

IRP2

STAKEHOLDER PLENNARY MEETING

8TH June 2010

Comments on behalf of the Energy Caucus

Energy Caucus

- The Energy Caucus is a coalition of civil society bodies, community-based organizations, labour unions and social movements that engage on energy issues.
- Just transition to sustainable energy(that is affordable-accessible and minimises pollution)

Outline

- Process
- Comments

Process

- Government has a duty to consult on Energy and Electricity planning in an inclusive manner as this is an issue that underpins and impacts on all livelihoods and cannot be reduced to a plan supplying bulk electricity to industry.
- Legislature

PAIA

- Promotion of Access to Information Act suggest that in order for stakeholders to participate meaningfully they need access to sufficient information to enable them to understand and critique the information put out in this case by government and Eskom

PAJA

- The Promotion of Administration Justice Act provides for reasonable periods for public input depending on the complexity of the information.
- Complexity of electricity planning clearly warrants a longer period for adequate consultation , particularly in the view of the fact that most citizens educated and uneducated , rich and poor have been excluded from these decision making process.

NEMA

- The National Environmental Management Act that applies to all environmental decisions by state bodies states that public participation must be promoted so that all interested parties may participate in a meaningful manner.

Transparent / Inclusive

- Advisory Committee assisting with decision-making around IRP2.
- What constituencies does this reference group represent? Why is there no civil society? Will these meetings be open to CSO'S and media?
- Communication on process

Comments

- Process to approach planning for the next 20-30 years holistically
- Avoid dangers climate change
- National electricity plan made in 2010 for the next 20 years has to be dominated by plans for efficiency and renewable energy
- If the main plan is to build more and more coal-fired power plants it will be wasting hundreds of billions of Rand and will be missing massive opportunities for local manufacture and exports and millions of new jobs.

Comments

- Promote putting a value to natural resources that reflects their true value to society
- Phase out coal generated electricity
- No nuclear in the energy mix as it the most dangerous and expensive
- promote local decentralised energy supply and ownership
- Internalisation of externalised costs of electricity

Comments

- Recognise access to basic energy services as a human right
- Rationalisation of tariffs to promote equity
- Ensures corporate accountability and transparency
- Ensure that communities in particular women have a voice in provision of household energy and all energy policies.

Conclusion

- Time set up for this process needs to be extended
- DoE must fulfil its mandate of being the custodians of a safe and clean environment
- A fair , transparent, equitable and just process is the way