



ScottishPower

Corporate Office

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Your ref

Our ref

Date

22 June 2007
Contact/Extension

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Dear Sandra,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Consultation on the Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development. There are two areas that I would like to express brief comment:-

First, in relation to **Energy** – it is correct that the planning framework must consider energy systems on a strategic basis and that planning should support all forms of renewable energy. However, the guidance must also give recognition to the facilitation of other energy sources – including clean coal and gas. It should also establish a reference to the much needed infrastructure development activities (in electricity and gas transportation, transmission and distribution) that can contribute to economic and social development in Scotland. Consideration of energy production, transportation and supply should be included in Development Plans in a common and consistent format.

In doing so, the Executive should consider guidance to authorities to consider energy development projects on the basis that they contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. It may not be necessary for each energy project to contribute equally to the furtherance of individual components of sustainable development, but that they should do so in the round (albeit there is no irreversible and significant damage to Scotland's environment in this context).

There are also some concerns that future guidance may be used by parties to prevent plans for development, per se. This would be an unwelcome move and provisions should be considered within the Guidance to avoid such a situation developing.

Second, in relation to **Marine** development it is noted that there are developments in both UK and Scottish Marine law currently being considered by the Government and the Executive respectively. This is an important area of energy development for offshore wind, wave, tidal and interconnection of infrastructure.

Guidance should reflect the enormous potential for sustainable development to help direct a future Marine Management Organisation in its decision making. Furthermore, guidance should also ensure that there is consideration of sustainable development in the marine environment that is able to connect land and marine activities in the round rather than treat the project applications on separate grounds.

I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if there are any issues that you would like to explore in further detail.

Yours sincerely



Gordon McGregor