

Revolt news398

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1. Paul Hipwell, from [No Moor Pylons](#), reports (January) that [government consent](#) has been granted (19-01-2016) to National Grid's proposed Hinkley Point 400kV connection in Somerset and Avon. No Moor Pylons were considering a Judicial Review and meanwhile are amused "to see the chaos around Edf with the news this weekend (March 12) that EDF are going to the French government to seek a subsidy to help them finance building a nuclear power station in the UK". "At least we have succeeded in getting five miles underground, changing the pylon type and getting the old and redundant pylons removed."

2. Tasmania has had a [2016 energy crisis](#), partly associated with the 230-mile HVDC [Basslink](#) transmission line which developed a fault and partly with the limitations of renewable energy.

3. The applications for the North-South Interconnector in Ireland are re-emerging both sides of the border and may lead to judicial reviews (after a history of blunders with previous applications which led to suspended procedures). Objectors' group [NEPPC](#) has issued High Court proceedings in the Republic of Ireland.

4. The Planning Appeals Commission (Northern Ireland) is to stage separate hearings to consider 'preliminary' procedural issues (starting June 21) before going on to the substantive matter. The Interconnector is clearly a single project extending in two countries with severe "transboundary" issues, presenting fundamental difficulties for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consistent with the EU EIA Directive (latest version [2014/52/EU](#)). Each part of the project (the part in each country) severely prejudices the other part, since both parts must match. Tricky!

5. The [BRITIB Project](#) for a 1,300 km 2.6 GW HVDC undersea connection from Bilbao, Spain, to Plymouth might break some records ("Largest subsea power cable in the world" claimed). It indicates the technical potential for HVDC solutions around the UK and Ireland and elsewhere.

6. Powerwatch UK sends this message 15 December, 2015:

Excellent new video and slide resources on RF and health

A major resource update for people interested in the mobile phone, WiFi, etc, and health debates.

Click [here](#) for the full news story

I followed the link and watched the Devra Davis Melbourne lecture in full – recommended!

7. A new-ish objectors' group in southern Scotland has its web site at www.dumgalagainstpylons.org.

8. National Grid writes: “Our 2016 Summer Outlook Report has been published today. The report presents our view of the gas and electricity systems for the summer ahead. You can download a copy of the report on our [website](#).”
Maximum summer demand is forecast to be 35.7 GW and no trouble is expected in meeting demand.

9. EMF Research in the field of animal navigation continues to reveal how very sensitive animals are to low levels of man-made magnetic fields, both ELF power frequency from powerlines and radio-frequency (RF) from communications. Navigation has been found to be disrupted by RF fields at levels of only a few nanotesla (nT), which throws rational doubt on the sometimes self-interested sceptical view that very low fields cannot harm human health. A paper (J Exp Biol. 2016 Mar 29. pii: jeb.132878) by Tomanova K & Vacha M concludes (from the abstract): “Orientation was lost not only in an RF of a magnetic flux density of 20 nT, as expected according to the literary data, but even under the 2 nT originally intended as a control. Our results extend recent findings of the extraordinary sensitivity of animal magnetoreception to weak RF fields in marine invertebrates.”

10. National Grid’s Network Options Assessment ([NOA](#)) is available online. The Executive Summary has a table of project decisions. This is a place to look for potential future UK powerline developments.

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