

PUBLICATIONS



PERG publishes material under 3 titles: **Oxford Reports** are concise documents using terms and concepts suitable for the lay reader, while the **Research Reports** cover material in greater scientific depth. Additionally, the group publish evidence submitted to public inquiries and select committees as **Special Reports**.

'The Nuclear Controversy', a guide to the issues of the Windscale Inquiry, — published jointly with the Town and Country Planning Association — was a major undertaking, and additionally we have published the chapter relating to safety of the Gorleben International Review of nuclear fuel reprocessing.

For full details, please see our current publications list and order form.

SUPPORTING PERG

— much of PERG's work involves scientists from other institutions such as Universities (including students) who donate their expertise, and the group is always happy to widen its associations;

— donations both great and small aid in the purchase of vital documents and services;

— for those who wish to support the group, the best means is to make its services known to those who may require them.

PERSONNEL

The members of PERG are:—

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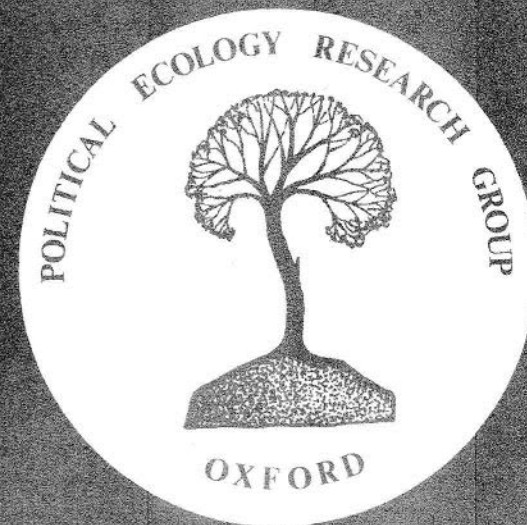
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PERG



a critical science group
serving concerned citizens,
community groups, trade unions and
local authorities

AIMS

The Political Ecology Research Group is a science consultancy providing research support for political initiatives on environmental issues. The group serves a wide range of community and citizens' groups, district and county councils, and at times government organisations. It also provides research support for television, radio, and the press.

The primary working methods are critical review of government and industrial policies, environmental impact and hazard analysis, and direct participation in inquiries, commissions and committees with the provision of planning aid and expert witnesses.

PERG is committed to the publication and wide dissemination of the results of its research, in order to widen public awareness of the issues involved and of the role of science in the formation of public policy. It holds copyright on all contracts undertaken.

HISTORY

PERG was founded as an association in 1976. Its members shared a concern about the lack of expertise and funds available to the many national and local initiatives seeking to conserve and protect the human environment. Since then the group has participated in several major policy debates and has offered its services to many groups requiring support by scientific expertise.

The first major involvement was with the Windscale Inquiry in 1977, when the group took a critical look at safety aspects of nuclear fuel reprocessing, maintained a constant presence at the 100-day Inquiry, and conducted cross-examination of witnesses.

The control of nuclear technology and a critique of various aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle continue to dominate the group's work, but it has also engaged in research and advocacy in several other fields. The past three years' work has included, for example:—

- a report on mineral extraction in Oxfordshire, for the Examination in Public of the Oxfordshire Structure Plan;
- helping to establish local initiatives on employment creation and energy conservation in Oxford;
- provision of research backup for the Outer Circle Policy Unit study on the future of major public inquiries (entitled 'The Big Public Inquiry');
- preparation of reports on the hazards associated with the proposed Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor at Torness in Scotland, for Torness Community Concern;
- a report on the risks of transport of spent nuclear fuel by ship, for Greenpeace and the Barrow Action Group;
- a report on the health implications of the 1957 Windscale fire, for the Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge, Mass., USA;
- submission of evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy, on the projected expansion of the UK nuclear power programme. In addition, members of PERG are frequently called upon to participate in seminars and debates, to give lectures, and to answer a wide range of inquiries.

STRUCTURE

PERG is a non-profitmaking co-operative company, limited by guarantee. All working members are directors, and decisions are taken by consensus at regular meetings. Members engaged in work for the group are either full- or part-time paid employees, or donate their services. Costs (including remuneration) are kept low in order to serve small local initiatives which may have limited financial resources.

SOURCES OF FINANCE

Apart from a 3-year recurrent grant from a charitable trust for office expenditures and a number of generous donations, PERG's services are financed primarily by contracts and commissions, lecture fees, and sales of publications.

In this way services have been provided to, for example: Powys County Council, Gwent County Council, Barrow Town Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Granada TV, BBC Horizon, Greenpeace, the Ecology Party, Donegal Uranium Committee, the Government of Lower Saxony (West Germany), the Union of Concerned Scientists (USA), the Town and Country Planning Association, House of Commons Select Committees and the General and Municipal Workers' Union.