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Subject:	Welsh Assembly invitation response
Date:	16 October 2019 18:40:27
Attachments:	PROPOSED WIND AND SOLAR FARMS REPORT.docx

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PROPOSED WIND AND SOLAR FARMS REPORT

Further to receipt of the Welsh Assembly 's commissioned report by Ove Arup in respect of the above and their invitation to comment please be advised that I consider the proposals to be poorly conceived for the following prioritised reasons:-

WIND TURBINES

1-industrialisation of outstanding beautiful countryside creating unacceptable adverse visual and noise on environs impacting on local communities/visitors now and for future generations

2-unsuitable access via existing road infrastructure and consequential major disruption during many years of construction

3-run-off from thousands of tons of concrete causing floods in lower valleys and towns already threatened to escalate due to climate change acceleration

4- collapse of tourism and local economies

5-collapse of property values

6-the necessary provision of a 400 kva pylon power supply to connect to the existing national grid impact in respect of capital cost and dedicated to serving "only when available" power supply,extensive lengthy construction site[estimate by NG=six years],influx of labour force and camps facilitation,landscape scarring,unsuitable road access,traffic congestion and visual impact upon outstanding scenery.

7-wind turbine technology disadvantages and faults are numerous when COMPARED with other available sustainable technologies mainly as follows:-

-short lifespan[max.25 years] demanding 2no.replacements to match the lifespan of the 400kva pylon installation[75 years] which is dedicated to serve ONLY the turbines

-high maintenance

-high visual and noise impacts

-low efficiency due to operation subject to prevailing wind conditions-anticipated activity only 20/35% for land based machines compared to much higher off-shore based units which take advantage of daily sea and land breezes created by temperature differentials[whilst sited on Crown property!!]

--high cost of turbine siting payments to land owners

-high cost of subsidies from government

-high cost of payments to investors/producers for uncontrollable unused "dumped"power production

-CC impact on the manufacture and transport of turbines[mainly imported]

-the future UNKNOWN consequences of CC that will undoubtedly affect the historic performance criteria used by Ove Arup to produce their report

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS

-efficiency and therefore siting is most important-must be free from trees/vegetation south facing and not shaded from surrounding gradients at any time of the day or season

-high visual impact and therefore industrialisation of unspoilt beautiful countryside which is an un-nesessary choice of location[see below]

THE MAIN BETTER ALTERNATIVES

1-Tidal power installations should take priority over wind turbine systems because:-

-100% efficiency in terms of availability with twice monthly power generation surges due to spring tidal effect

-extremely low acceptable and inoffensive visual and environmental impact sited in unoccupied areas

-no payments to land owners

-possibility of setting up a new investment regime to avoid all the pitfalls of the existing wind turbine regime which is severely financially flawed in favour of land-owners/investors

2-all new industrial/commercial estates and especially new agricultural buildings should be legislated to either offer space[to others] or incorporate solar power pv roof top production-also existing buildings should be given the incentive to simulate optional schemes.

3-Waste disposal incineration to produce natural gas/LPG/diesel for converted public vehicles operation

4-Hydrogen generated from photovoltaic farms[in part] operated by local authorities is the dual/fuel that should be used for all public road transport including refuse collection and all authority vehicles

5-Centralised geothermal ground source heating and cooling systems and solar collection roadways together with combined heat and power recovery machines and PV arrays serving district schemes should become an integral part of every new development,without question,in the public sector with minimum incentivised extensions into the private sector

6-Agricultural waste combustion

In conclusion,the Assembly have focused on only two aspects of available sustainable engineering and by not asking the right questions they are missing the opportunity to make comparisons and draw more informed conclusions as to how best to prioritise the most sustainable technologies with minimum impact upon ourselves and future generations.There is a place wind turbine,and certainly solar farm generation,both of which can be located off-shore with the obvious advantages.

Before proceeding any further,the Welsh Assembly needs to seek the advice of a select panel of engineers each with known and respected specialised expertise under the guidance of a trio of independent decision–making engineers to ensure the correct prioritisation on future investment given their vulnerability due to lack of informed;or more usually misinformed understanding.

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