

# THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND NEWCASTLE SOCIETY

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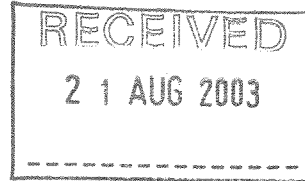
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Registered Charity No. 247885

*Founded in 1924 to preserve and increase the beauty and amenities of the County and the City*

Patron: HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND

President: THE LORD MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



Cemil Altin,  
Head of Price Control Development  
Ofgem  
9 Millbank  
London  
SW1P 3GE

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Dear Cemil Altin,

## **Re: Electricity Distribution Price Control Review: Initial Consultation**

The Northumberland and Newcastle Society believes that serious consideration should be given to requiring electricity distribution companies to set up an environmental fund for the purpose of undergrounding overhead wires in designated landscape areas.

A small annual contribution to enable such work to be carried out should be sought from consumers. This could be done on a voluntary basis initially, while a formal consultation takes place, if this is considered necessary.

In seeking consumer feedback, it would be helpful if the advantage of continuity of supply during adverse weather conditions could be cited as an additional benefit of such a scheme.

Protecting designated areas of land such as National Parks is our collective responsibility. Any industry which operates in these areas must recognise that it has a duty of care to our environment. This includes minimising, wherever possible, visual intrusion.

The Distribution Price Control Review would seem to offer an opportunity to achieve some progress on undergrounding.

A line of overhead wires seriously undermines the work of organisations such as the National Park Societies and action in this area is long overdue.

We urge Ofgem to take note of the comments from groups such as ours and grasp this opportunity to address this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hazel Richards".

Dr Lewis Hanna  
Chairman: County Committee