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Dear David,

## **Planning and Operating Standards Under BETTA**

I refer to Ofgem's March 2003 consultation on the planning and operating standards that will be required under BETTA.

SSE welcome Ofgem's conclusion that initially under BETTA the existing planning standards of the three transmission licensees should be retained. The effect of adopting a uniform planning standard is unquantifiable at this stage, and inevitably, any change in standards in one or more of the transmission areas will lead to a change in costs. Also, we believe the current planning standards are appropriate for the characteristics and risks associated with the networks to which they are applied.

As far as operating standards are concerned, we recognise that it would be desirable for there to be a single set of principles for operating the GB-wide transmission system. The extent to which this can be achieved for day 1 of BETTA will need further work, and we agree with Ofgem's proposal to request the transmission licensees to carry out a more detailed review of the operating standards.

Yours sincerely,

Rob McDonald  
Group Regulation Manager