

From: Pauline Medland [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 February 2016 19:45
To: Brechfa Connection
Subject: Updated Land Owner Engagement Table

Dear Mrs King

Please find attached a letter for Mr Broderick regarding a query about the accuracy of the WPD updated landowner engagement table. Also a copy of a letter to Andrew Hubbold that appears not to be recorded on that table.

Pauline Medland.

16/02/2016 Ref: BFC-AFP113

Dear Mr Broderick,

I believe there has been a query regarding the Updated Land Owner Engagement Table that indicates contacts between Western Power Distribution (WPD) and Landowners.

I have checked the table and have found that there is (Pages 40/41) no record of a letter dated 19/01/2016 that I sent to Andrew Hubbold and Jocelyn Honeywood of WPD. I therefore enclose a copy for you to see if necessary. Also I telephoned WPD between Christmas and New Year to ask for a map of poles and numbers on Brian and Yoka Kilkelly's land as I wanted to check if any were near our water supply as one of my neighbours had told me that some poles had been moved. I had never known where the poles were going. I had been consistently told at the consultations, (that were the only contact I had with WPD,) that they could not give me pole numbers because the numbers may change and that my water supply would be avoided as they had all the information they needed. On 06/01/2016, having not had an answer to my request, I phoned WPD again and was put through to Mr Buxton of Bruton Knowles. He then sent the map of poles and offered to send a copy of Mrs Rentmore's hydrology report in order to reassure me regarding my water supply. He also told me that WPD no longer used creosote to preserve their poles, which I later found by looking at WPD website to be untrue. I phoned him on 15/01/2016 to tell him this, to which he replied "I am only a land agent I can't be expected to know these things". I discovered later that you had requested that I have a copy of the Rentmore's hydrology report, and that WPD had either ignored everything I had told them or become muddled over the two water supplies. The poles 170 and 171 were extremely close to two of our springs.

I also have noticed that in the document 'Applicant's comments on submissions made by interested parties at deadline3' on page 4 in the 4th paragraph down on the right of the page it is stated by WPD;

'A member of the project team has spoken to Mrs Medland on account of her concerns over private water supplies and a copy of the Hydrology Report for poles 171 and 172 was supplied on 6 January 2016. The Applicant is presently arranging to revisit the property'

I don't understand how they could 'revisit' when they had never been here before. Therefore this is either an inaccurate record that indicates there had been previous engagement when there had been none, or perhaps they once again had been muddled about the water supplies of Mrs Rentmore and myself. Either way it does not fill me with confidence that my water supply will be avoided by placing poles as far away as possible and tainting by creosote avoided by applying a polyurethane sleeve with cement around the poles 170 and 171.

Many thanks for your attention.

Pauline Medland (Mrs)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

19th January 2016

Dear Mr Hubbard/Jocelyn Honeywood

Re; Private Water Supply for Llwyn Wallter, that also supplies Tir y Wennol and Waldron

I have been involved with the Brechfa Forest Connection Project and the previous wind turbine project since before 2009 when Mott MacDonald carried out a survey of Private Water Supplies (PWS). I supplied a map of our water supply and completed a questionnaire for them. I went to every public and landowner consultation at Alltwalis Village Hall, one at Maesycrugiau, and several at St Peters Civic Hall in Carmarthen in an effort to inform as many staff of Freedom and Western Power Distribution as possible. This was to ensure that WPD knew where our PWS was as it is more complicated and comes from further away than most PWS. I have supplied several maps at various stages and also ensured it was marked on the maps at the consultations so that WPD would be able to avoid placing poles near any part of it. This is particularly important in the 3 areas where water is contributing to the supply via springs at ground level into catch tanks. Please see maps 1 and 2. The water collecting around these points can easily be polluted by the creosote used to preserve the wooden poles and anchors for stay wires and by rainwater falling on the poles and draining with some creosote into the ground around.

On the 24th October 2014 I wrote to WPD expressing my concerns regarding several matters including our PWS. I received a letter in reply from Mr Andrew Hubbard covering the range of subjects I had raised, including 'impacts upon private water supplies', Ref:WPD/PC/101, dated 3rd November 2014, stating that;

'WPD is aware of this as an issue and the location of your private water supply has been recorded and we will carry out any necessary hydrology surveys to ensure that your private water supply is not affected'.

No hydrology survey has since been completed or offered regarding our water supply, although I have now received a hydrology report from Bruton Knowles, due to Mr Martin Broderick's request, that appears to have been carried out at Llwyn Teg, Alltwalis, for our next door neighbours Mr and Mrs Rentmore. Their private water supply is completely separate from ours and consists of 2 wells that are much further away from poles 171 and 172 than our supply is from poles 171 and 170.

In the Environmental Statement, chapter13, volume 6.2 under the heading 'Private Water Supplies' it is stated;

'A private water supply is located on lower ground than the planned poles 171 and 172. Pole 172 is located close to a watercourse which supplies water to livestock. The water supply feeds several properties and has a collection point and holding tank. Due to the importance placed on the Private Water Supply by the landowner, the sensitivity would be considered high.'

I believe that this refers to my property at Llwyn Wallter although the pole numbers should be 171 and 170. The water supply at Llwyn Teg only supplies that property whereas ours supplies 3 properties including a market garden business and troughs with drinking water for livestock on 3 properties.

In the first meeting at St Peters Civic Hall I spoke to a group of Freedom and WPD staff, describing the possible vulnerability of our water supply to them. They directed me to the ecologist who appeared to take on board what I had said and she said the information would be recorded. I left her talking to the group of WPD staff about it. At that stage I don't believe the poles were numbered, but if they were I was not told the numbers and it is quite likely that an error could have been made with the pole positions or numbers. In any case I feel sure that some confusion very likely occurred with WPD at some stage between my neighbour, Mrs Rentmore's water supply and my own.

At each meeting or consultation I have emphasised how important our PWS is to us as we and the others we supply do not have the option of an alternative water supply. Without a potable PWS of sufficient quantity our house and land and the other two properties served are significantly compromised and our valuer has used the word devalued. In effect without a reliable water supply it could be questioned whether we or anyone else could continue to live here. We have considered the alternative of a borehole but there are genetic health reasons why we have discounted this option. Also there is the cost of installation as well as needing to invest in some very expensive equipment and the ongoing cost of electricity to run it into the future.

I note that after the stage 3 consultation there are 3 change requests (105, 106 and 111) recorded for pole 170 and 1 (106) for pole 171. It is very likely that pole 171 is directly on top of our underground alkathene water pipe if it was installed around the edge of the field. If this is so the pipe would be damaged when the pole is put in place, but it may go across the field. We don't know. (Please see maps 1 and 2). In any case it is very close, (probably within 4 metres depending on the exact position of the pole,) to a spring and catch tank that is part of our PWS. It was suggested to me by WPD staff at the Alltwalis meeting that the poles could be encased in concrete to reduce the leaching of creosote into my water supply. I replied that I did not want any creosote in my water supply at all. I was aware having read the manufacturer's and the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry information that creosote is hazardous to human and animal health, being a known carcinogen, and it kills fish and other aquatic organisms. I asked the WPD staff if they would find it acceptable to have it in their own water supply. Needless to say none of them expressed a wish to accept it and all remained thoughtfully quiet at that moment. I then suggested that both poles could be moved to the other side of their respective watercourses (both are beside streams) and queried whether this would make the cable span between the two poles too great. The person who I was told was the technical person replied that the span was manageable and that the poles could be moved a few metres in each direction. He agreed that they could be moved to the other side of the streams thus creating less of a hazard to our supply. He also agreed that when the WPD staff went out to decide on the final exact position of poles 171 and 170 I could go to meet with them briefly on site to liaise on which position would best avoid our PWS. I do not now find this agreement recorded in the changes, and I find instead an arrangement to protect the supply through use of concrete sleeves. Whilst I believe that this could lead to a reduction of creosote entering the soil and I appreciate the offer I don't find this acceptable because any rain falling on the pole or splashing up from the ground onto the pole inevitably will end up in our water catchment area along with some creosote and therefore in our water. My son and my grandson who live at Tir y Wennol on the same site as this house both suffer from

allergies. We moved here in 1984 because my son was sensitive to something in mains water and we knew there was a clean spring water supply here.

I would like a hydrology assessment and water quality assessment to be carried out ASAP as previously promised by Mr Hubbard and I am prepared to show the hydrologist where each part of our PWS is situated on site. I'm afraid I was particularly disappointed to see on Llwynteg's hydrology report that someone had drawn a pipe and collection point on the map leading to our holding tank. I don't know where this information came from but it was incorrect. There is no pipe in that place although some of our water may come downhill over or under ground from the so called collection point marked and this means that it is flowing under and around pole 170 and then into our catch tank and to the holding tank. The concrete casing promised for pole 170 is absent on the hydrologist's map. I have contacted WPD twice by phone recently to check if 170 is recorded as being cased in concrete. Today I had a call from Jocelyn Honeywood who said it can be encased in concrete. I explained that I do not agree that this will be completely adequate for reasons already explained in this letter (and my evidence will be submitted to Mr Martin Broderick as requested). I have asked her to investigate if a concrete pole might be available as I would find this acceptable providing any stay wire also had concrete to anchor it. Once a solution is found that is acceptable to WPD and to me I would like a written commitment to it from WPD as the organisation appears to function on verbal statements that are then not noted, or are noted with no intention of carrying them out. This is why there is a problem at this late stage. I repeat that WPD has known about my water supply since the PWS survey in 2009 and on many occasions since.

When I mentioned the issue of creosote on poles to WPD's land agent from Bruton Knowles when he phoned me, he told me that WPD no longer uses creosote. I checked WPD website and found as I suspected that it is in common use. When I rang him a few days later to tell him he said that as a land agent he could not be expected to know about these things. In that case why did he volunteer this incorrect information when I did not ask for it? He also told me that my land agent Iwan Jones was 'dragging his feet' and he didn't know why. I replied that Iwan Jones is extremely busy and is working early mornings and late in the evening for his clients on top of his working day. I feel that this was a particularly unprofessional comment for Mr Buxton to have made about another professional, particularly when Mr Jones is often trying to sort out problems that WPD should have resolved quite some time ago, or that they have created for themselves.

Please let me know as soon as the hydrologist can attend. Tel. 01559 384353. Ring after 5pm if I don't answer during the day as I am in college some days. Sorry no mobile - no signal here.

Re; Access via Llwynwalter Road

I have been repeatedly told by Freedom and WPD staff that this access was 'very unlikely to be used' and that the road to Lan Clyn Adda would most likely be used by construction traffic. Please confirm that an assessment of the Llwynwalter road width has been done on site not just on google or on a map.

Llwynwalter road is one car wide with no passing places and 5 – 6 foot high vertical banks composed of fairly loose soil and shale. The banks are not owned by the council but by the

landowners either side. They are not grass covered and if damaged large sections of bank fall into the road making it impassable, and leaving the ancient hedgerow hanging in mid air with no means of support. It is impossible to repair these banks. Large vehicles and long vehicles have become wedged on the bend before, and it has taken up to 3 days to pull them out. Also if any of the residents meet construction traffic they will have to reverse almost half a mile. Pedestrians have nowhere to go if a large or even a medium vehicle is in the road as there is no space or place to stand.

I was told by Mr N C W Buxton, from Bruton Knowles, WPD Land Agent, that WPD only need access through our property to pole 169. There is a much shorter alternative route to pole 169 from the corner of the field a very short distance below pole 170 where there is a gateway into a stony surfaced lane a few metres long (see map 3 enclosed). This connects with the gateway where WPD need to go into the field where pole 169 is situated. If an assessment of the route was done the gateway may not have been seen as it is obscured by woodland from most angles. The landowner did not realise it was there until my son told him fairly recently. This route would save driving across Mr and Mrs Rentmore's extremely wet field and therefore prevent potentially expensive damage. It would save disturbing nightjars and curlews who use that field to nest each year (both on the RSPB red at risk list). It would also mean that you would not need access through our property.

Re; Ecological Survey

Some time ago an ecological survey was completed on our property. I informed the young man who completed the survey that we have noctule, pipastrelle, long eared brown and horseshoe bats here, there may be others that we have not identified. I also informed him that the nightjars and curlews mentioned above nest in the field behind our house, which I now find WPD are planning to drive across. I have not seen a record of the nightjars on the ecological report although they are very shy birds and not easy to spot. I don't think the survey was done at a time when the birds were here, and the bat survey was done during the day when no bats would have been out. There are less than a thousand pairs of nightjars in the UK according to RSBP. Can you please try to avoid traversing that field during the nesting period (late march to end of august) or use the alternative route I have suggested if possible?

Re; HoTs

The HoTs you have sent me are completely inappropriate for the access you require. Our entire property is coloured green on your map which indicates that you need access over all of it and that there are restrictions on all of it.

- You need to confirm access to pole 169 only and indicate exactly where you propose to go through our property during the construction period only.
- You need to confirm that any damage to our property will be repaired by you or your contractors before you leave as I have already stated that the surface of the roadway through our yard is unsuitable for heavy traffic and will break up.
- You need to confirm that your right of way will cease when this phase of the Brechfa Forest Connection Project is complete.

- Please confirm that there will be no parking or storage required on our property. There can be no parking or storage of materials in our yard area as we are obliged to keep it clear for rights of way for three neighbours.
- Please confirm that a hydrology assessment and a water quality test will be carried out ASAP.
- Please remove part of Mr and Mrs Rentmore's land from your map of our property, (map 4 enclosed). I have corrected this before at the stage 3 consultation.
- Please note that no restrictions on planning or change on the ground for this property are acceptable, and confirm that WPD does not need these restrictions in place.
- Please also note that although our PWS is on the land of both Mr and Mrs Kilkelly at Lan Clyn Adda, and Mr and Mrs Rentmore at Llwyn Teg we are entitled to inspect, repair and renew any part of it and we do not want to ask WPD every time we need to do this as it requires regular maintenance. Please confirm that no part of our PWS will be owned by WPD and that our access to it by the most direct route will not be restricted.

I will be meeting with our solicitor within the next couple of weeks and he may have other concerns regarding the HoTs. In the meantime I hope you will be able to confirm the above points in writing ASAP.

Yours sincerely,

PaulineMedland (Mrs)

Mr and Mrs Medland

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[REDACTED]
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