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1. The Revolt Chairman's Report 2009 is at APPENDIX A. Attention is especially drawn to the new arrangements for UK infrastructure planning. The maps in the joint government-industry vision for 2020 are worth studying. They show many UK developments which are likely to be opposed.

2. Objectors to major infrastructure projects will have to respond in the terms and accelerated timescales of the IPC. It is recommended that objectors access the IPC web site for details and guidance. There is a link (marked "planning aid") for free planning advice for people unable to afford professional fees:
<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/2900&ap=1>

3. I have registered Revolt's interest in any emerging stakeholder group and have subscribed for the IPC email newsletter.

4. More on the Bramford - Twinstead 400kV line in Suffolk and Essex. A new group Stour Valley Underground has formed and started a web site at <http://www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk/>
Extract: "We who live around the Stour Valley of north Essex are determined to ensure that the fast and dirty solutions brought about by mid 20th century post war austerity are not repeated and indeed are replaced by underground cabling that respects this beautiful environment and is a fit and appropriate legacy to leave for future generations."

5. Following Revolt's AGM on 15th October, the Position Statement has been updated (with minor amendments) and will be posted on the web site.

6. The government response to the 2007 SAGE report was issued 15th October. On the one hand it recognises the case for precautionary reduction of EMF exposures, at low or no cost, but on the other hand this seems to be fudged by get-outs and reversion to the much criticised 1990s ICNIRP standards.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/DH_4089500

7. In particular, the 60-metre corridor is dismissed, saying it is not supported by SAGE's cost-benefit analysis. In fact SAGE had two views, and two cost-benefit analyses, depending on whether impacts other than childhood leukaemia were allowed or excluded. The establishment view (which excludes other impacts even when based on scientific evidence) seems to be taken by government as SAGE's only view – so much for the alleged mutual respect!

8. SAGE continues to address other sources of exposure, but representatives of public concern will be asking if it is worth their continued time and expense. The rejection of the 60 metre corridor is not so much the issue as the manner of it. It offers “low or no” prospect of either us or the wider scientific evidence being taken seriously.

9. Dermot Finnigan has written (email 11 Oct) to Helen Mahy, NG company secretary, following the letter he received from DfT (news282.6 - .9). He says that he feels the endorsement of Secretary of State and “and the sentiments set out in the Revolt news” should be sufficient for NG to meet him and resolve the problem.

APPENDIX A Revolt Chairman’s report October 2009

Renewable energy policy, especially wind power, continues to be a main driver for grid developments in many countries across the world. The negative impact of overhead power lines is widely recognised, with increasing policies and laws for undergrounding in EU countries and buy-out of affected homes in Canada and (exceptionally) the UK.

Another year on, the Beaulieu-Denny 400kV proposal in Scotland is still undecided after the 2007 inquiries. Early this year I gave evidence to the 100kV west Donegal inquiry; the decision was to be in June under accelerated procedures but is also still awaited. The proposed 400kV Irish interconnector has met very strong opposition and made little progress. New proposals coming up in England include a 400kV line from Ipswich to Sudbury through picturesque Suffolk.

A joint industry-government strategy for future UK grid shows (with maps) long-distance sub-sea HVDC cables linking Scotland and England by 2020, plus overhead line development:

http://www.ensg.gov.uk/assets/1696-01-ensg_vision2020.pdf

The vision relates to the Scottish National Planning Framework and the awaited National Policy Statement (NPS) on electricity transmission, which is a worry (news267.5). As of October 2009, the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) has opened for business, and will start receiving applications in March 2010, but still there is no NPS:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_180975

<http://www.infrastructure.communities.gov.uk/>

We encourage the UK government to go much further with sub-sea HVDC cables, in the context of the EU strategy for a marine super-grid (news263), to relieve overland development.

The UK SAGE group on ELF EMF health issues was resurrected this year, but with nothing new of substance from SAGE to report yet. UK government keeps delaying a response to the April 2007 SAGE report. A response is again promised for this autumn; but we shall see.

On EMF science, Professor Denis Henshaw and I have reviewed hundreds of papers, not least those showing experimental results for biological magneto-sensitivity in plants, animals and bacteria at very low field levels. This work appears to have been largely overlooked by the EMF authorities and their scientific advisers,

yet we feel it should be relevant to their core claim of “bio-physical implausibility”. New results keep emerging in human epidemiology, for example with important findings and meta-analysis associating powerlines with Alzheimer’s disease.

Revolt continues to receive and answer miscellaneous enquiries by phone or email, mostly unreported. Some long-running disputes have successfully concluded, but NG’s “unauthorised” movement of a pylon near Sale, Manchester, remains unsatisfactory. Over the last year, some 20 issues of Revolt email news were circulated and uploaded, and the web site remains very active internationally.

Mike O’Carroll, Chairman
