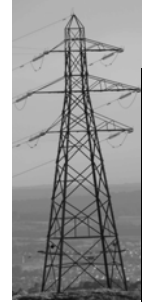


STIRLING BEFORE PYLONS

Press Release

**BEAULY TO DENNY PUBLIC INQUIRY REPORTERS
REJECT CRITICAL NEW STUDY**

27TH SEPTEMBER 2007



Beauly to Denny Public Inquiry Reporters Reject Critical New Health Study

The reporters for the Beauly to Denny public inquiry have rejected a critical new study submitted as evidence by the community group *Stirling Before Pylons*.

The BioInitiative Report: A Rationale for a Biologically-based Public Exposure Standard for Electromagnetic Fields was published on August 31st 2007 and submitted to the Inquiry reporters within days.

Today they formally rejected the document, claiming it was late, not material to the inquiry and its non admission would not prejudice against any of the parties.

How can it be late, when it has only just been published? The public inquiry has still to run until 21 December 2007.

How can it not be material, when it concerns the health of hundreds along the route of the proposed line? There were 14,000 objections to the proposal which raised health as a major concern. How can its rejection not prejudice against those campaigning for public health and safety to be a serious consideration?

This is a critical new publication from a highly reputable group of international scientists. It claims that existing public safety standards for protecting the public from electromagnetic fields are thousands of times too lenient.

It says: "It is no longer acceptable to build new powerlines and electrical facilities that place people in extremely low frequency (ELF) environments that have been determined to be risky."

The report recommends an interim planning limit of 0.1microtesla for homes near new lines, which would equate at a minimum with the 200m building moratorium recently recommended by the Westminster Cross-Party Inquiry Group (July 2007).

The government funded Draper report (BMJ June 2005) reported a 70% increased risk of childhood leukaemia within 200m of high voltage power lines.

Government policy in this area has been under review since 2004 and the Health Protection Agency is expected to report to government in the near future.

Stirling MSP and Minister Bruce Crawford has today called for the reports inclusion.

Ochil MSP Keith Brown is appalled at its rejection.

Local list MSP Dr Richard Simpson called for its inclusion during last Wednesday's debate in the Scottish Parliament (which was led by the deputy Conservative leader, Murdo Fraser MSP) on the public inquiry process. In this, Murdo Fraser referred to other critical evidence, including that of the economist Prof Andrew Bain OBE, which has also been dismissed by the reporters on similar grounds.

Local campaigner, Caroline Paterson said :

"The reporters' insistence on rejecting this document and other critical reports reflects badly on the whole public inquiry. If important new evidence is rejected and not even read, then the public inquiry is in jeopardy of losing all its credentials. The result will be recommendations to Ministers that are out-of-date, ill-informed, biased and lacking the respect of politicians and the public. *Stirling Before Pylons* does not have access to the same resources as applicants Scottish & Southern Energy and Scottish Power. However, I had hoped that the democratic process would allow the submission of key new documents as soon as they were published so that we would stand a fair chance of having such crucial evidence heard. I now wonder whether the health case will get a fair hearing through this process."

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