

Joule Centre Annual Conference 2008

Hydro Power and the environment

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Overview

- The North West a region of contrasts
- Who we are and what we do
- Renewable energy and Hydro Power
- Our water environment
- Getting the balance right
- Science and technology
- Participants and interests
- In summary



The North West

14,000 square km 6.7 million people Larger than several EU countries Diverse mix of ethnic groups Four-fifths of the region is rural, but most people live in the urban areas Huge industrial legacy but nearly 400 sites of Special Scientific Interest Varied landscape of mountains and lakes, coastline and industrial heritage





Who we are and what we do

Key challenges

9 corporate themes

- Sustainable economic growth
- Water Framework Directive
- Flood Risk Management
- Housing growth
- Waste management





Hydro Power – not a new phenomenon!





Hydro Power – our view

- We support the Government target of achieving 10% of electricity generated from renewable energy by 2010 and its aspirational target of 20% by 2020.
- We recognise the potential benefits of small-scale hydro power to rural communities and in meeting local needs for power.
- We will take a positive view of reasonable and well designed proposals for hydro power schemes and will work with developers and others in attempting to agree a



North West water

e manage 5,750 kilometres of river in the orth West. That's enough to stretch from nd's End to John O' Groats more than ur times

ver 90% of rivers in the North West are w clean enough to support fish and creational activities



e quality is improving but we've still got ong way to go



Water Framework Directive

- The Water Framework Directive ets the environmental standard for nanaging all water bodies. It has two nain strands:
- Preventing deterioration from present condition
- The need to achieve good ecologocal status (or good ecological potential for heavily modified water bodies) by 2015





Getting the balance right

Mitigating and adapting to climate change vs protecting local eco systems Hydro power and the requirements of the WFD Public acceptability Economic viability





Science and technology

Decisions on hydro must draw on up-to-date science and technology covering a myriad of disciplines





Participants and interests

Decisions need to take full account of bodies with lifferent responsibilities and interests:





The Hydro Model

he need

- Systematic and auditable process
- Raise awareness of all the issues
- Scope the big issues and build the evidence
- Tackle the issues that matter efficiently
- Designed to gather all facts
- and opinions
- Not biased towards any given
- outcome just designed to improve





In summary

- There is a role for hydro to play as a renewable energy sour
- Applications can be successfully approved to balance the environment and developers needs
- Early negotiations are crucial
- There are many technical, scientific issues that need to be considered, and;
- Many organisations and interest groups that need to be invo



Thank you for listening Together we can create a better place