

The Royal Society of Edinburgh

For Immediate release 22/8/05

Media Invitation

Independent Inquiry into Issues for Scotland's Energy Supply Evidence-gathering in Orkney

Members of the independent Committee set up by The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) to examine Issues for Scotland's Energy Supply, are to take evidence in Orkney from a broad range of individuals and organisations connected with Energy. The Committee will take evidence in private on Thursday 25 August, 2005. This Inquiry was established at the instigation of the Council of The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and launched on May 16, 2005.

Media Invitation

A Media Question & Answer Session will be held in The International Centre for Island Technology (ICIT), Stromness, on Thursday 25 August 2005 to which you are cordially invited. The following Members of the Committee will be available at this time: Professor Maxwell Irvine, Professor Janet Sprent, Professor Andrew Bain.

For Media Enquiries, please contact:

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The Independent RSE Committee's Programme

(Please note that Consultation Questions are listed below):

Thursday 25 August

13.45 Committee Meet Members of the Media at The International Centre for Island Technology (ICIT), Stromness

13.55 The Committee meet with stakeholders at the ICIT (over lunch)

- Barry Johnston (ScotRenewables)
- Ross Deeptech
- Jim Chalmers (UHI and Heriot-Watt University)
- Colin Bullen (Secretary, Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF))
- Sandy Kerr (UHI and Heriot-Watt University)

- Professor Marcus Newborough (RAE/Scottish Power Chair in. Energy and Environmental Engineering at Heriot Watt University)

14.15 Meet with:

- Mike Holdgate (Chair, OREF)
- Professor Jon Side (ICIT)
- Colin Risbridger (OREF)
- Gareth Davies (Aquatera)

15.15 Meet with:

- Jeremy Baster (Director, Economic Development, Orkney Island Council)
- James Stockan (Chair, Economic Development, Orkney Island Council)
- Byran Rendall (Rendall Associates)

16.00 Visit the European Marine Energy Centre, and meet with:

- Jenny Norris
- Dave Cousins
- Alistair Gray

16:45 Return to Kirkwall via Burgar hill wind test site (meeting with Richard Gault)

19.30 Committæ attend a reception at the Ayre Hotel, attended by OREF members and energy stakeholders including:

- Cllr Steven Hagan (Convenor, Orkney Islands Council)
- Cllr Jim Foubister (Chair of Planning, Orkney Islands Council)
- Talisman Oil Terminal representative
- Ken Ross (Energy Efficiency Office)
- Liz Foubister (Aurora – Environmental Consultancy)
- Zoe Cuthbertson (Aurora – Environmental Consultancy)
- Albert Spence (Community projects in Orkney)
- A Westray Nominee
- Eric Meek (RSPB)
- Gail Churchill (SNH)

Inquiry Remit

The remit of the group carrying out the work is to:

1. Review the issues for Scotland's energy supply and demand between the present and the year 2050, in the context of the likely UK, European and global energy environment.
2. Review the options for providing for Scotland's energy supply and demand, considering feasibility, availability, reliability, sustainability, efficiency and capacity of sources and infrastructure for delivery, taking into account:
 - (i) Economic issues of capital investment and distribution infrastructure, together with the impact of energy availability on commerce and industry.
 - (ii) Environmental concerns about global climate change and the impact on ecological and other natural resources, including waste management and landscape.
 - (iii) Social values and consequences of energy generation and distribution on employment opportunities, health, affordability and risk implications.

3. Provide an evidential base for energy policy in Scotland within the framework of strategies for transport, industrial, commercial and domestic needs, providing timeframes for action at both the UK and Scottish level, and raising public awareness and debate.

Time-scale The RSE expects to publish the Inquiry report by Summer 2006.

Membership

Professor Maxwell Irvine will Chair the Committee and the full membership of the group is as follows:

Chairman: Professor **Maxwell Irvine**, FRSE, Professor of Physics, University of Manchester. Former Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Aberdeen; Former Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham

Secretary: Professor **Roger Crofts**, CBE, FRSE, Former CEO, Scottish Natural Heritage

Members: Professor **Andrew Bain**, OBE, FRSE, Economist, Former Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, University of Glasgow

Professor **Geoffrey Boulton** OBE, FRS, FRSE, Vice-Principal and Regius Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Edinburgh

Professor **Allan Findlay**, FRSE, Professor of Geography, University of Dundee

Dr **Robert Hawley**, CBE, FRSE, FREng Engineer, Former Chairman, Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council

Dr **Malcolm Kennedy**, CBE, FREng, FRSE, Chairman, National Energy Action

Professor **Andrew Miller**, CBE, FRSE, General Secretary of the RSE

Professor **Jeremy Peat**, FRSE, Former Group Chief Economist, the Royal Bank of Scotland

Professor **Janet Sprent** OBE, FRSE, Member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

Dr **George Watkins**, CBE, Former CEO, CONOCO UK, Former Chairman, Grampian Enterprise

Oral & Written Evidence

The Committee invites organisations and individuals with relevant experience to give evidence.

Consultation Questions

The following consultation questions are being put to stakeholders:

- How should Scotland provide for its energy needs over the next 5, 15, 30, 45 years, in the context of the likely UK, European and global energy environment?
- Should Scotland aim to be self-sufficient in energy in general, and in electricity in particular, despite trends towards interdependence within Europe?
- What are the possible implications and consequences for Scotland, and the UK, of becoming increasingly reliant on imported oil and gas for their energy needs?

Energy Supply

- What is the feasibility, availability, reliability, sustainability, efficiency, capacity and risks of the different energy generation technologies?
- What are the likely trends, and uncertainties, in the availability and cost of energy sources over the next 20/45 years?
- What are the economic issues of capital investment in the supply and distribution of energy that need to be considered?

- What are the key issues surrounding the development of Scotland's bulk electricity transmission and local distribution systems?

Energy Demand

- What will the impact of energy availability and price be on the demand for energy by commerce and industry in Scotland?
- What are the likely trends in the domestic demand for energy for space heating and other purposes? What would need to be done to achieve major savings? What are the investment costs?
- What are the likely trends in the demand for energy for transportation in Scotland? What is the likely time-scale and scope for substituting other power sources for fossil fuels? What are the likely investment costs?

Environmental and Social Issues

- What are the environmental concerns that need to be taken into account, in terms of the impact on ecological and other natural resources, as well as waste management and impacts on the landscape?
- Can the objectives of environment improvement and economic growth both be met without a major increase in energy costs? What steps should be taken to enable an informed debate on the issue?
- What are the social values and consequences of energy generation and distribution on employment opportunities, health, and energy affordability?

Written submissions should be submitted to the Inquiry by 30 September 2005, preferably by e-mail to: energy@royalsoced.org.uk or in writing to:

Dr Marc Rands,
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As with previous RSE Inquiries, all written evidence submissions will be posted on the Society's website following publication of the Committee's report (and will be made available in hard copy, upon request), unless requested to be kept in confidence.

Funding

The Society is actively seeking funding from a broad range of individuals and private and charitable bodies to cover the cost of running the Inquiry. The RSE is most grateful that its Inquiry Committee Members are giving their time and expertise voluntarily. A full list of donors will be published with the Inquiry Report.

Notes for Editors:

1. *Independent Inquiries*

Other recent independent Inquiries undertaken by the RSE include:

Inquiry into the Future of the Scottish Fishing Industry - March 2004

Inquiry into Foot & Mouth Disease in Scotland - July 2002

The Scientific Issues Surrounding the Control of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in Scotland – June 2002

Encouraging Resolution: Mediating Patient/Health Service Disputes in Scotland – June 2002.

Full details of these inquiries: www.royalsoced.org.uk

2. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is Scotland's National Academy of Science & Letters. An independent body with charitable status, its multidisciplinary fellowship of 1400 men and women of international standing represents a knowledge resource for the people of Scotland. Committed to its Royal Charter of 1783 for the “advancement of learning and useful knowledge” the Society recognises the important role it can play in today’s Scotland. Working as part of the UK and within a global context, the RSE seeks to provide public benefit by:

- organising conferences and lectures for the specialist and for the general public on topics of national and international importance
- providing independent, expert advice to key decision-makers in Scotland
- awarding over £1.5 million annually to Scotland’s top young academics to promote research and knowledge transfer in Scotland
- enabling leading Scottish-based researchers to collaborate with the best of their international counterparts
- inspiring school children in classrooms from the Borders to the Northern Isles and promoting their interest in science, society and culture
- producing academic journals of international standing

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