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Dear Adrienne Munro

### Electricity supply company price controls – update document

I write on behalf of the Partnership Committee for the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Our area of unspoiled coastline and estuaries was given its statutory AONB designation in 1960 and covers 130 sq miles of the nation's finest countryside.

I understand that your office is currently reviewing the framework of price controls for electricity supply companies for the next five years and I wish to make a comment about this.

We are familiar with the similar process undertaken by OFWAT in association with the water supply companies and the Environment Agency in which environmental considerations are a key driver of the process and the price control framework. This has brought about a major capital investment programme yielding significant environmental benefits to our area.

What does not appear to be the case is a comparable environmental driver in the pricing framework for the electricity supply industry. In view of the statutory duty placed on all public bodies, including yours, to have regard for the purposes of AONB designation in the conduct of their functions (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), I would hope to see the environmental impacts of the electricity supply companies brought into consideration.

In particular, an incremental process of under-grounding or re-routing overhead low-voltage transmission and distribution lines in statutorily protected landscapes where the impact is especially obtrusive should be an element of the equation. Overhead lines have a significant damaging impact on some of our sensitive open landscapes and the streetscapes of historic villages and Conservation Areas.

We hope that these comments are helpful and will be taken into account.

Yours sincerely,

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