

I note that the ExA has chosen not to ask any Round 2 questions against **bold** heading 2.0. However, I submit that the whole question of the NWWFCx being in "the public interest" should be questioned, particularly now that Nant Bach has been withdrawn. The ExA's question 12.1 has the potential to query why the link is needed, and I would like my text below to be taken as a response to the related question, question 12.2.

1. HM Government is opposed to further on-shore wind.
2. During the first 4 days of November 2015, the contribution of wind energy throughout the UK was virtually nil (REF 1). This despite there being 13,395 MW of installed capacity (REF 2).
3. It is HM Government's wish to keep electricity bills for all users (domestic, commercial, or industrial) as low as possible. There are already signs that some sections of UK industry are being disadvantaged, to the point of unsustainability, by high electricity prices.
4. The events around 16:30 hours on 4th November 2015 led to wholesale electricity prices increasing to £2,500 per MWh (REF 3). Wind installed capacity of over 13,000 MW was contributing less than 1% to demand. It is not in the public interest to add more wind capacity to the National Grid.
5. When smart metering has been implemented, the 40-fold increase in wholesale price (£2,500 per MWh as opposed to around £60 per MWh) can be passed on (dynamically, in real time) to consumers. They will not like it.
6. The "dash for wind" over the last 8 years or more has forced National Grid to introduce Capacity Payments. These payments (to be implemented from next year) will load yet more costs onto consumers. They are also leading to a proliferation of diesel-engine, gas-engine and open-cycle gas turbine powered standby and peak-logging generating sets (see, for example, REF 4).

Whilst I fully believe the statement in Annex C of the ExA's 16th November 2015 letter "Discussion about the specifics of the draft [DCO] does not indicate that the ExA has decided what its recommendation on the application will be", I note that the Welsh Government in Cardiff has introduced (on 30th October 2015) a whole raft of No Waiting and No loading/unloading restrictions along the A5 at Corwen (REF5). Could these possibly be to aid the passage of the components en route to the wind-farms to be connected by the NWWFCx, and if so does the Welsh Government know something that we don't know?

References:

- REF 1 Website www.gridwatch.templar.uk/ accessed on 16 November 2015
REF 2 Website www.renewableuk.com/ accessed on 16 November 2015
REF 3 Pages 1 and 2 of the Financial Times for 5 November 2015
REF 4 Denbighshire County Council Planning Application 46/2015/0984
REF 5 Un-numbered page (part of the 4-page sheet containing pages 11 and 12) of the 29 October 2015 North Wales Daily Post (full page public notice by the Welsh Govt)