

Received by email: Vice Chair of Anglesey Branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

CPRW Anglesey Branch response:-

1. Ofgem will be aware that there is considerable public concern about National Grid's proposal to run a second line of pylons overland on Anglesey. The vast majority of residents and businesses who responded to the proposals by National Grid stated that it is essential to protect the island's environmental qualities and the largest employment sector, tourism, which is almost totally dependant on the island's unspoilt natural landscape and seascapes. Any new transmission capacity needed to carry offshore or nuclear generated power to other parts of the UK therefore must be by subsea interconnectors and not overland on Anglesey.
2. There are a number of concerns in Anglesey about new EU powers concerning the ENTSOE Ten Year Plan and the EU Supergrid. These plans are being progressed in Brussels with no public consultation in Wales. Yet this Energy Union legislation in respect of the onshore transmission and offshore interconnectors will have potentially a huge impact on Anglesey.
3. There are also concerns about the proliferation of local Distribution Networks and National Transmission Networks to cater for widely dispersed and often intermittent renewable electricity generation. Anglesey is likely to be burdened by both new onshore and offshore developments that are deemed necessary to serve other parts of the UK and indeed Europe with electricity.
4. The private corporate companies responsible for distribution and transmission in the UK have been given extraordinary powers over other smaller private companies and individuals, who own the land over which networks seek to take rights and/or compulsory purchase. This is not a free market between private companies and enterprise, it is a rigged one, influenced by politics and multinational power. Furthermore electricity consumers are locked into paying for the enhanced asset base (i.e. the power lines and transmission system) of the distribution and transmission system operators. In the UK National Grid is a monopoly with customers locked in to a system of ever increasing transmission charges. This inequitable arrangement is now being driven primarily by the EU Commission - an unelected body.

I would like Ofgem's confirmation that these issues will be taken into account in this consultation and included in the formation of any guidance given to Government.

I am copying this email to Anglesey County Council, the local AM, MP and MEP, the Welsh Secretary, and the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Yours sincerely,
Mairede Thomas

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