

From: Viv Byrne [vbyrne@csa.ie]
Sent: 20 May 2005 18:18
To: Bob Hanna
Cc: rgoodman@csa.ie
Subject: Energy Research, Development and Demonstrationj

Dear Sir

Roisin Goodman of our office has been in contact with you on this matter and had planned to make a submission with regard to the role of geothermal energy in our future energy needs. However, Roisin is on an overseas assignment and will not be back until next week.

Having read your paper the position of geothermal energy is clearly relevant in each section from the Policy Context through to Capacity Building. As we look forward to 2020 in terms of a triple convergence scenario, where one the available energy resources from other sources plus two our understanding of the Irish geothermal energy resource linked to three the best available technology for the commercial delivery of electricity from deep geothermal resources combine to make geothermal electricity a viable energy resource.

We have direct control over the second aspect of this threesome – defining our geothermal resource and limited control over the others. If we put in place a 5 year drilling programme we could go along way to outlining our geothermal resource. At that same time we could enable Irish researchers to join international projects where geothermal electricity is being taken forward to commercial exploitation.

In addition the policy side needs to be dealt with because private investors will only invest in something they can own or trade in – geothermal resources in Ireland are not covered by any licence system that confers ownership or rights of use.

Time is pressing and I wanted to make these comments today but we could contribute more to the debate.

Yours sincerely

Viv Byrne