

17 June 2020

Ofgem

To who this may concern,

Response to Ofgem's consultation on the final needs case for the Shetland transmission link project and delivery model - Ofgem should object to the revised proposals

Thank you for your attention with regard to the above consultation. It is evident that during this difficult time and uncertain global financial situation, increased challenges lie ahead for Ofgem to ensure best value for consumers in the energy market.

I am aware that in response to your latest consultation with regard to the final needs case for Shetland, two international energy specialists have proposed a 'low cost island friendly' alternative to Viking Energy wind farm and the inter-connector project. I seriously hope that Ofgem fully consider this new energy proposal for the isles. This solution appears very sensible being that it is a clean energy source as well as safeguarding Shetlands' unique pristine environment. In past years, through clever politics, those with vested interests have unfairly portrayed that the only answer to Shetlands' energy solution is the installation of an inter-connector cable.

Over many years, Viking energy have muddled along with considerable indecision and no certainty in achieving its aspirations. Viking Energy's green credentials and carbon reductions are now as much in question as its financial situation as new environmental research continues to come to light.

It's clear, that to install an inter-connector hundreds of miles away from energy demand will unquestionably put an unnecessary extra burden on UK consumers. SSE's recent announcement is obviously a final manipulated attempt to gain approval from Ofgem. It is concerning, the largest project of its type, the financial uncertainty will be a gamble for us, the UK consumers.

If no objections to the transmission link project are made by Ofgem, then the interests of the British consumer will not have been fairly addressed. Sadly Shetlands' inhabitants who have protested lawfully, over the last decade have been continually ignored. Following SSE's recent announcement there has been a late call locally for a referendum.

By reason of all the above, I wholeheartedly hope that Ofgem consider this new 'low cost island friendly' project for Shetland. Furthermore I believe this new gas project could heal community divisions which have been for years caused by the indecision on the Viking Energy wind farm project.

Yours sincerely