

**WE MAKE NO EXCUSES FOR TAKING A FRESH LOOK
AT THE WIND INDUSTRY'S TOTAL CONTEMPT FOR
PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES ARE BEING DEVASTED BY
USELESS TURBINES AND, IN PARTICULAR, EDF'S
RUTHLESS PURSUIT OF THE TAX-PAYER'S MILLIONS BY
DESTROYING A LOVELY GALLOWAY VALLEY**

RECENTLY Scottish Renewables launched a campaign in what can only be seen as a sick attempt to stop the SNP's move towards establishing a 2.5 kilometre buffer zone between massive industrial turbines and our homes.

While, as in some countries, ten kilometres is seen as a more reasonable distance, at least the politicians seemed to be showing some hint of humanity. The fact that those backing the Wind Industry oppose even the meagre 2.5km buffer zone is testament to just how fixated they are with Profit; Profit; Profit. To hell with those those whose homes happen to be in the way of that. No recognition whatsoever that shale gas is the cheap consumer friendly alternative, as has been well proven in the United States. Even the vast Grangemouth refinery is being re-built to cope with it.

It's a year and a half since the French jackbooted their way into our lives. Erecting tall weather masts without any proper warning, defying planning regulations and sticking them on sites, clearly, according to Council documentation, outside the "Flow of Airriequhillart" -- the name they used to disguise their planned rape of a beautiful lowland valley.

They want to stick EIGHTEEN 450-foot high turbines in a lovely lowland historic valley. All of these monstrosities would fall well within 2.5 kilometres of people's homes.

We managed to persuade the CEO of the French State Owned EDF Renewables to come to Scotland. He sneaked into Whitorn

on a dark rainy night in a pathetic attempt to try to woo locals there. He never went closer than 15 miles from the actual site which. This arrogant Frenchman could not even be bothered to visit it. His name is Christian Egal. (Christain.egal@edf-er.com) if you want to share your thoughts with him.)

Egal us gave this clear message: "If the planning goes through, the turbines go up." End of story.

That was irrespective of any of the arguments put to him that night about proximity to homes; destruction of a stunning landscape and the pathetic power-to-customer-cost ratio of wind-power.

The irony of this is that he and the French Government are perfectly eager and happy to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds in bribes to Community Councils, often based many miles away and -- apart from a slump in tourism -- totally unaffected by the noise, health problems and slump in property values -- of those who have these massive eyesores jammed next to their homes. *The Port William story is coming up later!*

- This was never more evident that when Egal sent two of his minions to try to persuade a group of local homeowners "just how much they would benefit" from EDF's plan to destroy their stunning landscape and their lifestyles. The clear answer: Absolutely nothing. Tough luck!

We make no apologies then for re-running a shortened account, carried in the Galloway Gazette, of this meeting. We hope it will bring home to you all the totally ruthless approach of these parasites in their pursuit of profit at any cost. This is what they really feel about those who will suffer for their profits:

EDF TELLS THOSE BLIGHTED BY

TURBINE PROJECT: "YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF COMPENSATION"

People who say their homes and businesses have already been affected by a massive wind farm project have been told by the company behind it that that they will not pay compensation for any losses whatsoever.

Two senior executives of EDF were speaking to members of the Airriequhillart Wind Farm Protest group at their campaign headquarters.

They denied that wind farms reduced property prices, had any effect on health and dismissed all the current recommendations that turbines should be no closer than two kilometres (the recommendation at that time) from occupied premises.

EDF's Head of Development, Tony Scorer and Dennis Garry, the Project Manager for the scheme, were taken to visit the properties of several of (around thirty or so) homes already affected by their plans.

They saw the view from the small holiday caravan business which overlooks the threatened valley. The owners have shelved expansion plans after many regular customers told them they would not return if the turbines went up.

They also viewed the valley from the top of Barrachan Hill, where there are at least another fifteen detailed archaeological sites and an extensive wildlife habitat, which the protesters say is now in real danger.

Scorer and Garry were left in no doubt about local opposition to their scheme.

A nearby farm which overlooks the site has been refused a 50 metre turbine because the Council has ruled that should be the maximum height for any object for the type of landscape.

When asked how they thought they could get away with turbines more than 135 metres high, Scorer claimed EDF could "alter designs to accommodate that." But, when pressed, he could not explain how they would design away 86 metres "just like that" But he did admit that a restriction to 50 metres would mean the project was not viable. **So why press on???:**

(Recently Scorer appeared to boast in an interview that, even if they had to drop a few Turbines because of strong opposition or a local council ruling, EDF could persuade the Scottish Government to put them through on the nod!)

The owner of several tourist-related businesses told the EDF men that the land they had chosen to destroy was not only beautiful, but was at the heart of the area's literary tradition. It was the focus of the Wigtown Ploughman novel and the subject of the Andrew McNeillie poem 'Airriequhillart.' A tourism trail encourages walkers, cyclists and others to visit the area. **Both men were handed leaflets of the route, but said they "were not responsible for tourism!!!"**

Dear reader, We hope you are getting the feel of this now!

But they would be carrying out a "socio-economic survey, together with surveys on birds, bats, tourism, wildlife and other subjects." All of these would be taken into account. **Oh sure!**

An angry householder asked why these surveys had not been carried out before EDF published plans detailing the exact locations of their turbines, several of which are less than one kilometre from his back door.

He thought his home would be unsellable for years to come while EDF got its act together. At the moment he estimated the loss in value at £150,000.

A retired couple from Barrachan village said they'd had their £200,000 home revalued since the project was announced. It had dropped by £50,000 since the same time last year.

The men were presented with several pages which detailed huge losses in the value of homes blighted by turbines, together with copies of letters from estate agents explaining why clients had pulled out of deals on similar properties.

They were also quoted instances where Council Tax bands had been reduced for homes where the value had slumped because of turbines.

None of this had any effect on EDF's Mr Scorer. He told the group: "you have to do your own research on property prices. I'm not going to say yes, or no." --- (He simply refused to acknowledge facts, which must be obvious to any reasonable person.)

A businessman, who owns several properties close to the scheme, pressed the case for compensation for those worst affected. He asked directly if EDF would pay compensation for residents' losses.

Scorer replied firmly: "No. "

It was pointed out that absent landlords and a few local farmers stood to gain hundreds of thousands of pounds for allowing EDF onto their land. The Caravan site owner, who had spent ten years building up her business demanded: "Who is going to pay my bills at Morrisons? "

The businessman pressed Scorer: " Are you going to pay this woman compensation? "

The EDF boss replied " No, we are not. "

Another angry resident said she was in her 70's and had a recent fall in which she had broken her shoulder. She said the time might not be far off when she might have to go into care. "How would she pay for that if she could not sell her home to pay for it? "

It was put to him that, in view of EDF's massive profits, the refusal to offer even a small amount of compensation to businesses and individuals directly affected seemed totally unreasonable.

Mr Scorer replied: "It's not unreasonable at all! " (Greeted by hoots of derision).

The EDF pair were also in denial over the question of the distance turbines should be sited from people's homes.

The Conservative leader in Scotland, Ruth Davidson, had, just a few days before, called for the Government to enforce an existing and well established recommendation that they should be "no closer than two-kilometres from human habitation. " She said this would "better protect the value of homes. "

The pair were then handed evidence of a dozen bodies, including a recent Scottish Government survey, calling for a two kilometre limit. This included one from EDF's homeland. The French National Academy of Medicine was insisting on a 1.5 kilometre limit as far back as 2005.

Despite this, Scorer claimed this had "all been misinterpreted". The limit did not apply to "individual homes. "

He did not respond when it was put to him that Barrachan Village, which he had visited less than an hour before, was not "an individual home. " (Perhaps he was just ordered not to see it?)

Scorer was asked what he thought the minimum distance should be and suggested six to seven hundred metres. *(Please remember that we're talking about massive 450-foot turbines we're talking about, not tiny domestic affairs!)*

He declined to say whether that would be for one turbine, or ten? Several homes had many more than that within 1 kilometre, with many facing up to a dozen 450-foot turbines within 2 kilometres.

Dr David Baird, a local GP, asked the EDF executives what studies they could produce which showed that wind turbines did not have any adverse effects on those living nearby.

Scorer said: "Can I turn the question the other way round. Can you tell me what studies have been done to show that they do have an effect on people's health. "

Dr Baird leaned forward and replied calmly: "Yes I can. "

He produced a large sheaf of research from both here and abroad and presented it to Scorer to read at his leisure.

Dr Baird said that, if the wind farm goes ahead, with the clear and unequivocal evidence presented to EDF that people living in proximity to turbines are at risk of a number of health problems, then EDF will be leaving themselves wide open to future legal action.

The group also made it clear that they were not against green energy as such. But this project was clearly in the wrong place.

Before the meeting EDF had insisted that no local Press could be present, unless one of their Press Officers was also present. But "no Press Officer was available" How convenient. The protesters also learned that, earlier that day, EDF had approached a local paper asking that any coverage of the Airriequhillart project – including readers' letters – should first be submitted to them for approval before publication.

The paper revealed that, since this project started, they had made many attempts to contact EDF, but EDF had never returned any calls.

THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING the group put up protest signs along the route the EDF men would be taken. As has happened in the past, many disappeared over night.

We do hope that that gives you some perspective of the threat to our way of life being posed by EDF and their total refusal to accept that this massive scheme will have any adverse effects whatsoever on our lives, our properties or this magnificent part of rural Scotland.