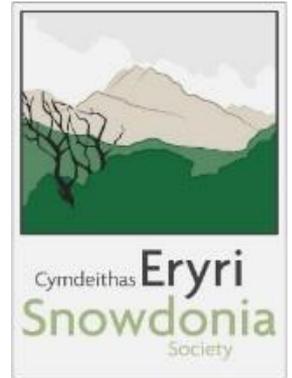


Mr Stuart Cowperthwaite
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7th September 2016

Deadline 10: comments on NRW's response to questions at Deadline 9
DCO Examination: Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage EN010072
Interested Party Ref: 10031956

Dear Mr Cowperthwaite

I write on behalf of Cymdeithas Eryri the Snowdonia Society, the charity which since 1967 has worked to protect, enhance, and celebrate Snowdonia.

I refer to NRW's response to question 8.2 reproduced here.

Ordinance			
8.2	NRW	Ref: GC's [REP7-044] response to ExA's rule 17 request of 20 th July 2016 [PD-025, request 8.2]. Further to GC's recent [REP7-044, response to request 8.2] and earlier comments [REP5-044, response to question 9.2(b)] and the Applicant's response [REP5-006] to queries raised by the Snowdonia Society [REP4-040] and Jeff Taylor	As we are not currently in receipt of a valid application, we have not formally received sampling data from the applicant. As a result we cannot offer any comment regarding the data or its effect on any designations. This will be assessed during determination of any formal application that is received.

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Request number	Request to	Request	
		[REP4-031], does NRW have any concerns regarding the extent of sampling and testing undertaken to date in quarry Q6, noting GC's comment [REP7-044, response to request 8.2] that the principal concern is the dewatering of quarry Q6 into the SSSI of Llyn Padarn?	(Please note: Any previous sampling/testing data – as with all information/supporting documentation – that we received during the withdrawn applications is not being used. The applicant has been advised that they will need to re-submit all documentation/sampling again if they re-submit their Environmental Permit applications).

NRW has statutory consultee duties which cannot necessarily be fulfilled by parcelling up difficult issues and stating that they will be dealt with through permitting at a future date. In some cases NRW's expert assessment is critically important to both planning and permitting.

NRW could have been more forthcoming on this point. It may be that NRW cannot and perhaps should not second-guess the outcome of a now-abandoned permit application process. But that was not the question they were asked. At the very least NRW could have stated, on the basis of the data they had previously been provided with, whether that data would, hypothetically, have been sufficient in its methods, scale, and type for NRW to make an assessment of the likely impacts on designated sites.

We are deeply frustrated by this case and others where the real world outcomes of planning and permitting depend on NRW's ability and indeed willingness to deliver effectively across its unaligned and sometimes conflicting functions as consultee and regulator.

If the statutory consultee does not provide information needed to facilitate sound decision-making, the balance of the risk assessments made in the planning process must take account of those knowledge gaps and shift accordingly.

May I take this opportunity to thank you, whatever the outcome, for conducting this examination with the thoroughness it warrants – a refreshing experience.

Yours sincerely,


A small blue checkmark icon is visible to the left of the redacted signature box.

John Harold

Director, Cymdeithas Eryri the Snowdonia Society