



# Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

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29<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Ms Naughton,

## **COMMENTS ON THE DECC/OFGEM CONSULTATION ON OFFSHORE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION: IMPLEMENTING FURTHER REFINEMENTS TO THE ENDURING REGIME**

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) was created by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide advice on nature conservation, landscape and recreational matters throughout Wales and Welsh waters. We champion the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. In this role, we are concerned with the minimisation of negative environmental effects of onshore and offshore electricity transmission.

CCW submitted a joint response with Natural England and the JNCC to the August 2010 consultation on the enduring regulatory regime for offshore electricity transmission, in which we raised concerns about the need for coordinated development of an offshore transmission network that minimises environmental impacts. Following that consultation, we welcome DECC and Ofgem's decision to incorporate the 'generator-build' option into the enduring regulatory regime. However, we consider the proposed changes to the regime now being addressed by the above consultation are targeted at industry and fall outside CCW's remit; we therefore do not have any comments to make on the current consultation.

We note that "*Government and Ofgem intend to undertake further work to consider whether additional measures will be required to deliver coordinated networks through the offshore transmission regime and, if so, what measures might look in practice*" and that this is to be consulted on in 2011. We look forward to this consultation and the opportunity it provides to help ensure a more coordinated transmission regime, as we believe that developing offshore cabling in a strategic manner can maximise resource use and reduce consenting complexity as well as minimise environmental impacts.



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We look forward to the opportunity to comment on future consultations.

Yours sincerely,

**John Hamer,  
Marine Advice Section Head**

Cc: Kristina Dahlström, Department of Energy and Climate Change