

Dear Sir/Madam, I would like to put forward a submission for the Shetland Transmission Consultation.

The entire proposed Viking Energy wind farm and subsequent transmission cable is a disaster waiting to happen.

As has been said time and time again, the environmental impact of this project vastly outweighs any benefits to combating CO2 emissions.

Environmentally, I can't think of a project which makes less sense than this.

In terms of the wind farm, the sheer destruction that will be caused is beyond belief and like many, I can foresee major incidents such as landslides etc. I wouldn't like to be the Site Manager who arrives one wet, winter morning to find an 800t crane lying in a crumpled heap down in the valley.

Oh, and we mustn't forget the delays due to wind. Big cranes don't like wind. And nor do the insurers.

A retired and much respected local meteorologist has calculated that it will take Viking Energy 11 years to complete the project due to wind delays.

Machinery operators with decades of experience, who've worked the length and breadth of Shetland have told me that it will be an ecological disaster the minute Viking Energy start tearing into the hills.

In relation to the transmission cable, this is a huge gamble and existing sub-sea cables are already experiencing major problems(the Hunterston in Scotland to Flintshire in Wales subsea cable).

If this is the case, what on earth will happen to a 203km long cable in some of the most violent seas in the world?. Not to mention the inevitable damage that will occur from fishing boats as they trawl for fish. And no amount of exclusion zone will prevent this.

I'm not going to labour my submission but suffice to say, this entire project should be abandoned and an on-island solution found for Shetland's power requirements.

Indeed, how can this financial black hole of a project be allowed to continue when BWSC and Gasnor have proposed a cheaper, more reliable and infinitely less damaging LNG power station for Shetland?.

I can only conclude that it simply comes down to the fact that SSE views Shetland as little more than an expendable lump of land they can fill with wind turbines and reap huge subsidies. The world-class beauty and nature of these islands doesn't matter. And nor do the people.

Like my fellow Shetlanders, I want to enjoy these beautiful islands and hear the sound of silence and the song of the Skylark when I walk the hills. Not the ugly sight and noise of 103 wind turbines sprawled across the land.

Shame on Viking Energy and SSE for their plan to destroy these islands. Infact, they should hang their heads in shame for the stress and suffering they have already inflicted on many Shetlanders because of this project but all they've done is shown that they don't listen.

In light of all this and more I wish to **OBJECT** to the Viking Energy wind farm and the proposed subsea cable.

Yours sincerely,