

28 April 2003



**NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT
RESEARCH COUNCIL**

Degrees of Capture
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Dear Sirs

DEGREES OF CAPTURE

Thank you for your letter of 4 March, drawing NERC's attention to this report. I am replying on behalf of members of NERC Council.

While noting that the facts relating to NERC are largely well researched and correct, we were disappointed that the report does not provide balance by acknowledging NERC's considerable funding of research into other forms of energy discussed in our five year strategy, '*Science for a Sustainable Future, 2002-2007*' (copy enclosed; also available at <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/strategicplan/>) which was produced after extensive consultation. In addition, your document does not point out that much of NERC's fossil fuel research is devoted to the development of procedures which will allow the industry to better manage its operational impact on the environment.

Furthermore, with additional government funding (for example the outcome of the 2002 Spending Review), NERC will be investing more into sustainable energy research priorities, including renewable energy. Moreover, NERC's Science and Innovation Strategy Board (SISB) regularly reviews existing research, as well as new research, as part of its remit and in the light of NERC strategy; thus the concerns expressed within your document are addressed as a normal part of SISB's business.

Finally, I should point out that members of NERC Council, as well as members of supporting Boards and committees, are appointed on the basis of their expertise. Members are invited to serve in an individual capacity, not as representatives of their employers.

Yours sincerely

AJ Richardson

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Attachment

cc: Members, NERC Council