

8 September 2005

Robert Hull
Director, Transmission, OFGEM
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London
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**Friends of the
Peak District**

CPRE

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Peak District & South Yorkshire Branch

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Dear Mr Hull,

Transmission price control review – response to July 2005 consultation

Friends of the Peak District are the national park society for the Peak District National Park and also represent the CPRE in the Peak District area, including the areas under the planning control of High Peak Borough Council and six parishes overseen by North East Derbyshire District Council.

You may recall we were involved in the Distribution Price Control Review consultations and were pleased with the (albeit modest) allowances now made for further undergrounding in National Parks and AONBs. In relation to the current transmission review, we are fully in support of the comments made by the Council for National Parks (CNP, of whom we are a member) and our 'sister' organisation, the Friends of the Lake District (FLD). We obviously share the strong desire that companies be allowed additional expenditure for undergrounding of high voltage cables on visual amenity grounds, especially in sensitive landscapes.

As an example of such intrusion in the Peak District, we are particularly concerned at the impact of National Grid pylons ('towers') in Longdendale and are wishing to open dialogue with the company in terms of the prospect for undergrounding by extending the current 'open troughing' ducts along the Trans Pennine trail. This could be much facilitated by additional allowances to address visual intrusion of the transmission network.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr) Andy Tickle
Head of Planning and Campaigning

President: Lord Hattersley

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