



Campaign for National Parks

Keeping beautiful places safe

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Ofgem's five year strategy 2011-16

The Campaign for National Parks (CNP) welcomes the opportunity to feed into Ofgem's strategy for 2011-2016. CNP is the national charity that campaigns to protect and promote National Parks for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of all. We have identified three key challenges that the industry faces and how we think the Authority should respond.

Connections to the grid

A major challenge for the industry is how new nuclear build or other new generating capacity can be connected to the grid system in a way that is socially and environmentally acceptable. Ofgem should respond to this by allowing transmission system operators to allocate funds to underground new or strengthened transmission lines where these would be within or adjacent to a nationally designated area such as a National Park.

Timely stakeholder involvement

The second challenge is ensuring that stakeholders are involved at early stages of decisions about future transmission. Ofgem's role should be to encourage open debate about whether proposed investment by transmission system operators, and what it is planned to cover, is appropriate.

Reducing visual impact

The third challenge is how the visual impact of the current as well as proposed electricity network can be reduced, particularly as around 10% of it crosses areas of the highest amenity value. Allowing transmission system operators to set aside investment to reduce the impact of these lines on the landscape would ensure that Ofgem applied a consistent approach to reducing the impact of both the transmission and distribution networks. Distribution Price Control Review 4 has led to 78 miles of overhead lines being undergrounded in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It would be very welcome if similar achievements could be stimulated by the next Transmission Price Control Review.

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

Yours sincerely

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