



**friends of
the earth**

see things differently

Possible future directions for Article 6: a perspective from the UK

Has public participation in the environment run aground?

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What do we mean by public participation?

Why are we participating?

The role of the land-use planning system in public participation in environmental decision-making.

Article 6:

1. Each Party:

(a) Shall apply the provisions of this article with respect to decisions on whether to permit proposed activities listed in annex I;

(b) Shall, in accordance with its national law, also apply the provisions of this article to decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex I which may have a significant effect on the environment. To this end, Parties shall determine whether such a proposed activity is subject to these provisions;

Hydraulic fracturing: the Vale of Glamorgan case

- Areas 'licensed' by Government department
- Planning applications made for test drilling
- Chemicals involved in the process: benzene, lead, ethylene glycol, methanol, boric acid, 2-butocyethanol
- Evidence base lacking: consequences unknown
- 2 day hearing held, evidence presented by developer on the day, 1 site visit



Intensive farming: mega pig farm

Article from The Guardian

[Midland Pig Producers](#) (MPP) has applied for permission to build the farm – which could house up to 25,000 animals – on a greenfield site west of the historic village of Foston and adjoining a women's closed prison which houses up to 290 prisoners. If approved, it would become the third largest factory farm in the UK, sending more than 1,000 pigs to slaughter every week.

The legal letter also cites new research which shows that intensive pig factories of this kind can adversely affect the health of nearby residents. This has been confirmed by the government's [Health Protection Agency \(HPA\)](#), which says that those living within 150 metres of intensive pig farms "could be exposed to multi-drug resistant organisms". The proposed development will be built within 150m of HMP Foston Hall - as well as within 75m of the nearest properties being planned for workers at the development site.

Planning permission and pollution permits: Pembrokeshire Power Station

Article from the BBC

Environment Agency Wales previously said it would carry out a thorough assessment of the plans before making a decision.

Construction of the station has been ongoing for the last two years and is due for completion in 2012.

Planning permission was granted by the UK government in 2009.

The Environment Agency said in June it was likely to grant an environmental permit. It said at the time it had carried out a thorough assessment and had proposed tough standards.



Development of science and technology: UK and nanotechnology

The UK Nanotechnologies Strategy:

Some key actions included in the Strategy are:

- Government Chief Scientific Advisers to review coordination of nanotechnologies research across Government including research on safety issues
- A new website to keep the public informed about Government work on nanotechnologies
- A new Nanotechnologies Collaboration Group to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration between Government, academia, industry and other interested parties
- A new Ministerially led Nanotechnologies Leadership Group to address barriers to commercial growth in this area
- Government to explore a new industry reporting scheme with a broader scope covering nanomaterials as well as products containing them.

Common barriers to public participation

- Lack of information
- No time
- Overload
- Limited opportunities
- Disinformation
- Political attitudes
- Ideological position on economic growth
- Equality of arms
- Negative attitude to objectors
- Techno-speak



For more information on Friends of the Earth's information on your right to participate check www.foe.co.uk/nppf