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6 October 2009

Dear Consultation Team,

Statutory Consultation on the Renewable Energy Strategy

I am responding on behalf of the British Hydropower Association (BHA) to the statutory consultation on the Renewable Energy Strategy.

The BHA is the trade association for the UK hydropower industry. With around 100 members, the Association represents a wide range of interests: consulting engineering, design, manufacture, investment and operation, and specialist service providers. The BHA represents generators from small owner-operators to large UK companies.

We believe that the existing contribution of hydropower and its potential contribution to new generation, system security, skills development and exports has not been properly appreciated. *It represents about 40% of the renewable electricity generated in the UK today.* The big advantages of hydropower – unobtrusive, benign, low maintenance, long-lived – has meant that it is all too frequently overlooked. We have set out the case for hydropower in previous consultation responses and I have attached a copy at Annexe 2

The BHA believes that the Renewable Energy Strategy offers an important opportunity to provide a clear framework for the sustainable development of energy resources for the future if it is properly integrated into overall energy and environmental policies.

The Association's response to the specific questions in the consultation paper are attached at Annexe 1.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adrian Abbott'.

Adrian Abbott
Policy and Consultations Manager
British Hydropower Association

Copied to:

Neal Rafferty, Renewables Team, Scottish Government
Olivia Martin, Head of Sustainable Energy Department of Enterprise, N. Ireland
Paul Harrington, Sustainable Energy and Industry Wales, Welsh Assembly Government