SUBMISSION FROM MALCOLM L OULDCOTT

Targets

The estimate of CO2 emissions reductions is overestimated if the construction of devices is taken into account.

The base load must always be available, because of the possible interruption of supply, therefore efficiencies elsewhere are unlikely.

I am unaware of the Scottish Government estimations but the huge subsidies by consumers are provided by all users in the UK, therefore if Scotland attains independence the cost to the consumers will rise by a huge amount if it is to be paid for by only the Scottish population.

Challenges

(a) Technology

• Is the technology to meet these targets available and affordable? If not, what needs to be done?

Technology is not yet proved at a commercial scale, therefore the timeframe is unrealistic.

• Are electricity generating or heat producing technologies compatible with the need for security of energy supplies?

See comments directly above.

• Are our universities and research institutes fully geared up to the need for technological development, innovation and commercialisation?

As above.

(b) Supply chain and infrastructure

• Is the supply chain in Scotland in place to meet the targets?

No

• What further improvements are needed to the grid infrastructure or heat supply networks both at a national and a local level? Additionally, are we confident that the necessary infrastructure can be developed and financed so that Scotland can export any excess electricity generated to the rest of the UK and/or the EU? What is the role for the Scottish Government here?

Many more pylons are need to transport the proposed power load to the areas of population accumulation in the south. The detrimental effect is not a price worth
paying. Not only will the Cairngorms National Park be affected, but the Southern Uplands will be turned into an industrial wasteland.

(c) Planning and consents

- Is the planning system adequately resourced and fit for purpose?
  
  No

- How can national priorities be reconciled with local interests?

Local interest are overruled by national priorities by elected officials with little or no knowledge of local feelings.

(d) Access to finance

- Will sufficient funds be available to allow investment in both the installation and the development of relevant technologies? What can the Scottish Government do to influence this?

the huge cost of installation and development will not be cost effective, if it has to be borne by the relatively small Scottish population.

- What will the impacts be on consumers and their bills?

  Riots in the streets if the full cost is passed on to consumers.

(e) Skills and workforce development

- Will Scotland have sufficient home-grown skills to attract inward investment? Are current policies producing the desired move towards Science Technology Engineering and Maths subjects at schools and universities? Is the skills transfer from the oil and gas sectors being realised?

Yes, as long as students change from Media Studies and Hospitality to technical subjects. This could easily be achieved by financial incentives.

(f) Energy market reform and the subsidy regime

- Are the reforms of the energy markets and subsidy regimes at both UK and EU level sufficient to meet the challenge of the Scottish Government’s renewable targets?

  No.

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24 January 2012