



Mr Matthew Grant
European Electricity Transmission
9 Millbank
London
United Kingdom
SW1P 3GE

17th January 2014

Re: Regulation of transmission connecting non-GB generation to the GB electricity transmission system

Dear Mr Grant

I am a UK citizen living in County Offaly in the Republic of Ireland and would like to make this submission as a stakeholder of this project. I am a stakeholder in this project because an inter-country agreement between the UK and Ireland to export renewable energy from Ireland to the UK to meet the UK renewable energy targets would directly affect me and my family.

County Offaly has been identified as one of the prime areas in Ireland to place wind turbines specifically for this project. There are at least three companies vying for the contract to provide renewable energy to the UK, with no benefit to residents except for financial bribery in the form of a "Community Fund". Each company plans to put anywhere between 400 to 600 turbines in this area. This not only has the capacity to destroy the landscape in this beautiful part of rural Ireland, but also could affect the health of my family and the value of my property.

I object to this project on the grounds that I should not be expected to suffer in any way simply to fulfil another country's renewable energy targets. I object to Ireland becoming the UK's offshore wind farm because communities in the UK will no longer accept turbines in their areas. I object to my community, along with others in the surrounding counties, being subjected to the stress that these plans are already causing and the potential harm that UK residents are already suffering. And, I object to the fact that these plans are going to cost communities thousands of Euros to fight as each company makes their planning application just at a time when we are all financially struggling.

In the consultation paper, question 21 it states "Are there other challenges we should be considering when looking at non-GB connections?" there are a number of issues I would like to raise that need to be considered:

1. Who is liable if the wind turbines that are placed on non-GB soil cause harm or damage? Is it the Irish Government or the UK Government? I think that the official line will be the company operating the turbines is responsible, but surely

the UK Government will also have a moral obligation to ensure that these turbines do not cause harm or damage?

2. What happens once the project comes to an end? Who is responsible for the decommissioning of the turbines? Considering that it is UK taxpayers that are paying for the turbines to be built through their subsidies, there should also be money available for decommissioning.
3. I understand that the UK is planning a referendum on whether it should continue EU membership. If that is the case, then this project should be put on hold until after the referendum results. If the UK votes to leave the EU then there is no pressure to meet EU renewable targets, and the legislative background to this project would change.
4. I demand that Irish residents are given the same protection and consultation rights as UK residents in this project. This plan would industrialise rural Ireland and irrevocably change our environment. I demand that our rights are observed under the Aarhus Convention, ensuring participation at every stage, instead of being railroaded into this project as is happening at the moment. There is no trust in the Irish Government to protect their residents and I feel it is up to the UK Government to ensure that this project is carried out using best practice in community consultation and participation.
5. Communities are now working together to fight the plans from the companies for this project. They are prepared for legal battles which would cause huge delays to the development of this plan. The chances of this project being given the go-ahead in time to reach the 2020 targets are becoming less likely. It is suggested that the UK Government look elsewhere to reach their targets.
6. I am very concerned about the potential detrimental effects this could have on Anglo-Irish relations. There has been great work done in the past at strengthening these links and I feel that this project could put those advances back many years. Communities are now galvanising to fight these projects, with over 200 groups formed across Ireland over the last few months. They are working together and are becoming stronger as more communities realise what is planned for their area. There has already been discussion of a protest at the British Embassy. This has been decided against because of concerns of such a protest being taken over by other groups and the chances of violence. If these plans continue I am concerned that there could be large scale bad feeling against the UK and the potential for unrest. As a UK citizen living in Ireland, this issue concerns me greatly.

As a UK citizen and stakeholder in this project, I urge the UK Government to back down on these plans and look elsewhere to reach your targets.

Yours sincerely

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