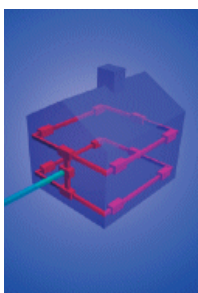


SAGE Group:	Main Group		
Document Title:	Record of the Main Group Meeting, 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2010		
Original Author	Type	Status	Web Site Status
David Collier		Issue 1	Public



## **STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP ON ELF EMFS (SAGE)**



## **RECORD OF THE MAIN GROUP MEETING**

**27 APRIL 2010**



**THE HATTON, 51 – 53 HATTON  
GARDENS, LONDON EC1N**

SAGE Group:	Main Group		
Document Title:	Record of the Main Group Meeting, 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2010		
Original Author	Type	Status	Web Site Status
David Collier		Issue 1	Public

DISTRIBUTION:

Copies to       - SAGE Members  
                      - Golder Associates (UK) Ltd

May 2010

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	SECOND INTERIM ASSESSMENT .....	3
3.	SAGE FUTURE PROGRAMME .....	4
4.	SYNDICATE GROUP WORK.....	5
5.	SUMMARY.....	5

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Agenda
Appendix 2	Ground Rules
Appendix 3	Syndicate Group Output

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*Nothing in this report should be taken as representing a collective SAGE view. The views recorded are for the most part expressed by individual participants and even where the report indicates that an agreement has been reached, this has the status only of a working agreement for the particular meeting or work stream and should not be quoted as a SAGE view.*

### 1.1 Attendee List

Adrian Todd	Kilmorack Community Council
Alasdair Philips	Powerwatch
Andy Hood	Western Power Distribution
Anne Silk	Independent health researcher
Antony Barker	Institution of Engineering and Technology
Arthur Johnson	Scottish Government
Barry Hall	Council of Mortgage Lenders
Brenda Short	Powerwatch
Caroline Hampden-White	CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA
David Renew	National Grid
Graham Philips	Electromagnetic Radiation Research Trust
Jill Meara	Health Protection Agency
John Cook	Mobile Operators Association
John Swanson	National Grid
Nigel McMahon	NI Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Pat Keep	Department of Health
Paul Bicheno	Institution of Engineering and Technology
Peter Roberts	Energy Networks
Roger Coghill	Coghill Laboratories
Ross Hayman	National Grid
Stuart Conney	Department of Health
David Collier	Facilitator, Golder Associates
Pete Wilkinson	Reporter, Golder Associates
Stephanie Tuffee	Event Support, Golder Associates

John Cook had to leave for a prior engagement at lunchtime.

Apologies from: Caroline Blakely; Denise Libretto; Hector Pearson; Lawrence Cadman; Mike Clark; Richard Hughes; Sally Sims; Stephen Wall; Theresa Donohue.

## **1.2 Agenda and Ground Rules**

As Facilitator, David Collier opened the meeting at 10.00 and took participants through the proposed agenda (attached in Appendix 1), ground rules (attached in Appendix 2), and housekeeping and safety points.

The proposed agenda was agreed. Members agreed to use the same ground rules as at the SAGE Main Group meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and all subsequent SAGE events. Specifically, the meeting would be held under the Chatham House rule – i.e. there would be no attribution of contributions and comments ‘from the floor’ unless participants agreed to it.

## **1.3 Conduct of the Meeting**

Future SAGE Main Group meetings would operate with a Chair to manage the overall proceedings with individual sessions led or facilitated as appropriate. However, for this last meeting of SAGE 2, David would coordinate the day. John Swanson would lead the morning’s session to incorporate final comments and then sign off the Second Interim Assessment (2IA) report to Government. The Funders would lead the afternoon’s work on the future SAGE programme with facilitation support from Pete Wilkinson.

## **1.4 Notes of the Last Meeting & Actions**

The notes from the January meeting had been circulated as a draft and in final form.

[Secretaries note: there were no actions on Members from the January meeting. The action on DECC, to keep Members informed about work on a code of practice on phasing and that on DH, to consider standards for the measurement of EMFs, had been transferred to the forthcoming SAGE tracking system.]

## **1.5 Updates**

The only update not covered by agenda items was on diary dates. The SAGE 2 Process Group had ended its work, but its members would meet on May 7<sup>th</sup> (and again if necessary) to advise the Funders on SAGE 3 programme development in the light of the day’s discussions.

## **2. SECOND INTERIM ASSESSMENT**

### **Current status of the Second Interim Assessment (2IA)**

John Swanson recapped the development and drafting process that had resulted in the current version of the 2IA (Version 5) which had been circulated prior to the meeting with changes from the previous version identified.

Members thanked John for taking on the drafting role and managing the commenting process and congratulated him on the quality of the report. The process had generally worked well, even if every Member had not had the time to review every draft. Some might have perhaps preferred fewer drafts but the approach taken had maintained momentum and transparency. It was observed that trust in the author was a key factor.

### **Review of Draft 5**

Members agreed that the structure and approach in both the Distribution Working Group (DWG) and Science Forum (SF) sections were appropriate. The general opinion was that it was a good document. Getting there might have been painful at times but the results were worthwhile. Members asked for and were given clarification on how certain issues had been dealt with or evolved within the working groups, in particular consideration of 'CL+' health impacts. The intention had been that the SF would compare and contrast the situation with respect to breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and childhood leukaemia but it had not proved sensible to do so given the level at which the SF was considering science and science policy. The point was made that the 2IA did not mention these potential health effects, and that it should do so (a suitable amendment was later made). The importance (and potential difficulty) of monitoring implementation was raised and acknowledged as something to take into SAGE 3.

When Members were asked, no one said that their expectations had not been met but some still had outstanding detailed comments on the text as it stood. These were listed in plenary and then changes were agreed in discussion between the 2IA author and those making the comments. The changes were captured in a track-changes version of the report for circulation with the draft meeting notes.

### **Signoff & rollout arrangements**

When this had been done, Members unanimously agreed that subject to any remaining minor formatting changes etc. the report should be signed off for submission to Government when Ministers had been appointed after the election (May 20<sup>th</sup> was the current target date but that might have to change).

### 3. SAGE FUTURE PROGRAMME

The Funders introduced this session by reinforcing previous statements that all three remained committed to SAGE. They have discussed options for structure and programme, but these are still in a relatively early stage. Around six meetings a year seemed reasonable, with a mix of topics to maintain interest and more preparation and focus in meetings; most Members appeared to think this realistic, though there were some doubts about how mixed topics would work in practice. Specialists might contribute to individual sessions as necessary and membership would be widened if necessary.

The previous Main Group meeting had considered the possible topics for the next phase of SAGE ('SAGE 3') and prioritised them as follows.

- Communication \*\*\*
- Transport \*\*
- Methodology to determine the level of evidence \*\*
- Raise the profile of SAGE \*
- Identifying gaps in scientific knowledge \*
- Finishing the DWG work on substations \*\*\* / \*\*
- Context of EMF risks \*
- House Wiring \*\*

The Funders had taken on board the Main Group's advice and looked again at the issues they had been considering for the draft programme. Joint Research was not 'star-rated' as it fell within the current phase of SAGE's work. The idea of a jointly-specified research project had been put to the Science Forum as promised at the last Main Group meeting but no practical proposal had emerged.

They emphasised that the programme would not be dictated by the Funders but developed by the Process Group – augmented if necessary – and then put to the Main Group for consideration and comment.

It was suggested that the Terms of Reference should be on display in all meetings and in the mind of Members. SAGE needed to maintain focus on outputs and their relationship to policy, to be a body that Government *wanted* to hear from.

The four topic areas up for discussion today were:

- International situation with respect to ELF EMF policy and regulation;
- CBA and risk analysis methods;
- HV substations and EMFs from intermediate voltage power lines (typically linked to embedded generation);
- Communications and public information.

Joint fact finding and 'levels of evidence' were more 'ways of doing things' that applied across topics rather than topics in themselves. The Science Forum would not continue as such but means would be

found within these topics to follow up on SAGE 2 discussions (and indeed mostly originated in SF discussions).

Members clarified with the Funders the process by which the last Main Group's recommendations had been built on to arrive at these priorities. There was discussion of future membership and programme timescales. Some potential technical topics mentioned at previous meetings were revisited but none were seen as a particular priority. Membership would need to be broadened and proposals would be brought back to Main Group. The current intention was a Main Group meeting in the Autumn with a start on the priority topics in the new year.

Although the Funders intended otherwise, some thought the proposed topics might be perceived as driven by the interests of Members rather than the areas Government needed advice on. Were they 'practical precautionary measures'? Would power line NGOs and campaigners (for instance) see anything here relevant to them? The point was made that CBA and related topics were directly related to their concerns and to SAGE 1 and 2 outputs, since they may be the means for determining what precautionary measures were taken. Similarly, communications work was a recommendation from SAGE 1 and 2 and needed to be implemented – SAGE could play a role.

Issues from SAGE 1 had still to be 'bottomed out', including cost of undergrounding and some aspects of existing power lines and exposures. There was a general consensus that tracking needed to be much improved, but the Funders noted that these two examples could be addressed within the four topic areas e.g. cost of undergrounding is related to CBA.

#### **4. SYNDICATE GROUP WORK**

Members then split into four syndicates, one for each topic area, to consider what a practical programme might look like in terms of objectives, timescales, stakeholders etc. Syndicate group feedback and discussion was captured on flipcharts and by the note-taker. Members discussed the syndicate outputs in plenary and added some points and clarifications. The combined record is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

Because of the extent of the discussion there was insufficient time to rotate groups to look at a second issue, so the session was concluded at this point and the Funders summed up the day's proceedings.

#### **5. SUMMARY**

This meeting marked the end of SAGE 2 and the Funders thanked all the Members for their contribution over the previous 18 months and for sticking with the process even when progress became difficult. Much good work had been done and the Second Interim Assessment was a well written and useful report that would make a meaningful contribution to precaution on ELF EMF matters.

The Funders also thanked Members for their analysis in support of SAGE 3 and said that it would be fed into the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. No conclusions were drawn, since this was a contribution to an on-going process. The Facilitator then closed the meeting at 15:30.

## **APPENDIX 1: AGENDA**

# **SAGE Main Group Outline Agenda V2**

**9.45 for 10.00, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**The Hatton, (etc Venues), 51 – 53 Hatton Gardens, London EC1N**

## **9.45 ARRIVALS & REFRESHMENTS**

## **10.00 MEETING STARTS**

### **OBJECTIVES & AGENDA**

*Led by David Collier*

- Housekeeping and ground rules
- Diary dates
- Objectives and agenda for the day

### **SECOND INTERIM ASSESSMENT**

*Led by John Swanson*

- Current status of the Second Interim Assessment (2IA)
- Review of Draft 5
- Sign off for issue
- Rollout arrangements

## **11.15 COFFEE**

### **SAGE NEXT PHASE**

*Feedback from Funders / Caroline Hampden-White*

- What has happened since the last Main Group
- Emerging structure and arrangements
- Topics for next phase to tackle

*Breakout sessions facilitated by Pete Wilkinson*

- Individual topic objectives and programme (1)
- Feedback from breakouts

## **13.15 LUNCH**

#### **14.00 SAGE NEXT PHASE (Continued)**

- Individual topic objectives and programme (2)
- Feedback from breakouts
  
- Plenary discussion
- Terms of Reference

#### **NEXT STEPS**

*Concluding comments from Funders*

- On SAGE 2
- On next phase

#### **15.30 END OF MAIN GROUP MEETING**

*In recognition of their contribution to SAGE 2, the facilitators invite all SAGE members to remain at the venue and join them for a glass of wine / soft drinks and canapés.*

#### **16.30 CLOSE**

## **APPENDIX 2: GROUND RULES**

**STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP ON ELF EMFS (SAGE)**  
**MEETING GROUND RULES**

1. All mobiles to be turned off;
2. One person talks at a time;
3. Issues will be dealt with under the appropriate agenda heading;
4. All participants to treat each other with respect;
5. Everyone present agrees to share responsibility for the wall record;
6. Comments are not to be attributed in the public domain (i.e. you can report on what was said in the meeting, but not who said it). However, comments may be attributed when individuals are reporting to their own organisations; and
7. Participants agree to abide by the SAGE Code of Conduct.

## **APPENDIX 3: SYNDICATE GROUP OUTPUT**

## Appendix 3: SYNDICATE GROUP OUTPUT

Participants were split into four break-out groups to discuss the suggested topics for the next phase of SAGE, namely:

1. International Picture;
2. Risk Assessment;
3. Unaddressed Sources of EMF; and
4. Communication.

Each group was tasked with looking at one of the suggested topics and asked to consider the following:

- What the objectives of the work would be for the topic in question;
- The Terms of Reference for the work;
- Workplan/timescale;
- What deliverables would be produced;
- Who the participants would need to be; and
- Policy objectives/recommendations.

Each group reported back on the outcome of their discussions. This was followed by a further discussion on each of the topics in plenary. The results are summarised below.

### GROUP 1: INTERNATIONAL PICTURE.

<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look at the Eurozone countries that have developed exposure levels different to ICNIRP;</li><li>• Consider what countries without regulation do;</li><li>• Find out whether Case Law has influenced what countries do.</li></ul>
<b>ToRs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver an analysis of the above objectives;</li><li>• Collect official policy explanations;</li><li>• Present a document reporting the details.</li></ul>
<b>Timescale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May take one year.</li></ul>
<b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publishable document setting out the international picture.</li></ul>
<b>Participants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Could be covered by existing SAGE membership.</li></ul>
<b>Policy Objectives/Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start with Nordic/Switzerland, and find out about ELF regulations in e.g. China. How have Eastern Block countries derived regulations?</li></ul>

In discussion, the following additional points were made:

- It was considered important that a member of DH be involved in work on this topic.
- Law, regulations and guidance should all be looked at (as opposed to just regulations).

## Appendix 3: SYNDICATE GROUP OUTPUT

A question was raised regarding the purpose of looking at this topic and a concern expressed that it might be repeating work already done by SAGE, but outside the context of a particular technical area. However, it was generally felt that gaining a greater understanding of the international situation would further inform the work done by SAGE, potentially result in new ideas not previously thought of, and provide greater context in which to make recommendations to Government. It was suggested that this piece of work would be a means to an end; not an end point in itself.

### GROUP 2: RISK ASSESSMENT

<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design CBA/RA tool for EMF;</li><li>• Review system tools methodology.</li></ul>
<b>ToRs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work within SAGE remit;</li><li>• Make recommendations to the Main Group;</li><li>• Create tool to apply precautionary principle;</li><li>• Select tool in light of data available and/or obtainable</li><li>• Review SAGE 1. <u>Everyone to read SAGE 1.</u></li><li>• Tools, notes/guidance/limitations/precision needed inputs, outputs.</li><li>• Method as general approach by Government on these issues.</li></ul>
<b>Timescale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 sessions, could be ½ day, 6 months.</li></ul>
<b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CBA/RA tool for EMF</li></ul>
<b>Participants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expertise in CBA/RA and independent EMF and SAGE members. Range of views.</li></ul>
<b>Policy Objectives:</b>

During the discussion it was questioned whether this work would be better done by health economists. There is a science of this which should not be ignored. It will therefore be important to involve CBA experts but, given that they will not have the same vested interest in SAGE as the members, it may be necessary to pay for this expertise. The importance of taking a wider view of various methods was also stressed.

## Appendix 3: SYNDICATE GROUP OUTPUT

### GROUP 3: UNADDRESSED SOURCES OF EMFS

<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider sources of EMF so far unaddressed by SAGE, focussing on HV substations.</li></ul>
<b>ToRs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop recommendations for precautionary measures for HV substations.</li></ul>
<b>Timescale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• About 3 sessions.</li></ul>
<b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• List of recommendations for precautionary measures regarding HV substations.</li></ul>
<b>Participants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Similar to distribution working group</li></ul>
<b>Policy Objectives:</b>

The rapporteur explained that the Group had decided to focus on HV substations for several reasons: house wiring had already been covered; they felt the issues with undergrounding are essentially about CBA so may be better covered within that topic; and if nothing is going to be done regarding new transmission lines it implies that nothing would be done for existing lines, therefore these (existing/existing) were also ruled out by implication.

In response, the point was made that the decision had not been to do nothing for new transmission lines; corridors were excluded but optimal phasing for new power lines was recommended, which could potentially be applied to existing lines. There may also be other options, not necessarily generic ones, somewhere between corridors and optimal phasing that could be considered for existing/existing.

### GROUP 4: COMMUNICATIONS

<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don't write anything new!</li><li>• Link between good sources, look for gaps, horses for courses, tailored.</li></ul>
<b>ToRs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collate current information, review data, produce a 'SAGE Points to this' list.</li></ul>
<b>Workplan/Timescale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collate data, review at meeting, produce recommendations (e.g. US &amp; Swiss booklets, feedback on what works, web links).</li></ul>
<b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand to video, colour coding.</li><li>• SAGE outputs – SAGE for professionals.</li></ul>

## Appendix 3: SYNDICATE GROUP OUTPUT

<b>Participants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HPA, DH, NG, CWL, Power Watch, communications experts, existing sources.</li></ul>
<b>Policy Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Useful, targeted information.</li></ul>

The discussion began with clarification that this work stream concerns what SAGE wants other organisations to be communicating to the public; it is not about SAGE itself becoming a communication agency.

It was felt that HPA is already committed to doing quite a lot of work in this area following SAGE 1 and, therefore, selecting communication as a priority for SAGE 3 was questioned. It was felt the work stream should therefore be about SAGE working with HP/DH and others to take forward the recommendations from SAGE 1, as opposed to doing anything new. Thought should be given to identifying other agencies that SAGE should be looking to work with on this.

There is a need to establish exactly what it is that SAGE wants to communicate, who the target audience is and what response SAGE is looking for. There may be particular audiences (e.g. local councils) who should be targeted with specific messages. There also needs to be some way to assess how messages are being communicated, received and understood. It was suggested that a communications strategy should be developed setting this out.

The question of whether SAGE is communicating its outputs effectively was raised as a separate issue, which led into a further discussion on tracking implementation of SAGE recommendations.

### **TRACKING**

There was strong agreement that part of the overall SAGE process must be concerned with tracking what has been done in the past. Progress with SAGE recommendations needs to be monitored in a structured way. It was noted that criteria do not currently exist for this and that specific metrics/indicators should be developed. It was suggested that tracking could become the focus for the communications work stream. For example, the Government (HPA) is committed to communications; SAGE now needs to be proactive in tracking progress on delivery, working with the HPA on this.

It was felt that a review of what SAGE has done before is needed, to take stock of where things are now. A master list of issues which have been 'parked' previously should be developed, to avoid repeating past discussions. This should form part of the tracking process.

The point was made that there needs to be careful consideration about where effort is invested. More may be gained by going forward, rather than revisiting issues.

It was also noted that giving something high priority (e.g. Communications/tracking) does not necessarily equate to a high time commitment.

## Appendix 3: SYNDICATE GROUP OUTPUT

### **MORE ISSUES**

A few additional issues were raised:

- Cost of Undergrounding
- Pole mounted transformers, electric fields.
- A list of scientific issues has been compiled, don't lose them.
- Will there be a final report? Or should the word 'interim' be dropped from the report title?
- Continue with MG (Main Groups)