

Shetland Transmission Link Consultation.

15/06/20

Dear Mr Norman

I wish to respond to your consultation on the proposed HDVC link to Shetland.

As I stated in my previous consultation reply: My concerns about the proposed HDVC link, if approved are: That the huge SSE/Viking Energy Wind Farm and the other consented and proposed Wind Farms will be built. In my opinion, this would have a very damaging impact on Shetland's landscape, and to the health and wellbeing of people living in close proximity to a large number of massive Wind Turbines.

Furthermore, it has been reported that the economic case for a "Mainland Subsea link Project will be a single subsea circuit". Excuse my ignorance, Will this mean the cable is only to export power generated by Wind Farms (most likely SSE) via the proposed costly converter/Transformer stations at Kergord and Caithness to the National Grid? Or, is the cable to also import power simultaneously to the Shetland electricity Grid? The reason I ask - there are many people who think this project has little to do with supplying or securing Shetland's electricity supply, but instead will be used as a large cash cow for SSE/SHE-T, such as, constraint payments and other crony compensation payments – which I would think, they will milk for all it's worth.

If so, would that imply the Shetland electricity consumer will continue to be supplied with power from (what supporters of the SSE windfarm describe as) an "unsustainable and polluting" oil-fired power station at Gremista for the foreseeable future? Also, how would connecting the SSE windfarm and other expensive and unreliable sources of energy to a spur line to the National Grid, secure Shetland's electricity supply?

One might ask, is subsidising private companies to transport intermittent power from subsidised (un-environmental) wind farms which are hundreds of miles away from end-users, good value for UK electricity consumers? Moreover, how does the above benefit the Shetland electricity consumer, when it looks like we are going to be left with a destroyed landscape, a dirty old power station and more expensive electric bills?

The question that should be asked, why is Ofgem not backing the BWSC/GASNOR proposal for a modern, efficient, reliable liquefied natural gas (LNG) power station, which I'm told will be a fraction of the cost of what the crony-capitalist SSE and their local lackeys are about to thrust upon us.

I won't claim that I fully understand the functions of Ofgem, but I thought one of its remits was to protect the interests of the electricity consumers? I'm now beginning to wonder if this is correct, when they seem to be advocating for higher electricity prices?

Finally, just out of curiosity, is there not a Conflict of interest between SSE as VE Wind farm operator and its subsidiary SHE-T as transmission line operator?