

18 September 2009

Andrew MacFaul  
Head of Better Regulation  
Office of Gas & Electricity Markets  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
9 Millbank  
London SW1P 3GE

President Ben Fogle Chief Executive Kathy Moore

6-7 Barnard Mews London SW11 1QU  
Telephone 020 7924 4077  
Fax 020 7924 5761  
Email [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk)  
Web <http://www.cnp.org.uk>

*Sent by email: [andrew.macfaul@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.macfaul@ofgem.gov.uk)*

Dear Andrew

### **Ofgem's Five Year Strategy 2010-2015**

CNP welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of Ofgem's five year strategy for 2010-2015. CNP is the national charity that campaigns to protect and promote National Parks for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of all.

As you know Ofgem has a statutory duty to take National Park purposes into consideration when making decisions that could affect the National Parks.<sup>1</sup> Defra has clarified<sup>2</sup> that National Park purposes are an essential consideration in reaching decisions that may have an impact on National Parks.

In view of this, we would like the following points to be included within the strategy:

- A commitment (as has been the case in past strategies) to continuing the undergrounding of overhead wires within National Parks through the allowance established by the distribution price control review, which has led to significant improvements to these landscapes; a commitment to encourage all DNO's to use the available funding allowance
- A commitment to explore ways for the allowance to be used for undergrounding new lines or those that are outside National Park boundaries but that would have an impact on their setting
- A commitment to consult National Park interests early on decisions relating to access to the transmission system for onshore or offshore projects that might have an effect on National Parks

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarification of any of the above.

Yours sincerely



Amy Peters  
Senior Policy Researcher

<sup>1</sup> Section 11A(2) of the 1949 Act as amended by section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 requires all relevant authorities performing any function in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park to have regard to National Park purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Defra guidance note on duties on relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks, AONBs and the Broads, 2005