

DSG(2009)C086

20 October 2009

Stewart Hosie MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Stewart

Pentland Firth Marine Energy

We spoke to you and others at Conference last week regarding the reports that seem to be circulating regarding the licence situation on marine energy in the Pentland Firth.

The reports circulating indicate that the timescale is starting to slip from the original proposals that were put forward by the Crown Estates last year.

The extract from their press release shown below indicates their proposed timetable and the importance for the whole of the north of Scotland.

With the delay until February or March together with the aspirations of the Scottish Parliament and the First Minister to achieve the targets for 2020 is extremely worrying and causes us grave concern.

“Press Release: Potential of Pentland Firth unlocked:

The Crown Estate today (**Monday 29 September, 2008**) outlined the application and consent procedure for wave and tidal energy projects in the Pentland Firth - the first UK marine power site to be opened up for commercial-scale development - with the aim of generating more than 700MW of energy by 2020.

The process of granting options for lease over areas of seabed in the Pentland Firth and surrounding area will be concluded in the summer of 2009, with initial devices being deployed as early as 2010/2011.

Rob Hastings, Director of the Marine Estate at The Crown Estate, said, “Unlocking the potential in the Pentland Firth is crucial to meeting Scottish Government renewable energy targets, stimulating the north Scotland economy and boosting the fledgling renewables industry.

First Minister Alex Salmond said:

“Scotland is blessed with a huge natural potential - our wind resources, our forestry for sustainable biomass energy and our vast seas giving us energy from wave and tide. Our seas alone could provide 25 per cent of Europe’s tidal power and 10 per cent of wave power.”

Any help you can give to raise our concerns would be gratefully appreciated.

Yours truly,

Derrick Milnes
Dounreay Stakeholder Group & Thurso & Wick Trades Union Council