

Scottish firm champions low-carbon power system

ENERGY

A Scottish firm has called on the UK Government to put a revolutionary new power system at the heart of its strategy to meet the challenge of secure, low-carbon electricity supply.

Pumped Storage Hydro allows the grid to store energy that cannot be absorbed by consumers during times of peak wind or solar generation.

It does this by using this energy to pump water from a lower reservoir to a top reservoir.

Here, the water can be held until times of demand where it is released to the lower reservoir through turbines generating

electricity in a similar manner to a conventional hydro plant.

Hamilton-based ILI Group has more than 2GW of pump-storage hydro in the pipeline,

“The gap left by nuclear can be filled by newables”

with its first 450MW development Red John in Inverness currently in planning, and two more projects to be submitted later this year.

Today is the closing date for submissions to a consultation initiated by the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Committee to investigate the power system's fitness for purpose following the collapse of plans for two nuclear power stations.

The inquiry is looking at the challenges to raising finance to fund development of clean technologies such as renewables and storage and at the government's approach to attracting investment in energy.

Mark Wilson ILI Group CEO said: “We today submitted our written evidence to the inquiry, stating our belief that the gap left by nuclear can be filled by greater deployment of renewables in combination with Pumped Storage Hydro plants.”