



Energy

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
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cc Denis Min

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

10 April 1981

See Minutes

R M H

I am sending you a copy of the Severn Barrage report which Sir Hermann Bondi has now sent to me.

Subject to your views I intend to publish the report as soon as practicable and meanwhile to announce receipt of the report and my intention to publish by means of an arranged Parliamentary Question - a draft is attached. Because of the time constraints imposed by the Easter Recess I should be grateful if any comments on the draft Answer could reach my office by 5pm on Tuesday, 14 April. The report would be ready for publication in mid-May.

As you may know, an assessment of the report is being prepared by the Interdepartmental Committee on the Severn Barrage covering both economic and environmental matters, the main input on the latter being from officials in your Department. I intend to write to colleagues more fully after Easter with the results of this work, recommendations on any further work to be undertaken and my recommendations concerning public consultation following publication.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Secretaries of State for Trade, Industry, Employment and Wales, the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Robin Ibbs and Sir Robert Armstrong.

You can

D A R HOWELL

David
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DRAFT PQ AND ANSWER

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy when he expects to receive the Severn Barrage Committee's report

ANSWER

Volume 1 of the Severn Barrage Committee's Report, containing the Committee's main findings and their conclusions and recommendations, has now been formally sent to me by the Committee's Chairman, Sir Hermann Bondi. I expect to receive Volume 2 of the Report which consists of technical material for specialist readers within one or two months. The recommendations of the report will now need to be carefully considered by the Government.

The work of the Severn Barrage Committee is now complete and I am discharging its members, as foreshadowed in the Prime Minister's answer to a question from Mr Holland on 3 December. I should like to place on the record my thanks to the members of the Committee for the extensive and detailed work they have done in preparing the report.

I intend to publish the Committee's report as soon as practicable as one of my Department's Energy Papers.