

Outline Statement: Public Enquiry Windfarms Mid Wales

Wind turbines only produce power when the wind is blowing, which may not be at the time when the extra electricity is needed. In calm, cold weather such as that experienced over the winters of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 the wind turbine in Mid Wales were still for long periods of time. In such circumstances other forms of generation must be available to make up the deficiencies in power from wind turbines. Gas, oil and nuclear power stations, however, do not operate as efficiently when their output has to be raised or lowered depending upon available wind power.

Residents of Mid Wales will have to pay for this inefficient technology in their electricity bills but also in the damage it does to their livelihoods. Tourism is one of the major 'industries' in Mid Wales. This tourism is based on the peace and beauty of this very rural area. These large scale wind farm developments will drive away business from local caravan parks, hotels and campsites. The traffic created by their construction will seriously affect numbers of local people and tourists using the roads and visiting the towns in Mid Wales.

There has been no consideration of one major effect of these five wind farms upon the area – the necessity for the construction by National Grid of miles of 400kV power lines supported by 150 foot pylons connected to a large substation. The construction of this line would industrialise a swathe of very rural and unspoilt Montgomeryshire and Shropshire

Ruth Easton