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1. Nigel Griffiths, MP for Edinburgh South and member of Friends of the Earth, is quoted in Hansard 21-10-09 column 1008: "I am particularly grateful to my hon. Friend the [Minister](#) and the Government for giving Friends of the Earth £30,000 to go around Europe to campaign to ensure that in Copenhagen we realise its goals, and our goals too". It has been questioned whether that is undemocratic.

2. A new campaign group "Save Our Valley" has been formed by people in Nailsea and district, to oppose NG's proposed 400kV line from Hinckley Point. Chris Turner writes: "The website went live 10 days ago and as you will see we already have about 400 registered supporters. We expect this number to increase significantly as we begin a major leaflet and poster campaign this week. We are also getting good local press coverage." See www.save-our-valley.co.uk

3. Adlkofer and Rudiger have hit back over the Lerchl-Rudiger dispute (news273.1, 271.9-10, 265.2-3, 264.3, 260.6, 258.7 – a big story) with a statement 4-11-09 setting out their view of events in response to a talk 22-9-09 given by Lerchl at an industrial event in Vienna. The dispute is about results by the Rudiger team appearing to show genotoxic effects of mobile phone radiation. Lerchl observed unlikely statistical features and suggested fraud. A technician-author resigned amid inquiries by university authorities, themselves tainted with related industry interests. Rudiger considered withdrawing the specific study under question, but resisted doing so with earlier studies, and finally did not withdraw them. Lerchl goes further than the specific statistical criticism to campaign against such effects in general, while many more such positive results have emerged alongside various failed replication attempts. It is a salutary and murky affair; hopefully the fresh scientific evidence will prevail.

4. Andrew Darke writes: "PLACE is continuing with its (now long running) consultation process with National Grid over the proposed renewed 400kV line through the Peak District National Park. NG is taking a positive approach to the consultation and is currently evaluating two underground options and two overhead options. NG has confirmed that a surface trough for cables down the old railway track, now the TransPennine Trail, is viable. PLACE is continuing to call for a rationalisation of the line beyond the PDNP to Stalybridge to reduce its impact on high quality moorland edge landscape. Discussions about an alternative route are underway." For more see <http://www.p-l-a-c-e.org/>

5. PLACE is also looking into relative safety of overhead lines and underground cables. Andrew asks if anyone has figures for the number of deaths caused by overhead lines over the last ten years. Any answers?

6. Powerwatch has criticised the HPA for its role in over-riding the SAGE review of power-frequency EMF, just as Revolt has. The Powerwatch comment on the government response to the SAGE report can be seen at http://www.powerwatch.org.uk/news/20091117_sage_response.asp

7. Correction: news284.8 described Professor Colin Blakemore as Chairman of the HPA, whereas he chairs the EMF discussion group (among his many other positions). The real new (this year) chair of HPA is Dr David Heymann, an American with senior WHO experience. Both have taken over from Sir William Stewart on his retirement from both positions in April.