

Revolt news291 of 28-1-10 and other issues are sent bcc and free. To subscribe or unsubscribe, simply email or use the contact at the Revolt web site. Email addresses which fail for three consecutive issues will be removed in any case. For further information please see <http://www.revolt.co.uk/>.

Statements made by the editor or by other parties and quoted for information do not necessarily represent the views of Revolt. Criticism of government and industry, and grievances from members of the public, are in the nature of Revolt's work, though we try to give credit where it is due. Revolt is strictly non-party-political and regrets any offence which may be inadvertently caused.

1. News290.7 mentioned wider lessons which should have been learned from the Phillips Report after BSE. The item went on to discuss structure of advisory panels and to recommend "Great Steps" to take. It was not meant to imply that Phillips made such recommendations – he didn't. He did offer sets of detailed lessons on some 25 topics. To its credit, National grid's web site www.emfs.info picks out some relevant highlights. Phillips also offered several lessons on "the use of scientific advisory committees", but they seem predicated on statutory advisory committees remaining under government control and embracing policy and scientific issues together.

2. Arising from news290 we can summarise four Great Steps:

Great Step 1: separate scientific assessment (by scientist experts) from policy advice;

Great Step 2: have advisory panels (including statutory advisory bodies) appointed and dismissed entirely independently of government;

Great Step 3: have rival advisory bodies to expose government to genuine plurality of valid scientific assessment;

Great Step 4: have independent audit of advisory bodies and scientific assessments.

3. Glaciergate, on the back of Climategate (the UEA emails), keeps climate change and the IPCC in the picture where forming and using scientific advice is concerned, alongside drugs advice, weather forecasting, BSE, mobile phones and EMF. It's not the "mistake" of Glaciergate so much as the use of it, by both sides, to disparage each other. What screwballs of emotion we humans are!

4. The Scientific Alliance newsletter 22-1-10 made welcome comment on the scientific advice in the light of Glaciergate: "diplomacy is needed to build a lasting peace"; "The conclusions people come to on climate change are shaped by their general world view"; and "A little humility and a willingness to take criticisms seriously would greatly strengthen their position".

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org>

5. A further protest group for the Hinkley Point 400kV connection has a web site which includes a link to the Parliamentary debate of 10th Jan for Liam Fox MP

<http://no-pylons-loxton.co.uk/Liam-Fox-Speech.aspx>

The minister's reply is interesting in highlighting government accountability for the national policy statements, which are under consultation until 22nd February, alongside the new "arms' length" IPC role of deciding particular projects. The reply mentions the potential Severn Tidal Power Scheme as a genuinely open question at

this time. The Parliamentary discussion also addresses the issues of consultation and alternatives such as underground and subsea.

6. Details of a protest walk on 30 Jan are at

<http://no- pylons-loxton.co.uk/>

7. A conference for people and groups objecting to windfarms is to be held in Darlington on Saturday 6 March 2010. It has a genuinely non-profit basis and features some expert speakers from across the country. For details see

<http://www.windconf.co.uk/>