of austerity - our Governments both Welsh and English would be far better to focus on alternative forms of low carbon power. It should be produced and used where it is needed and fed into the local grid. It cannot be safe or cost effective to transport power from one end of the country to the other.

Instead of paying the Multi Nationals BILLIONS to produce windpower that does not work a quarter of the time - and the Public having to pay tariffs on their Electricity Bills towards their own demise and blight - that money should be put into allowing all households to have solar panels on their roofs and this could be fed into the local grid without the need for new pylons and health endangering cables.

Producing and fitting these solar panels countrywide would generate work, and importantly the financial benefits to the Public would help to stimulate the economy. Unless Household Bills for electricity, gas, rates and motoring fuel are CUT - the economy cannot recover - most people just do not have the money to spend on anything other than the barest of essentials.

We also urge greater use of hydro power - but please do not allow the ruination of Wales through windturbines - and please give Powys the designation that it deserves - that of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Yours faithfully,


Idris and Judy Andrew
Campaign Co-Ordinators North Purple Route - National Grid