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Your ref:
Our ref:

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Dear Stakeholders

OUTCOMES OF THE RED TAPE CHALLENGE ENERGY THEME

On 25 November 2011, DECC asked for comments and suggestions on Energy regulation as part of the Red Tape Challenge. I am committed to a effective and proportionate regulatory framework which provides strong environmental and consumer protection but without unnecessary costs to businesses and wider society. I would like to thank everyone who wrote with ideas and suggestions.

I am pleased to announce that DECC will take action on 73% of suggestions on DECC energy regulations, (setting aside those where consultation is already under way). Moreover, 38% of regulations under the theme will be scrapped or improved across DECC's remit including in areas such as offshore infrastructure, gas and electricity supply, and the coal industry.

Specific proposals include reducing burdens by updating procedures for resolving disputes regarding overhead lines; and streamlining some of the application and reporting requirements for the use of chemicals by the offshore energy industry. This follows ongoing work to keep legislation under review and an exercise lead by Lord Marland in 2010 which had already identified 28 repeals.

These benefits should be considered alongside our broader work to simplify the European Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Reduction Commitment regimes. Overall our planned simplifications should help businesses save around £400m over twenty years without reducing protection.

I would like to conclude by asking you to continue suggesting new ways to improve DECC regulation. The door is always open for simplification ideas. Please send them through to us at betterregulation@decc.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Hendry

CHARLES HENDRY