

NEPP Statement 8th April 09

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The North East Pylon Pressure campaign (NEPP) spent two full days last week in technical discussions with EirGrid. We were accompanied by our internationally respected adviser, Professor Noack, from Germany. EirGrid were accompanied by a representative of their consultants, Parsons Brinckenhoff. The discussions were not concluded and both sides had agreed to meet again for at least another day for a further exchange of data and information.

On Friday last, without any prior notification to us, EirGrid issued a press release that seriously distorted the proceedings of the technical discussions. Through NIE, they ensured that the press release was sent to media outlets throughout the island.

This pre-emptive media 'strike' raises a serious question mark over the integrity of their consultations with us and also raises the issue of whether they can be regarded as a trustworthy stakeholder in future contacts on the proposed North – South projects.

I have written to the Chief Executive of EirGrid, Mr Dermot Byrne, expressing our deep disappointment and frustration at the tone and content of their press release. I attach a copy of my letter, for your information, as well as a copy of the press release issued on behalf of EirGrid. I would ask you to read it and draw your own conclusions.

Throughout this campaign, NEPP has worked on the basis of research, data, facts, education, persuasion, reasonable debate and - above all – integrity. It should be a matter of concern to the wider stakeholders in this process – including elected representatives – that EirGrid does not adhere to the same standards.

