

Revolt news275 of 12-6-09 and other issues are sent bcc and free. To subscribe or unsubscribe, simply email me 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. The French government “has agreed to try out a reduction of relay antenna emissions in certain towns to 0.6 V/m”, as recommended by the BioInitiative group and without reference to ICNIRP, according to campaigners Next-up. Secretary of State for Ecology Chantal Jouanno announced 10 precautionary measures on 25-5-09, mainly for mobile phones. She insists on “a need to distinguish between mobile phones, about which we know there are uncertainties, and relay antennas, for which nobody has been able to conclude that there is a risk”.
http://www.next-up.org/pdf/Grenelle_antennes_relais_rapport_final_25_05_2009.pdf
See also Powerwatch report and comment at
http://www.powerwatch.org.uk/news/20090527_french_government_precaution.asp

2. The WHO body IARC announced 28 May that the (long-awaited) Interphone paper on the possible link between mobile phones and brain tumours has been submitted to a journal for publication soon. Details at:
http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/interphone_status.php
and
<http://www.microwavenews.com>

3. Research continues to develop on how magnetic fields may be biologically detected in animals and used for their orientation and navigation. There are two main hypotheses. First, magnetic particles are widespread in animals and humans and they may react to environmental magnetic fields. Second, and also widespread in humans and animals, are proteins called cryptochromes, which offer interaction with magnetic fields via radical pairs initiated by blue light. Cryptochromes are also involved in photo-reception in animals and plants.

4. Both the magnetic particle and cryptochrome hypotheses have objections about their ability to detect ELF (extremely low frequency) environmental magnetic fields as small as those from powerlines and other artificial sources. They are better established for detecting the earth's static field. Recent research has shown unexpected effects from RF (radio-frequency) magnetic fields in each of these hypotheses.

5. Astonishingly low-intensity RF fields (as low as 15nT) have been shown to interfere with the orientation of European robins (Ritz et al, Nature, 2004, and Biophys J, 2009). While the evidence-based hypothetical primary mechanism (essentially electron-spin-precession resonance at Larmor frequency) doesn't carry over numerically to power-frequency, these remarkable results do show that there is

much yet to be understood about the potential for such biological effects of very weak fields.

6. Krzysztof Kuklinski sends a call for help from Poland. In a small village at Poznan's suburbs, the biggest power line in Poland (and perhaps in Europe) is being built some 30 metres from homes. Pylons of 70m height carry two 400kV circuits plus two 220kV circuits. For more and how to object, see APPENDIX A below. My own letter is at APPENDIX B.

7. Louis Slesin from Microwave News writes: "At a time when there are calls for tightening EMF power-frequency exposure standards to address cancer risks, Australia is moving in the opposite direction. In mid-May, a committee working under ARPANSA, the national radiation protection agency, distributed a draft proposal that would triple the permissible exposure levels for the general public." For a report of the intrigue and implications in this alarming development, see <http://www.microwavenews.com/EMFConcepts.html>

8. And finally, the BBC Reith Lectures are up to their usual high standard. Prof Michael Sandel discusses "A new citizenship" in four lectures on BBC Radio 4 at 0900 on Tuesday mornings starting 9th June repeated on Saturdays. You can listen again and download a transcript from www.bbc.co.uk. The first lecture was on "Markets and Morals", contrasting "market triumphalism" of recent decades with overlooked moral values, leading to contrary end results in fascinating examples like commercialised blood donation and carbon trading. It comes close to home for our use of cost-benefit analysis in assessing precautionary measures for powerlines EMFs, encompassing common and public values, and beyond that to uncertainty and plurality of valid assessments. Well worth a listen!

APPENDIX A Plea from Poland (pasted from Krzysztof Kuklinski)

During the investment planning process all basic human rights have been broken, also the investor does not respect the Aarhus convention and EU directives which is the EU law and must be respected by the Polish government and courts. Such directives have been implemented to allow local communities take part in the planning process effectively and force the investor to consider the local voice and suggestions.

The local community organized and announced special consultations where they agreed that the best alternative is to build the line at least 800m from homes where possible, if not the line should be buried and the underground cable technology should apply (commonly used in the western countries)

The biggest disappointment and we can even say scandal was to add such investment to the special act EURO 2012 (European Football Tournaments supported by UEFA organized in Poznan), such solution was done to circumvent the law. In such way the investor is able to perform the construction works regardless the claims from local community and could even ignore them, moreover investor does not have to wait for final administrative decisions especially from the Government Environmental Body

which have to state whether such investment is acceptable from the environment perspective or not.

To confirm such scandalous behaviour, we can say that the inhabitants claims are still being considered by the ministry of infrastructure even they have been submitted almost 5 months ago, In the act EURO 2012 we can read that the ministry should reply and state final decision within 14 days. The ministry of infrastructure also ignored claims which were submitted by Polish Ecologic Association called "Right to Life" which defends local communities against massive electro-radiations caused by powerlines and GSM stations.

The ministry announced that they will state the final decision on 20th of June, at the day when the investment project is planned to be finished.

If you do really want to help, sending an email will be enough, please do send your support to Ministry of the Environment in Poland

minister@mos.gov.pl, info@mos.gov.pl

in subject

Protest against activity of General Direction of the Environmental Protection
(Generalnej Dyrekcji Ochrony Środowiska)

APPENDIX B Letter (by email) to Polish Ministry of Environment (mos)

Dear Minister,

I am very concerned to hear of an exceptionally large electricity transmission line development close to homes in Kamionki, and would respectfully ask that the government should ensure that there is a full consideration of more precautionary alternatives.

Sometimes industry and statutory advisory bodies present a view that the scientific evidence shows there is no risk to health from such exposures. This is word play, on the meaning of words such as "risk", and is poor science.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) formally acknowledges the risks in two ways:

(1) the WHO body IARC (IARC Monograph volume 80, 2002) concludes that such ELF EMF exposures (and at lower levels than those expected from such transmission lines) are a possible human carcinogen, specifically in respect of childhood leukaemia, in the light of a large body of scientific evidence;

(2) the WHO report Environmental Health Criteria volume 238 (2007) recognises that proportionate precaution is both reasonable and warranted (e.g. page 13 and in the conclusions on page 356).

It would therefore be unreasonable to fail to address precautionary alternatives adequately, in line with the EU Directive 97/11/EC on Environmental Impact Assessment, or to fail to adopt appropriate and proportionate precautionary measures.

While I have not personally investigated this particular development, what I have heard gives me grounds for concern that it may be an extreme case which warrants better consideration and protection for those directly affected.

I would be grateful if you could let me know what consideration has been given to exposure to electric and magnetic fields from this development, what precautionary measures have been taken, and what alternatives have been considered.

With thanks in anticipation for your kind consideration,

Yours sincerely,

Professor Emeritus M J O'Carroll
Chairman of Revolt www.revolt.co.uk