

## PUBLIC MEETING TALK

### Introduction

Denise Davis

Local resident of over 20 years

Fought DBSN twice and beat them

Seasoned campaigner

**Believe SSEN can be stopped in full**

### Why?

Communities B4 Power Companies do not believe in the industrialisation of the Highlands for the benefit of BIG energy, other countries energy demands, and their net zero targets, which are about figures on paper rather than a cleaner, less industrialised world.

We will challenge SSEN to demonstrate a *need* for this infrastructure, and we believe they won't be able to.

But firstly, how did we get here?

The Scottish government had an open door policy to wind farm developers with the plans for Scotland to be the 'Saudi Arabia of Renewables.' This resulted in haphazard planning policy and no route map for development. Cheap land and forestry, along with greedy landlords, enabled wind farms to be developed in areas where there was little resistance due, to low populations (less votes!) and very far from where the energy was needed. The infrastructure in place can cope with the energy we require in Scotland. But we have too many wind turbines, hence curtailment - the shutting off of wind turbines, which we the consumer pay wind farm companies to do. The reason why SSEN wants to upgrade the grid is so they can send energy to England. SSEN wants this infrastructure so they can connect up more wind farms to produce more energy to meet net zero requirements south of the border and even abroad. It is the wind industry driving this proposal, and SSE is one of the largest owners of onshore wind in Scotland.

If we do not object to this gigantic proposal in full we will be bombarded by more and more wind farm applications, in the Highlands. Kier Starmer recently visited the Highlands and declared it could be the UK's centre for energy production. If this happens, much of the Highlands will become an industrial hub for the rest of the UK.

Scotland is renowned for its beauty: it's majestic mountains, wild lands, lochs, rivers, and diversity of wildlife. It is also known for its people, many of who make their living out of this amazing landscape. Industrialising it to the degree that SSEN's proposal, and further wind farm proliferation, will change that forever.

Scotland has no legal requirement to permit the infrastructure to provide England with electricity. The UK government cannot force Scotland to approve it.

### IK Notes

#### **Our planning and policy expert's case study**

**\*\*Project or display below figures so people can photograph if they like \*\***

**All information is taken straight from the SG's own website and analysed by our planning policy expert.**

Scotland's electricity demands:

peak winter	4.5GW
peak summer	3.4GW

OFGEM predicts Scotland's peak demand will double in the next 20 years, taking it to **9GW in winter and 7GW in summer**.

**Current ONSHORE WIND FARM production in Scotland:**

Installed	8.7GW
Under construction	1.2GW
Awaiting construction	4.5GW
In planning	5.5GW
TOTAL	13.3GW

**We are currently 3GW from reaching OFGEM's prediction of Scotland's peak demand in 20 years' time!**

However, the SG is seeking a minimum installed capacity of 20GW of onshore wind by 2030. That means another 7GW is required, if offshore is included in what is already in the chart above.

**SG figures, plus reasonable assumptions on repowering and extensions allow an overall onshore and offshore 2030/32 future provision to be a total of 71.9GW:**

Operational	15.2GW
Under Construction	3.2GW
Consented	7GW
Awaiting consent	4.2GW
ScotWind 2022	25GW
Repowering & Ext.	11.3GW
Future Auctions	6GW
TOTAL	71.9GW

**The above figures do not include any future contributions from solar or other technologies.**

The UK Government's net zero ambitions rely, currently, on electricity generated in Scotland (on and offshore) being transferred to England and Wales in an *integrated electricity system* overseen by OFGEM.

The current ability to transmit electricity to England is capped, if everything is working, at about **7GW**. The planned new interconnector cable, to be built in the next ten years, will only add another 2GW. There are also grid "pinch points" in England too that need major upgrades.

This infrastructure proposed by SSEN is NOT for transmitting electricity throughout Scotland. It is for transmitting electricity south to England and perhaps further a field. Current curtailment of wind energy in Scotland (turning off turbines) and which we the consumer pays wind farm owners to do, is done because the energy cannot be transmitted south of the border. In a nutshell, Scotland has too many wind farms already, for it's own good. SSEN's infrastructure proposal will not enable more energy to move to households in Scotland. That is already in place. There is simply too much energy being produced in Scotland for Scotland's needs. This is for England!

Scotland does not financially benefit from electricity production, except as consumers and dribbles of tax SSEN, NG, and wind farm companies might pay. The Scottish government does not own wind farms or have investment in them. SSE and SSEN are private companies with shareholders.

## Break - questions

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Some may believe that there is a financial future for Scotland in electricity export. But here are the facts:

### **ENGLAND IS NOT OBLIGATED TO BUY SCOTTISH ELECTRICITY.**

And it won't, if it makes its own or imports cheaper from other countries.

The UK (England) has financially backed the new 'green' technology, small nuclear power stations, and will be rolling those out south of the border.

There are talks of subsea cables between the south coast of England and Morocco, to import African solar and wind power.

Norway has refused a subsea interconnector between Scotland and Norway.

In fact, Scotland may find it needs to import nuclear energy from England when the wind does not blow.

Do we in the Highlands, already self-sufficient in energy production and net zero targets, want to be industrialised for the benefits of other nations and BIG energy? This is a question we must keep asking ourselves. We have been told relentlessly about the thousands of jobs, the influx of money, the lowering of energy costs, and how this industrialisation will not be detrimental to our landscape, quality of life, and our livelihoods. But has any of this become a reality? Does anyone looking over the Balblair substation or across the hills with the Beaulieu to Denny line on the horizon think this has *improved our area*?

Communities B4 Power Companies does not wish to negotiate with SSEN. To do so is to say you are okay with all of the above: the infrastructure, the proliferation of onshore wind farms, the wholesale industrialisation of the most beautiful, wild area of the UK, for England and abroad. And it is also saying it is okay for the consumer to pay for it.

SSEN knows exactly what they will be constructing. Energy companies propose a worse case scenario to the public, pretend to consult, and then 'compromise', when all along they are giving you exactly what they had always planned to give you. They are engaging in a required box-ticking exercise.

### **OUR PLAN!**

To get the applications refused by THC

This triggers a public inquiry

At public inquiry level, SSEN has to demonstrate a NEED CASE for their proposals.

They will have to show they have considered all options and their proposed pylon routes, substations locations, etc. are the best they can do.

SSEN also has to demonstrate that the damage they will do to the landscape, wildlife, habitats, etc., is necessary and they will leave the landscape, etc. better than it was

before the infrastructure was constructed. They have to demonstrate that the benefits of their proposals outweigh the consequences of the wholesale destruction of our environment.

We do not believe they can do this.

## **QUESTIONS?**