

Andrew MacFaul,  
Head of Better Regulation  
OFGEM,  
9 Millbank,  
London  
SW1P 3GE

By e-mail to [andrew.macfaul@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.macfaul@ofgem.gov.uk)

24 February 2009

Dear Mr MacFaul,

## Corporate Strategy and Plan 2009 - 2014

As you know Friends of the Lake District are a landscape charity covering the whole of Cumbria. We have approximately 7000 members, represent the CPRE in Cumbria and are members of the Campaign for National Parks.

We welcome the acknowledgement that activities of both the gas and electricity industries can affect the environment (paragraph 3.20) and the commitment to maintain the undergrounding scheme in both Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. We assume the omission of the latter at paragraph 2.21 is a simply an error. We believe the current undergrounding scheme can be improved upon and will continue to engage with the DPCR5 consultation process to put forward our views on how the scheme can be developed to provide the greatest benefit possible for our most highly valued landscapes. In the longer term we would like to see the allowance embedded and continued on a permanent basis rather than being an add-on in each DPCR period.

As we have noted previously the transmission network overhead infrastructure has a detrimental effect on both landscape character and visual amenity. We believe that incentives should be made available to enable existing pylon networks to be placed underground in both Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. In addition we believe that where transmission infrastructure is required it should be routinely placed underground in areas of outstanding landscape value and alternatives should be considered where relevant such as sub sea cables to bring marine electricity to onshore networks.

FLD hopes that the above response is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarification of any of the above or any further information.

Yours sincerely

*Penny Ozanne*

Penny Ozanne  
Overhead Wires Project Officer

**Murley Moss**  
**Oxenholme Road**  
**KENDAL**  
**Cumbria**  
**LA9 7SS**  
(Registered Office)

Tel: 01539 720788  
Fax: 01539 730355  
E-Mail: [info@fld.org.uk](mailto:info@fld.org.uk)  
[www.fld.org.uk](http://www.fld.org.uk)

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