

North Wales Wind Farm Connection

Response by Robin Barlow (Your reference: 10031190)

Response to SP Manwebs new submission of 2nd November 2015 on Lifetime Costs

The new SPM submission on costs, and let us assume for the argument here that they are accurate

[http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020014/Events/Deadline%204%20-%2002-11-2015/SP%20Man%20web%20\(24\).pdf](http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020014/Events/Deadline%204%20-%2002-11-2015/SP%20Man%20web%20(24).pdf)

gives the total cost of undergrounding at about 2.5 times overgrounding. This additional cost for 25 years is about £25 million or £1 million per year (the other timescales change little).

There are two ways of looking at this

1) Cost per unit. Undergrounding adds (at the average quoted loading of 41Mw) just 0.27 p per Kwh generated compared to the typical consumer price of 15p per Kwh. This is less than a 2% increase in the enduser cost.

2) Cost per month per household. The average per year consumption of household is 4152 kw hours(Department of Energy & Climate Change). The 41Mw average loading will thus support 85000 households (roughly the number in counties of Denbighshire and Conwy through which the OHL runs). Thus the extra cost of undergrounding their supply is less than £12 per year or £1 per month.

The survey carried out by the Pylon the Pressure group

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020014/Events/Deadline%203%20-%2016-10-2015/Pylon%20the%20Pressure%20Group.pdf>

shows that local consumers are willing to pay this £1 per month to have it undergrounded.

Now SP Manweb must have been fully aware of these costs at an early date and rather than the bland questions in its survey on the effects of the OHL on Tourism could have asked a question on how much less per night would tourists would pay if there was a OHL in view . In fact an assessment of business losses in the Tourist and Recreational sector has been done by Mr Iwan Jones of the Pylon the Pressure group

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020014/Events/Deadline%203%20-%2016-10-2015/Iwan%20Jones.pdf>

where it is clear that the losses are in the hundreds of thousands of pounds per year. It is thus possible that a properly carried out consultation phase would have exposed the real economic costs and could have lead to an undergrounding proposal in the first instance. Which again would have saved time and costs.

