

Renewables NPS Hearing

Good afternoon members of the Board.

My name is Chris Fincham, and I am the energy supply manager for KCE.

I understand that the Board has heard from a number of electricity generators on the Proposed NPS to date, whereby a number of common issues have been raised. If the board agrees I would be happy to take my evidence as being read, summarise my key points, and answer any questions that the Board may have. Alternatively I can read my evidence in full.

KCE is a renewable electricity generation company that owns and operates four Hydroelectric Power Schemes, which it considers to be 'small-scale'. These schemes, and others currently being consented, provide security of supply to the company's retail division, and are crucial to the future growth of KCE. As such, the NPS is of great interest to KCE.

My main points on the proposed NPS:

- I support the objective as it is currently drafted.
- I would like Policy one to be strengthened by increasing or further clarifying the list of benefits associated with renewable electricity generation.
- I would like to see Policy two extended to assist in removing barriers of access to land, particularly with respect to conservation estate land.
- I consider that Policy Three should be deleted in its entirety.
- Policy Four needs to be re-drafted so that its intent is made clear – some confusion has developed over this policy.
- Policy Five should be amended so that small-scale projects are defined as projects that have an installed electricity generation capacity of ten megawatts or less. This policy should also be extended require local authorities to recognise the national significance of all (new and existing) renewable electricity generation proposals when notifying their plan changes.
- An additional policy should be added to the NPS which requires decision makers to consider the benefits associated with maintaining or enhancing the existing generation capacity and the existing environment when considering proposals to re-consent and / or enhance existing renewable electricity generation activities.

I would be happy to answer any queries that the Board may have (with assistance from Gary Scholfield of Ryder Consulting where required).

I thank the Board for affording me the time to present this evidence.