



The National Association for AONBs  
Cymdeithas Genedlaethol AoHNE

13<sup>th</sup> February 2009

DPCR5 Response  
Electricity Distribution  
Office of Gas & Electricity Markets  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
9 Millbank  
London  
SW1 3GE

**Electricity Distribution Price Control Review Policy Paper**  
**Ref: 159/08 & 159a/08**

Thank you for giving the National Association for AONBs an opportunity to comment on your proposals for the Electricity Distribution Price Control Review.

The NAAONB is a voluntary body that draws its membership from a range of organisations interested in AONBs. All of the AONB Partnerships and most of the local authorities with AONB responsibilities are members together with a number of voluntary bodies, including the Friends of the Lake District.

You have received a detailed response from Friends of the Lake District which the NAAONB fully endorses.

We would however like to highlight a two specific issues raised by the F of LD.

If the scheme for undergrounding overhead wires is to be extended to areas not linked to the AONBs and National Parks, it is essential that sufficient new money is put into the system to cover this expansion. The success of the current arrangements is only limited by the tight financial constraints imposed by OFGEM, and any erosion of the funding currently available would be disastrous. That said there is merit in allowing some flexibility to allow schemes that cross AONB boundaries to be accommodated.

**The National Association for  
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**  
Fosse Way  
Northleach  
Gloucestershire  
GL54 3JH

Tel: 01451 862007  
Fax: 01451 862001  
Email: [jill.smith@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:jill.smith@cotswold.gov.uk)

A company limited by guarantee no: 4729800

Registered office as above

All of the feed back we have had from our members has identified the current capping arrangements as a handicap. The NAAONB supports the proposal to allow the DNOs and their advisors from the AONBs/NPs to have discretion over the costs incurred on individual schemes, but within an overall ceiling set by OFGEM. We also believe that the model being used in the SW by EDF for identifying priorities and making decisions is one that should be commended to all the other distribution companies.

If there are any specific points of clarification or explanation that arise from either this response or that of Friends of the Lake District as far as AONBs is concerned please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mike Taylor

National Association for AONBs