

**The Mid Wales (Powys) Conjoined Public Inquiry into  
5 Windfarm Proposals and a 132kV overhead Electric  
Line Connection**

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**Session Three  
Alliance Proof of Evidence  
Richard Bonfield  
Decommissioning**

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## DECOMMISSIONING OF THE OVERHEAD LINE

1. The updated Environmental Statement clearly states that the need for the 132kV overhead line is dependent on the Llandinam Repowering Windfarm application being consented. The Llandinam Repowering Windfarm has an anticipated operational life of 25 years<sup>1</sup>.
2. If the Llandinam Repowering Windfarm is not consented the overhead line will not be required and the SP Manweb application for it can be withdrawn or refused.
3. Should the Llandinam Repowering Windfarm be granted consent and if this line also is granted consent it should be time limited to the same 25 years as the Windfarm or the time when it ceases to carry electricity (at the present projected capacity) from the Llandinam Windfarm, if earlier.
4. The need for a requirement to decommission and reinstate is acknowledged by SP Manweb.<sup>2</sup> They further state that decommissioning would take approximately 16 months and would involve dismantling of the proposed overhead line, and reinstatement of land around pole positions.
5. But SP Manweb seems to have changed its position compared with its intentions published at the time of the application. In the 2009 ES it linked the life of the line to the life of the windfarm and stated unequivocally that *“The need for the overhead line is dependent on the windfarm ...[and] it does not provide any other network supply function.”*<sup>3</sup> Its position is now changed and the replacement paragraph 4.5.4 of the Updated (replacement) ES contemplates that the line might be put to a different use within (or even beyond) the 25 year period<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> SP Manweb Updated Environmental Statement October 2013 Volume 1 Chapter 4 page 7 paragraph 4.5.4

<sup>2</sup> SP Manweb Updated Environmental Statement October 2013 Volume 1 Chapter 4 page 7 paragraphs 4.5.5

<sup>3</sup> SP Manweb Environmental Statement December 2009 Chapter 4 page 28 paragraph 4.5.4

<sup>4</sup> SP Manweb Updated Environmental Statement October 2013 Volume 1 Chapter 4 page 7 paragraph 4.5.4

6. If the Line is approved it can only be because despite the severe impacts from both the Windfarm and the Line it must be accepted because of the benefits from the Windfarm. If the Line is to be used for different purposes, then those purposes must be tested against a presumption that the Line will be removed and the land reinstated, otherwise any future balance will be skewed against the protection of the valued environment and other important factors. It is for that reason that the Alliance set out the position at paragraph 8.1 of its Statement of Case <sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> ALL/SOC/Session 3