

European Platform Against Wind Farms

To: The Energy Regulator,

Re: Public Consultation, 2015.

This is my submission on behalf of EPAW. On Electricity only.

Quotes in italics, heavy print and underlined.

1) I have been making submissions to several bodies on the subject of Ireland's electricity situation for many years, but while I accept they are being read, I realise that nothing is ever done about them. No regulator works in Ireland, our country was destroyed by the inaction and stupidity of financial regulator Patrick Neary, but that was not isolated. No regulator works at protecting the public. In 2010, I travelled to your office and held discussions lasting for over an hour, but once I left, you dumped all in the bin and returned to business as usual.

Electricity is a monopoly and you have two tools to use, one is intervention and the other is to inform the public. In some areas, you may not have power to intervene, but no one could stop you informing the public. Alas, you will never do that.

2) A window of the mindset of the Irish state can be gleaned from public announcements and from the planning application for the 400kv interconnector planned by Eirgrid lodged on the 15th June, 2015. Report 2A, 4,3,7. A plan for the future which includes the following: **Our electricity generated entirely from indigenous renewable resources.** This is impossible and absurd. Eddie O'Connor the CEO of Mainstream Renewable Power stated at the 2015 McGill Summer School that it is impossible to achieve or 27% target.

Ireland exports electricity through an interconnector. This means consumers must

fund the production of the electricity for which private companies will receive the profit.

Ireland's buildings are energy positive. I have no problem with this except when it comes to subsidising micro wind and solar production for sale to the grid.

Electricity supply entirely from renewable resources, This is impossible.

3) Deregulation. During the early history of the state, the ESB looked after everything and there were few complaints. Ireland managed to supply electricity during the economic boom ending in 2008 without a problem. De-regulation has failed to bring any real competition to the market because it depends on regulation to work successfully and you have failed to perform.

4) The EU directive 2009/28/EC on renewable energy was never assessed under the terms of the Strategic Environmental Impact Directive 2001/42/EC. Our National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) was never assessed either. As wind energy is a core part of NREAP, a few facts go to prove it is misconceived:

- ⑩ There is no accepted way to measure the contribution of wind energy on the national grid system.
- ⑩ Wind generated electricity cannot be used on its own.
- ⑩ It cannot be allowed into the grid above 50% (accepted by Eirgrid).
- ⑩ It cannot be used for base load generation being non-synchronous.
- ⑩ It is weather dependent, available for a minority of the time.
- ⑩ Its capacity credit is disputed with a huge disparity between Irish official accounts and that of several reports including that of the ESB in 2004 in page 24 showing that at high levels of wind it's contribution is near zero.
- ⑩ Wind receives close to 8 cent per unit wholesale whereas fossil fuel generators receive only 5.7 cents.
- ⑩ Wind does not allow for the shutting down of any dispatchable fossil fuel plant, it requires 100% back up for extra fast acting plant in addition to its own wind turbines. Ireland needs 6,000 mw of traditional plant, it has 10,000mw and rising. All this has to be paid for by consumers represented by you but abandoned by you.
- ⑩ Eirgrid have overstated capacity factors. 20% is high for the Irish Midlands.

5) The NREAP states they plan 4,000-5,000 mw of wind capacity (we already have 2,300mw) plus plus an extra 5,000 km of cables. The final cost was not quantified, but could range from 8 billion up to 30 billion Euros, with horrendous environmental

damage. The only thing that will stop it is the planning laws or a change of government policy. A host of buccaneer private companies are established to capitalise of the obsession by government to add to our generation capacity. The taxpayer and consumer pays for their own supply and for the profits of private operators who have their cost of sales covered courtesy of the consumer.

6) The answer of pre-pay meters and smart meters are of dubious benefit. Pre pay meters simply remove the need for disconnection crews to interface with the public and smart meters will undoubtedly force those who can to switch to home generation.

7) My domestic (ESB Electric Ireland) bill increased by 5.08% from January to July 2015%. 10.16% for a full year if projected to the year end. There is reason to believe that electricity prices will continue to rise for years ahead as the cost of a bloated generating sector, bloated cabling roll out and associated administration costs must be paid for.

8) A look at my home domestic bill. The cost per unit for July, 2015 is 24.75cents. (divide total cost by units consumed). Ireland should have 6,000 mw capacity to meet its needs with about 1,000 mw for anticipated increase in demand going forward. Now for the present position. We have 10,000 mw capacity giving a bill of 24.75 per unit. $24.75 / 10,000 \times 7,000 = 17.32$ cent per unit. This is what I should be paying.

Now project forward. $17.32 / 7,000 \times 15,100$ (Eirgrid Adequacy Report 2010 – 2016) = 37.36. Add to this a ballpark figure of 10% for cabling and backup support for export of wind electricity and we arrive at the lowest possible figure of $37.36 + 10\% = 41$ cent per unit. This is an increase of 65.6%.

Recent reports in the newspaper give industrials prices @ 13.6 cent that would increase them to 22.5 cent. Effectively industrial electricity will become as expensive as that of domestic prices.

We now have the 3rd highest electricity prices in the world and it now looks like we will have the highest prices in the world.

Look at the compound increases @ 10% per year up to 2021.

2015 = 24.75 cent per kwh, 2016 = 27.22, 2018 = 32.85, 2019 = 36.13, 2010 = 39.73 and 2021 = 43.63 cent per unit. Compare this to the above calculation based on increased capacity and infrastructure = 41 cent. No matter how you look at it, in seven years time, domestic prices will all be in excess of 40 cents.

9) It can be seen that we are heading for extreme fuel poverty which our people or economy cannot handle this. The political implications our economy, environment, poverty levels and competitiveness are horrendous.

10) When the present hysteria for rapid development of generating capacity dies down and some new obsession replaces it, there will be a surplus of generation, wind farms and cabling. What plans have you got to deal with this? The value of the surplus plant will decrease. No one will invest in traditional generation capacity.

11) The monopoly that is Irish electricity is being abused by all involved who pay themselves large salaries and bonuses, this will continue.

12) George Orwell said that in a society where deceit becomes near general, the truth becomes revolutionary. Patrick Nyberg pointed to the herd instinct in the banking bubble. Ireland is now in the cusp of an energy bubble. Nothing will stop it, you will not stop it. All I can do is draw attention to this and hope to be available to contribute to any enquiry that may be forced on a future government,

It's very unjust, very unfair, cruel selfishness. You could act to help prevent it but you will not.

Yours faithfully,

Val Martin.

Reference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waWYb5xGOaM>