

By e-mail

Sent: 31 July 2007

Subject: Transmission access charging for Scottish renewable generation

Hi

I read an article in last Friday's 'Scotsman' that indicated that you had a consultation that ended today on electricity transmission charging for renewable generation, particularly in Scotland. I couldn't find a reference to this consultation on your website, but as today is not finished, I am submitting this contribution to your consultation.

I used to work in the electricity transmission business, latterly as a consultant, and although I have been retired for a few years, I still have sufficient grasp of the issues to be able to comment sensibly - in fact my more distant standpoint may be useful in helping to take a 'standback' view which is essential in such strategic issues.

When I read the article in the 'Scotsman', the main point that struck me was that Ofgem was very concerned about the extra carbon emissions created by renewable generation in Scotland. My reaction to that was:

- (1) if there is a choice between two identical renewable projects, one in Caithness and one in Hertfordshire, then clearly the one in Hertfordshire is preferable on environmental and economic grounds;
- (2) if the choice is between a renewable project in Caithness and no renewable project, then the fact the renewable project saves, say, 1000 tonnes of carbon at source but loses 100 tonnes in transmission, it will still save 900 tonnes of carbon and therefore be of substantial benefit from an environmental point of view.

In any determination on transmission charges, Ofgem must recognise these environmental benefits.

I am copying this e-mail to the Scottish Executive and to my local MSP, Mr John Swinney.

Regards
Donald Isles