

NORTH WALES WIND FARMS CONNECTION

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

I disagree with the presumption that there is a need for this connection. I make this written representation as an electricity consumer, in the knowledge that it is HM Government's wish to reduce the effect on the bills of hard-working citizens of renewable energy subsidies of all types.

If the North Wales Wind Farms Connection is allowed to be built, the adverse financial impact on electricity consumers will be severe. All costs, direct and indirect, of electricity generation and transmission fall ultimately on the consumer. As well as the costs of the connection itself (queried by the Panel at, for example, Q 1.17), the 'subsidies' to wind farms, be they through ROC payments (or other mechanisms) and constraint payments are well known. Less well known are the costs which will fall on consumers from, firstly, the smart meter programme, and secondly the costs of making the National Electricity Grid robust as more non-synchronous generation (NSG), such as wind generation, is connected. The downsides of having more NSG are examined in National Grid's System Operability Framework document of September 2014, and National Grid warns (in the High level overview) that "The impact of this change will be mainly on how we control some of the system parameters such as voltage, and frequency, and with the existing measures they will become more challenging (and potentially expensive) to manage."

Constraint payments to wind generators, according to data published by The Renewable Energy Foundation, have passed the £2million/day mark, as for example on 6th June 2015; the smart meter programme costs have escalated to be now in excess of £11,000,000,000.

The Panel will be aware that wind generation is unreliable and intermittent and it follows that it cannot be scheduled to meet expected demand. The Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) hopes to combat this fundamental shortcoming by influencing demand dynamically, deploying 30 million smart electricity meters, for which the consumer must pay. This is misguided; experience in Canada shows that penalty charges in excess of 2½ times 'normal' rates have to be imposed to make a measurable difference to demand, and that such penalties are politically unacceptable. In this country, the Institute of Directors (their report published on 27th March 2015) has come down heavily against the smart

meter programme.

Far from there being a need for the North Wales Wind Farms Connection, to allow it to be built would result in very significant extra costs to fall on consumers. Electricity generated by wind in the UK (and excluding embedded generation) has already, at times, reached 22% of demand (eg on 23rd August 2015) and prudence requires that there should now be a 'wait and see' period before adding any further wind generation onto the National Electricity Grid.

Should the Panel wish, I would be prepared to expand on this written representation at an Open Floor Hearing, and be subjected to oral questioning by the Panel, and indeed to cross-questioning by others.

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