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1. Following news304.9 reporting a case being made for Gas Insulated Line (GIL) technology, I looked up the 2008 Askon Report produced for Irish objectors NEPP. The Wraxall & Failand Council Addendum which put the case for GIL had referred to the Askon Report. However, the Askon Report says (page 17) GIL “are also not considered because of their significant expense”. Validation of the low costs claimed in the Addendum is keenly awaited.

2. NI objectors’ group SEAT reports an issue with an underground line proposed through County Dublin. This is the proposed Eirgrid East-West Interconnector from Woodland substation near Dublin to Deeside near Liverpool, which is proposed to continue underground after the subsea cable comes ashore near Dublin.
<http://www.eirgrideastwestinterconnector.ie/>

3. SEAT say “*A public meeting is being held on Sunday 12th September at 1pm by a local committee in the town of Rush co Dublin who are objecting against Eirgrid's planning approval to underground 500KW high voltage underground cable through the main street of Rush. This could have been planned to go either side of Rush, but Eirgrid have planned to place it in the middle of the town affecting hundreds of homes which are only 3 or 4 metres away from the centre of the road where this cable will be laid.*”

4. However, the EMF from buried DC cables should not be a worry, if they are lower than the earth’s static magnetic field. The main evidence giving rational grounds for concern applies to AC fields not DC. Comparison with the static earth’s field is not valid for AC fields.

5. Triton Knoll is a name we’ll hear more of. It’s a 1200MW offshore wind farm, with a proposed large substation on land in Lincolnshire. Google finds links with the developer’s website www.rwe.com. The company (RWE) has submitted a scoping request to the IPC. Local residents have been concerned at the consultations so far; the consultation deadline has been extended to 1st October.

6. The Triton Knoll scoping report says: “*National Grid has identified the East Lindsey District coast of Lincolnshire as the appropriate location for a new strategic electricity connection to serve Triton Knoll and future Round 3 connections, although a specific compound location and incoming routing has not yet been identified by them.*”

7. Power from the Triton Knoll wind farm will come ashore by buried cable. There will be an RWE substation to transform to 400kV, then an underground cable to a new National Grid compound to connect to a proposed new double-circuit overhead line to the existing NG substation at Bicker Fen near Boston, some 35km away. It is possible the RWE substation and NG compound will share one site. The Scoping Report seeks a 40-acre site for the substation, which it admits is “quite large” and “would not be densely developed”. Perhaps there is an unwritten agenda to cater for more future offshore projects.

8. Four sites were identified for the Triton Knoll substation. One has been dropped, leaving one near Candlesby and two near Welton-le-Marsh. All three sites have dwellings within 400m of the boundary; that is within a distance of concern about noise impact.

9. It appears at first sight that the Scoping Report has covered, and the EIA will cover, the underground cables and substation but not the onward overhead 400kV line. This may contravene the EU EIA Directive 97/11/EC, which requires that a project be assessed as a “whole project” etc. [Annex III 1, Annex IV 1 and Annex IV 7 (7)]. The overhead line would appear to be specific to this project and substation, not “deep” grid reinforcement. It may be worth objectors putting this point to the IPC.
