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1. News271.9 said that the Rudiger-Lerchl controversy is no longer in a “limbo of suspicion” and that the publications remain. To be clear, while the limbo is ended, the controversy and its suspicions remain, as represented in both the original Rudiger papers and the Lerchl critique. However, the evaluation of evidence should be seen in the larger context of other findings on genotoxicity of EMF, such as the 101 papers reviewed by Rudiger (news271.10), so the particular controversy may become less significant.

2. The Daily Mail reports teachers’ union (ATL) calling for removing wi-fi networks from schools. The actual motion (number 48) carried at the ATL national annual conference 6-9 April 2009 is at Appendix A below.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1168547/>

<http://www.atl.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/conference/conf09/>

3. While it is not adopted Revolt policy, this column has argued (news270.7 etc.) that human population growth should be of public concern on sustainability issues, not least on energy consumption and climate change. The increase in overhead transmission lines across the UK is just one manifestation of the underlying problem, reflecting increasing population and demand for energy as well as transition to renewable energy. David Attenborough has joined the argument, becoming a patron of the Optimum Population Trust.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7996230.stm>

<http://www.optimumpopulation.org/>

4. Prof Ulrich Warnke’s 47-page pdf brochure “Bees, birds and mankind – destroying nature by electromog” of March 2009 can be downloaded at the link below. It is mainly directed to radio-frequency telecoms fields rather than power-frequency EMF.

<http://www.next-up.org/NewsOfTheWorld/AbeillesBees.php#1>

5. Microwave News gives a round up of media reports and interviews with scientists on the growing mobile phone EMF issue. The multi-country Interphone studies have some strange results, including what looks like a pseudo-protective tendency arising from systemic methodological effects, which in turn may mask an increase in tumours with longer-term exposure. Impatience with the delay in publication of the combined Interphone results is growing.

<http://microwavenews.com/>

6. Items 2, 4 and 5 above touch on the problems of vested interests in industry and government in the development of telecommunications. Indeed, society in general has

an interest in the many benefits of modern communications. You can bet there will be more bitter wrangling behind the scenes than is seen up front. These are difficult issues. Emotion and politics, rather than rational science, can come to the fore even among scientists. The path of stakeholder dialogue may have something to offer. Though, as we have seen with SAGE for power-frequency EMF, it isn't easy.

7. Scotland's Beaulieu-Denny line campaigners are taking their case to Brussels following an invitation by Struan Stevenson MEP.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/low/scotland/tayside_and_central/7998596.stm

8. Sites for new nuclear power stations were announced 15-4-09. They are at or near existing sites, where there are existing grid lines. However in some cases there will be new lines and a key concern will be the accumulation of powerlines. That is an issue already communicated to Revolt by residents near Sellafield, where three new sites are proposed together with new powerlines in or near the National Park. There should be a case for undergrounding to avoid the dense convergence of overhead lines and EMFs near power stations, as well as the visual impact near the National Park.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/-/1/hi/sci/tech/7999471.stm>

9. Times on-line has an article 15-4-09 on large-scale Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and district heating in Helsinki, where hardly any homes have their own domestic heating boiler. Revolt has long supported CHP, on both large and small scales. It has so much to offer in efficiency (over 90%) compared with typical generation for the UK grid (around 50%).

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/natural_resources/article6094009.ece

APPENDIX A Motion carried at ATL national conference 2009

48 The dangers of Wi-Fi technology - *carried*

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

THAT Conference notes that Wi-Fi technology is now present in over 70% of post-primary schools and 50% of primary schools despite a lack of studies into long-term Wi-Fi exposure. Conference is concerned that the precautionary path recommended by Sir William Stewart, Chair of the Health Promotion Agency, does not seem to have been accorded sufficient weight. Conference believes that the welfare and safety of children and education professionals is paramount and calls upon the Government to carry out an investigation, which takes into consideration biological and thermal effects and for the results of it to be made public.

Proposer: Colin Kinney, Cookstown High School, Cookstown

Seconder: Gordon White, Lisneal College, Londonderry
