

Stuart Featham

From: Gordon Johnson
Sent: 26 September 2010 16:25
To: Project TransmiT
Subject: consultation - submissions.

I wish to comment on the current charging system as it affects Northern Scotland, where I live.

1. The operating body is required to facilitate effective competition, and the other requirements are stipulated "as far as reasonably practical".
2. The existing charging methodology unfairly favours large urban conurbations with historical energy assets, and penalises rural areas and developments in new locations at a distance from historical assets.
Rural areas have enough problems without the electricity transmission operators adding to their problems. Historical situations should not be allowed to impair the development of new energy assets. The present charging methodology is therefore backward-looking, not forward-looking.
3. Current energy policy is supposed to favour renewables, and so the system must take that into account, and do nothing to impair the development of renewable assets.
4. Renewable assets are primarily WIND, WAVE, & TIDAL, and all of these are to be found in VERY rural parts of the UK. A large number of wind turbines are being installed in Caithness and Sutherland, and the major potential in wave power and tidal power lies in the Pentland Firth, and the waters off Orkney and Shetland.
5. To exploit these assets is expensive in development costs, and to make it possible for these assets to be effectively developed so that they can compete with other energy assets, the transmission charges must be adapted to encourage such desirable developments.
6. Research is being done at present, and potential developers of offshore renewable assets are considering the possibilities for economic installation and operation. Transmission costs are at present a large oncost in such calculations, and the sooner that transmission charges are made more equitable for rural renewables, the better for the entire UK economy.
7. New energy targets for Scotland make it imperative that artificial barriers to renewables development be swept away and replaced with energy-development-friendly charging systems.

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