

Dear Sirs

As a Shetland resident, a local community councillor, and the husband of an SSE shareholder; I strongly object to the bankrolling by Ofgem of a project which will benefit an over-ambitious, over-stretched, internationalised business which has moved so far away from the cosy Hydro-Electric Board that it is now unrecognisable. Its recent divestment of its electricity consumer arm to a company established by opportunists has met with opprobrium within the Hydro's old stomping grounds of the Highlands & Islands of Scotland.

Ofgem's strapline, *making a positive difference for energy consumers*, and its approval thus far of a project, the cost of which cannot be justified to energy consumers on the UK mainland, will in the same way have a devastating impact on Shetland's environment.

This Pandora's box of a development has its roots in the duplicity of some local politicians who promised a local plebiscite; vested interests who persuaded them to renege on it; and the profoundly flawed First Minister of Scotland who behaved improperly in this case, rendering the entire development subject to further challenge. The Viking Energy windfarm and the associated transmission cable has little support on the islands, and islanders recognise that their undesecrated landscape will be sacrificed so that the urban elites in the south have their (expensively generated) electricity without the inconvenience of seeing their own beloved North Downs despoiled by aerogenerators.

A number of islands throughout the world are self-sufficient in electricity, and SSE's replacement electricity generation proposals for Shetland should have been based on their success, and left it there. There are many (particularly absent) landowners closer to urban hubs who would have loved to enter into dialogue with SSE about the siting of windfarms on their estates, tens of miles away from SSE's main markets, not hundreds.

SSE is destined to fail, like the Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland, from its own hubris, and Ofgem would be wise to withdraw its support for an extremely expensive piece of cabling.

Regards