

International Symposium
« Living With a Very High Voltage Power Line » (1)

Consequent to the building of a new nuclear power generator at the Flamanville complex in the Cotentin peninsula near Cherbourg, a new very high voltage line (400,000 volts) is planned to cross 3 departments of North West France, La Manche, La Mayenne and Ille et Vilaine.

It is raising many objections among the people directly concerned, as well as lots of questions that remain unanswered today...

This year, the co-ordinating inter-regional organisation Stop-THT (2), in partnership with the Criirem (3), organised a survey « Living close to very high voltage lines ? ». Almost 8,000 returns are being analysed, and the results will be published in September

While many countries have lots of doubts about the effects of such lines and are legislating, in France a debate is more necessary than ever.

In order to compare analyses, and to understand hazards, the organisation Stop-THT is organising an international symposium in Laval (Mayenne) on October the 25th and 26th 2008.

Provisional Programme :

(The participants are proposed subject to invitation and confirmation, final program will be established confirming actual involvement)

Very high voltage lines, why build them ? For what energy policy ?

- A representative for the Catalan collective « No THT »
- A representative for the DRIRE (regional authority of industry)
- Antoine Bonduelle, expert in energy policy
- A representative for the inter-regional organisation Stop-THT

« Living with a Very High Voltage Power Line » Living conditions and health consequences

- Gerald Draper, from the University of Oxford
- Denis Henshaw, from the University of Bristol
- A representative for the French Ministry of Health
- Jean Charles Herriau, coordinator of the regional survey « Living with a Very High Voltage Power Lines ? »

What consequence for agriculture ?

- A representative for the GPSE, Groupe de travail Permanent sur la Sécurité Electrique
- Alexandre Rusanov, Geobiologist
- Francois Dufour, of the farmers' union "Confederation Paysanne"
- A representative for the Chamber of Agriculture

Very high voltage lines : to be regulated !

- An environmental jurist
- A representative for the German State of Lower Saxony
- A member of the European Parliament
- A member of the British Parliament

What political decisions ? A moratorium ?

- Jean Claude Bossard, mayor of Le Chefresne (Manche)
- Yannick Favennec, member of French Parliament (Mayenne)
- Marie Christine Blandin, French Senator, member of the OPECST (Office Parlementaire d'Evaluation des Choix Scientifiques et Techniques)
- A representative for the Ministry of Environment
- A representative for the inter-regional organisation Stop-THT

(1) In French : "ligne Très-Haute-Tension", THT

(2) Including the 3 main organisations : Ille et Vilaine sous Tension, Manche sous Tension et Mayenne surVOLTée. More information on the web site : <http://www.stop-tht.org/>

(3) Centre de Recherche et d'Information Indépendantes sur les Rayonnements ElectroMagnétiques (Independent Information and Research Centre on electric and magnetic fields) cf. <http://www.criirem.org/>