



香港地貌岩石保育協會
Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

30 June 2015

Electricity Reviews Division
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Public Consultation on the Future Development of the Electricity Market

We are writing to give our opinion on Question 4 of the Consultation Document.

Should Hong Kong further promote renewable energy despite its higher tariff implications; and if so, about how much (in terms of percentage of your electricity bill) are you prepared to pay?

The Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong objects to the development of wind farms in our countryside, notably currently proposed facilities offshore of Sai Kung and Lamma Island. Our rationale is:

1. These facilities will occupy immense sea area, causing irreversible damage to our geoheritage and landscape, especially the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China around Sai Kung. The proposed offshore wind farm project at Sai Kung is located at the heart of the Sai Kung Super Caldera, a large volcanic depression created 140 million years ago which signifies the end of the last volcanic episodes in Hong Kong. This will permanently destroy our invaluable geological heritage - the home of the world's largest and most extensively covered hexagonal columns. Its uniqueness and rarity are incomparable with other parts of the world as confirmed by UNESCO and national geopark experts. The wind farms also severely degrade the aesthetic and natural value of the coastal features.
2. The investments are enormous, over HKD10 billion in 2009's estimation, hinting that substantial resources and energy are required in the first place to provide the renewable energy. There would be serious doubt whether renewable wind energy is truly sustainable in the context of Hong Kong.



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3. The two wind farms will generate only less than 1% of HK's electricity need with an unproven claimed life span of 20-25 years and reduce only less than 2% of Hong Kong's total CO₂ emission. If this is the case, it would be far more sustainable to foster saving of energy through education, regulations and investment into energy-saving technologies.
4. It is understood that there is no need to increase electricity production capacity for the two power companies up to 2018. It is therefore totally irrational, unfair and ridiculous for Hong Kong citizen to pay such a high cost for the inefficient wind energy production but destroying our invaluable natural geological heritage to pave way for subsequent tariff increase for the benefit of profit making companies.
5. We are also concerned with the environmental implications of increasing power generation sources e.g. wind farms and competition policy. In particular, high voltage power transmission lines have already been causing substantial damage to our countryside and country parks in the New Territories. Great caution is needed not to further degrade the landscape with additional overground power transmission and related facilities.

To conclude, AGHK totally supports renewable sources and sustainable development. However, we oppose to renewable energy if this is at the expense of our invaluable natural geological heritage but without a substantial contribution to the overall demand. Likewise we fully support any initiatives to enhance public education to reduce energy consumption, particularly unnecessary and meaningless wastage such as over-use of air-conditioning and lighting while better collaboration with the commercial sectors can easily achieve 1-2 % of renewable energy target and save electricity consumption.

Yours faithfully,

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