

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 232
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: WAUBRA WIND FARM - SUSPENSION OF ACCREDITATION
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Back asked:

At the time of the correspondence, dated 2010 and 2011, referred to in Question 81 (Additional Estimates 2014), the correspondence provided evidence that the Waubra wind farm was not being operated “in accordance with any relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government planning and approval requirements,” namely the noise conditions of its planning consent.

1. Given that the Minister and/or the DPCD was not satisfied at that time that the Waubra wind farm was operating “in accordance with any relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government planning and approval requirements,” does the CER agree that there then existed circumstances triggering the CER’s discretion to suspend accreditation under s30E(5)?
2. Does the CER agree that the Waubra wind farm did not notify the CER of the fact that the Minister and/or the DPCD was not satisfied at that time that the Waubra wind farm was operating “in accordance with any relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government planning and approval requirements” at that or any other time?
3. Does the CER agree that an accredited power station is required to notify the CER if it is aware that a Minister or Planning Department (or other responsible authority) is not satisfied that that power station is being operated “in accordance with any relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government planning and approval requirements”? If not, why not?

Answer:

1. No. Please refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 Questions 218 and 224.
2. It has not been established that the Minister or the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development advised the Waubra wind farm in the terms stated in the question.
3. Refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 Question 229.