

P L A C E

Robert Hull
Director, Transmissions
OFGEM
9, Millbank
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9/9/2005

RESPONSE TO INITIAL CONSULTATION, JULY 2005 – TRANSMISSION PRICE CONTROL REVIEW

Dear Robert Hull,

“Most people are familiar with the idea of ‘endangered species.’ There is less awareness of ‘endangered experiences’ – the loss of the possibility of certain sorts of experience. Spatial freedom in wild landscapes clear of human clutter is becoming ever more rare in the British Isles. Absolute aloneness interacting only with the otherness of the non-human world, is ever more difficult to find. The sense of the frailty and inconsequence of the human animal when immersed in the vastness of the elements and amongst other life forms gives a much needed, powerful and important change of perspective.”*

Through the new Price Control Review there is a new opportunity to continue to alleviate damage done to the quality of our environment caused by the high priority given to the provision of services and new technologies. An increase in undergrounding of electricity supply would be an ideal *visible* symbol for the current effort to control *invisible* gas emissions.

PLACE therefore strongly urges OFGEM to allow both the National Grid Company and electricity distribution companies to increase spending, particularly on undergrounding, to reduce the environmental impacts of their services.

PLACE also asks OFGEM to act to allow public funding to help achieve these goals. Sources such as the National Lottery and/or a new ring-fenced voluntary environmental levy on electricity bills could be a very useful addition to more obvious forms of funding.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Darke
PLACE

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