

SUBMISSION FROM R A E QUARTERMAINE

The four questions for advice and guidance listed by the Committee of Inquiry by the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee cover the areas of Electricity Generation, Transmission and Distribution. These are so highly complex and wide ranging that committee members may find some difficulty in assembling the answers into an inherent plan for the future of electrical energy in Scotland and its effective integration within the UK and Europe.

It is therefore recommended that a properly convened Strategic Assessment Study (as suggested below) should be instituted to give Parliamentarians the advice and guidance they call for in order that they may understand and endorse the solutions for ensuring a lasting format to this vexed and complex problem.

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT SURVEY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To assess the requirements for electrical power in Scotland over the next 20-25 years and to set a pattern for updating this study every 5 years. A suggested completion target for this initial assessment to be 12 months.

ACTION

1. To assess future power demands, to determine the types of demand and the location of load centres for electrical power in Scotland.
2. To determine types, size and the means of transmission and distribution of power to load centres and consumers.
3. To determine the mix of various types of power generation utilising available fuel and natural resources together with the location of power stations to meet the demands forecast.
4. To consider carefully power links with neighbouring countries without losing control of supply within the UK.
5. To recommend areas of power generation where research and development can be further concentrated to best utilise our natural resources.
6. The group formed to carry out this survey should consist of 11 members chosen from industry, commerce and academia with extensive relevant and practical experience in electrical energy supply, generation and distribution. They must be fully independent, free from political, governmental, big business and any other relevant vested interests. They should be directly financed by Parliament and report, in person, only to Parliament.

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