



MCofS News Release

3 July 2009

For immediate release

Mountaineers Claim Committee Report Ignores Vital Evidence

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) has reacted to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee Report 'Determining and delivering on Scotland's energy future', specifically the Committee's support for the early approval of the plans for the Beaully-Denny overhead power line, which attracted almost 20,000 objections.

MCofS views the Committee's support for 'a positive decision to provide a go-ahead for the Beaully-Denny line within the next few months and other associated schemes' as one which clearly ignores the evidence provided to the Planning Inquiry.

Chris Townsend, MCofS President, issued the following statement:

"The Beaully-Denny power line would damage some of Scotland's most important and beautiful mountain landscapes, including a section of the Cairngorms National Park. The natural environment should not be sacrificed for energy transmission. The Committee has not considered alternatives to the Beaully-Denny power line and assumes it is the only means of bringing power south, which is simply untrue."

"The power line is not needed as subsea cables can achieve the same end. The Committee cites Scottish and Southern Energy's view, which is that 'in order to accommodate future volumes of renewables, we need to consider subsea cabling for transfer of power for export and to link in with the European Grid directly from Scotland'. If it's good enough for export, why isn't it good enough for our own requirements?"

"We urge ministers to consider all the evidence and alternatives presented to the Inquiry, and the massive number of objections, which clearly demonstrate the extent of public opinion against the power line proposal".

For further information contact MCofS Chief Officer David Gibson on 07845 919 150.

Ends

Notes for Editors:

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.

MCofS is a membership organisation with 10,500 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, grants, and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain weather information services, mountain leader training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities. MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.