

PRESS RELEASE
Monday, 19th July 2010

Leading Body Welcomes Government's Decision to Conduct Second Energy Policy Consultation

Following “serious concerns” raised during a Government consultation on National Energy Policy Statements, the leading environmental professional body has today welcomed news that the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will launch a second consultation in the autumn.

In its response to the initial draft Energy National Policy Statements^[4], the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)^[2] voiced its concerns that the Appraisal of Sustainability carried significant risk of non-compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).

Of particular note for IEMA is confirmation that revisions have been made to the Appraisal of Sustainability for the Overarching Energy National Policy Statement.

Commenting on the Government's announcement, Martin Baxter, IEMA's Executive Director – Policy, said “Government's acknowledgement that amendments to the Appraisal of Sustainability were required is welcome.

“IEMA highlighted significant flaws in the appraisal process, including a failure to properly assess demand management. There was a real risk that the National Policy Statements could have been successfully challenged in the courts, delaying decisions on critical national energy infrastructure projects” he continued.

IEMA submitted a key issues paper to the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change's Select Committee inquiry into the draft Energy National Policy Statements at the beginning of 2010. Key issues highlighted by IEMA were:

- The Appraisal of Sustainability process, undertaken for ENI-5, is considered to carry risk related to compliance with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), if realised these risks would lead to a lack of certainty and delays to decisions related to energy infrastructure needed to allow the UK to transition to a low carbon economy.
- Draft NPSs EN-1&2 fail to set out an effective framework that will ensure decisions made, in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) related to fossil fuel generating capacity, do not have adverse impacts on the UK's long-term carbon budget.
- The current format of draft NPSs EN1 to5 is overly long and their current content could pose risks to the effective operation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process required for the majority of applications to the IPC.

A full copy of IEMA's response is available from the IEMA website – [click here to access the response](#).

For more information on IEMA, its policy, position on green claims, green jobs and skills as well as IEMA events, services, products, membership, training and publications, visit www.iema.net or contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or any contact details listed at the bottom of this release.

ENDS

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for environmental professionals

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Notes to Editors

1. The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the membership body for environmental practitioners, placing environmental professionals at the heart of change.
2. IEMA helps its members to make a strategic environmental difference by embedding environment in decision making at all levels. We do this by helping members develop the right combination of knowledge about key environmental issues; the ability to apply key tools in practice; and required skills through knowledge exchange, research, conferences, training and publications.
3. With over 15,000 members working across business, consultancy, public and local authorities IEMA is the most authoritative professional body in the UK.
4. The draft Overarching Energy National Policy Statements (EN-1) sets out the Government's energy policy, explains the need for new energy infrastructure and instructs the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) on how to assess the impacts of energy infrastructure development in general. The other draft energy NPSs contain supplementary information for specific types of infrastructure. These draft 'technology-specific' energy NPSs (EN 2-6) must be read in conjunction with the draft Overarching Energy NPS.
5. For more information on IEMA, its events, conferences, services, membership, training and publications, please visit www.iema.net.
6. For further comment, interview requests, photographs of Martin Baxter or IEMA logos, please contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or 01522 540069.

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