Living with the current regime

There is a better way

Electricity Transmission in the 21st Century

A perspective from

- The Dedham Vale Society
- The Colne-Stour Countryside Association
- Bury not Blight
- Stour Valley Underground
- Suffolk Preservation Society (CPRE)
- CPRESsex
- No Moor Pylons
- Pylon Moor Pressure
- Save Our Valley
- Yatton Against Pylons
- No Pylons Loxton
- Pylon The Pressure
- Nailsea Action Group

Key Points

- Flawed consultations
- Inadequacy of National Policy Statements - EN5 and the regulatory framework
- The necessity for a holistic approach to grid development
- Affordability
- The way forward to a better energy future

John Foster
Coalition of Amenity Groups in the East of England

Paul Hipwell
Action groups in the West of England

Campaigns and Campaigners

We are:-
- Responsible
- Constructive
- Positive
- Non Political
- Not Anti-Nuclear
- Have addressed all relevant public consultations
- Present well researched cases for pylon free strategies
- Understand the technical, economic and environmental issues

The Somerset Levels, like East Anglia are flat!
What do these 4 have in common?

What opportunities exist here?

The Somerset Experience

What’s wrong with EN5?

- Pylons are the default choice
- The timing is wrong
- Fails to value environmental impact
- Erroneously states undergrounding problems

The View from the East

- The current regime is the result of piecemeal development over 60 years
- It is inconsistent and confusing
- It has been easier to “patch” than revise so reform has been avoided
- Reform of policy and regulation are essential
The Old Grid

The current grid was developed around inland coal so all paths lead down the middle to London.

The future location of energy generation

On or around the coast.

The challenge for the East

Sited between the new generators and the market they will serve.

- 6 x increase in electricity ‘exported’ from East Anglia, mainly to South East, by 2021.
- Around 90% generation either offshore or coastal.
- BUT proposed grid reinforcement is all overland.
- Multiple onshore connection points, each requiring large, expensive sub-station development.

Much of the landscape is valuable, not just the areas with special designations.

National Grid’s only answer: Yet more ugly pylons.

Thornham Parva Church, Eye, Suffolk.

Just because an area is not part of an AONB or National Park doesn’t mean it’s not worth preserving!
Why have we had to live with it?

Multiple National Policies + the Market

- ENSG Vision for 2020 - a blinkered vision + Ofgem Regulation
- IPC(MIU) - Secretary of State (after consultation)
- National Policy Statements - EN1 & 5 not fit for purpose

Irrational outcomes

EN1, EN5 & RIIO

Must be developed so that they work together to produce the right outcomes for the country

Outcomes include

- Truly economic
- Energy security
- Maximising economic potential
- Minimising environmental detriment

A grid for the future should be

- A grid developed for the new geography of generation
- Undersea and along the coast and estuaries
- Underground to distribution hubs
- A Smart Grid in every sense

Can we afford it?

- Transmission costs are “marginal” (GEMA) compared with generation/distribution (historically just 3% of our bill)
- Cost perspective is essential - less than pint of beer on average bill
- The first independent information on underground lines on publication of IET/KEMA report

Undergrounding costs will decline

Cost

Cost of undersea/underground cables

Cost of pylons

2011 2012 2013

Increasing production Time
Our Nation must be able to embrace the new and developing technologies.

Legacy: What the new transmission technologies deliver...
They will enable us to:-
- build our economy
- ensure energy security
- remove the threat to our landscape
- Leave a legacy for future generations that is testament to our technological achievements and sound decision making