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1. The French survey of health effects near powerlines (news271.6-8 etc.) has been posted (English translation) on the links page of the Revolt web site.

2. Media comment can find itself becoming the story among the chattering classes, which can get in the way of core scientific information. But an article in FT 25 April www.ft.com raises an interesting point on the “nocebo” effect: psychologically self-fulfilling expectation of harm from an exposure. This is the counterpart to the well established placebo effect. Would precautionary measures to restrict EMF exposures thereby do more harm than good?
<http://www.microwavenews.com/>

3. The balance of uncertain harm and nocebo effect from EMF might be difficult to estimate. In the case of electro-sensitivity (ES) to mobile phones there is a body of evidence which fails to “prove” ES, and evidence for placebo (and maybe nocebo) effects in general is well established. On the other hand, there is the persistent evidence of EMF association such as childhood leukaemia from power frequency fields, and growing controversial evidence on long-term mobile phone exposure, for the normal non-ES population. While nocebo effect in general may have some basis of evidence, it seems far from proven as entirely accounting for ES and irrelevant to the association with childhood leukaemia. Health concerns remain valid.

4. The CPRE web site discusses this summer’s expected government consultation draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on electricity transmission, sets out its own policy, and gives a list of likely new powerline and substation developments in England and Wales.
<http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/natural-resources/electricity-transmission>

5. Revolt news267.5 (and 266) commented on the forthcoming NPS (item 4 above). It is expected to insist that EMF issues follow only ICNIRP guidance, which considers only “established” effects such as induced currents and ignores the usual fields from powerlines which are associated with childhood leukaemia. The CPRE web site invites your comments.

6. A Scottish Parliamentary Question (Number S3W-23891) was lodged 12 May by Richard Simpson MSP regarding the Beaulay-Denny line. It will ask the Scottish Executive whether it will take into account various specified new legislation and decisions in other countries in favour of undergrounding.

7. The long-running petition PE812 to the Scottish Parliament on the Beaully-Denny line will be reviewed again on May 19th, when responses from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and Scottish Government will be addressed. Keep an eye on <http://www.stirlingbeforepylons.org/>

8. The German parliament voted 7 May and approved legislation on new powerlines. The gist seems to be that there will be four major pilot projects for underground cables (UGC) for the 380kV grid and new 110kV lines will be part buried within a cost factor of 1.6. Existing UGC will be extended in sensitive areas and new high-voltage direct current (HVDC) lines will also be developed. <http://www.iwr.de/news.php?id=14215>