SUBMISSION FROM FRANK HAY

Before my submission I would like to point out that from a study of submissions you have already received it is clear that an attempt has been made to boost the number of submissions in favour of 100% renewables. These submissions quite clearly have a common source frequently mentioning Garrad Hassan. I trust that this underhand action by some green lobby or other will be recognised for what it is.

My view is that the target for 100% renewables by 2020 is definitely not achievable particularly with wind power as a major component. Intermittent power sources are a major headache for any grid and back up power sources are essential. At the moment wind power is very much over rated and over subsidised.

As an example, on Shetland the Burradale windfarm is reasonably successful but we are repeatedly being told by SSE that there is very little capacity on the local grid for more wind power. At peak production Burradale can supply under 20% of Shetland demand. If wind power were that good surely it would not be limited to such an extent.

A major concern is that in the rush to build more windfarms they may be situated in inappropriate locations. A minimum 2km setback from homes should be strictly adhered to for large industrial wind turbines. There is an obvious danger that a proliferation of onshore wind turbines will have a marked negative impact on tourism as well as wildlife.

The financial aspect of an excessive renewable strategy cannot be ignored. Energy costs are certain to be much higher for a renewable strategy. This will make Scottish industry very uncompetitive and is likely to put the Scottish population into fuel poverty. It is highly likely that strategy of this kind will be bad for the Scottish economy.

Wave and tidal power developments are still in their infancy and large scale power production from them is highly unlikely by 2020, if ever. Increased use of hydro power may go some way towards achieving the renewables target eventually but not by 2020.

In conclusion, remember that the country needs a secure and affordable energy strategy. Renewables should play a part in a balanced energy portfolio but cannot be the complete solution on their own.

Frank Hay
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