



Newsletter October 2012

Anti-nuclear activists claim major victory in mass trespass

The Stop New Nuclear Alliance confirm that a total of six people were arrested following the mass trespass at Hinkley Point nuclear power station on October 8th. Around 30 people managed to get over the perimeter fence. Three people attached themselves to the fence with bicycle locks. More than 20 others gathered outside the main gate.

Over 50 people swooped on the perimeter fence of the land earmarked for two new EPR mega-reactors next to the existing power plant just after dawn.

Dozens fanned out around the 5-mile long fence while others held banners and placards outside the main security gate. A 14-foot banner reading "Nuclear disaster zone. Boycott EDF" was hung across the gate.

A total of 577 seed balls were thrown over the fence onto the construction area in a symbolic attempt to repair the damage already caused to the land. The seed balls represent the number of days since the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan.

The mood was relaxed and celebratory. "This is a major victory for the anti-nuclear movement," said Camilla Berens, spokesperson for the Stop New Nuclear Alliance. "The government has refused to listen to us and we have been forced to raise the game. We have successfully blockaded the main

entrance to Hinkley Point on two occasions in the last year and now we have accomplished a mass trespass. Our message today is that we will continue to raise the game with peaceful protest until our voice is heard."

She continued: "The government's new nuclear policy is on its knees. Investors are pulling out left right and centre. Even EDF Energy is looking for new partners to fund the Hinkley C project. It's time to bin nuclear for good and look at countries like Germany that are creating an energy future that is safe, affordable and nuclear-free."

Protesters at the site rejected claims by EDF Energy that the company permitted the trespass to take place. Theo Simon, a member of popular festival group, Seize the Day, said the arrests proved the company's claim to be incorrect.

"The failure by EDF's security, G4S, to prevent us from getting onto the site raises serious questions for the future protection of this development should EDF Energy get the go-ahead. Of course, G4S is well acquainted with failure, so perhaps they are now embedding it into their business strategy."

Barrels made to look like radioactive waste were wheeled through Bridgwater to symbolise the high-levels of waste involved.

A final decision on the nuclear build has not yet been made by the government but EDF says it's hopeful Hinkley C will become the first new nuclear plant to be built in the UK for 20 years.

Nuclear engineer slams industry safety standards: speech given at anti-nuclear protest rally

Stop New nuclear Press Release 7 Oct 2012

A specialist engineer who worked at Hinkley Point nuclear power station for almost 30 years yesterday slammed the nuclear industry's approach to safety and predicted that a Fukushima-type disaster in the UK was 'almost inevitable'.

Speaking at a rally organised to oppose the construction of a new mega-reactor at the Somerset power station, Peter Smith said he become increasingly disillusioned with the nuclear

LONG STANDING ANTI NUCLEAR CAMPAIGNER DIES

It is with huge sadness that Stop Hinkley announces the untimely death of Crispin Aubrey.

The Stop Hinkley campaign is coming to terms with the news that spokesperson Crispin Aubrey suffered a fatal heart attack on 29 September in the midst of the preparations for the protest against Hinkley C [above].

Crispin was a well respected contributor to the Stop Hinkley campaign and to the fight against new nuclear in the UK.

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industry during his career. "Over the years, I became more and more aware of the dangers and dark side of nuclear power," he said.

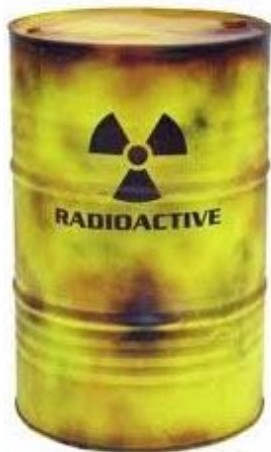
"The industry denies that it ever puts profit before safety but this is a lie. I have seen corner-cutting from the design stage onwards. At Hinkley, major safety systems were omitted and others only implemented after major incidents."

Smith, who was head of the 'electrical and instrumentation' section at Hinkley before he retired, concluded that human error makes it impossible for nuclear power to be 100% safe. "The plant at nuclear power stations is exceptionally complex. Things can and do go wrong. Safety systems fail, mistakes get made, human beings are human beings and they get it wrong and make errors."

Commenting on EDF Energy's bid to build a new EPR reactor at Hinkley, Smith added, "The nuclear industry suffers from the delusion that nuclear power is safe. They said that after Three Mile Island, they said it after Chernobyl and they said it after Fukushima. Do we really want Hinkley Point to be the next major disaster?"

Speaking after the rally, Smith said that the likelihood of a major accident in the UK is increasing. "The reason there was never a major incident at Hinkley was because there were experts like me who knew the systems inside out. These experts are now retiring or moving to other sectors. If you combine this brain drain with increasing commercial pressures and old reactors being pushed to perform beyond their intended lifespan, you're creating a recipe for disaster."

At the Saturday march and rally in the nearby town of Bridgwater, symbolic barrels of radioactive waste were wheeled through the streets to highlight the fact that tons of high-level radioactive spent fuel will be stored at Hinkley Point for over 100 years if the new plant gets the green light. Protesters carried banners saying, 'No



nuclear waste dump at Hinkley C' and 'If the Romans had nuclear power, we'd still be guarding their waste'.

Nancy Birch, spokesperson for the Stop New Nuclear Alliance, said it is time for the government to ditch its nuclear renaissance. "The new EPR reactors will burn fuel so hot that the spent fuel rods will have to be stored on site for over 100 years before it is safe to move them to a long term repository. If the government allows the

construction of eight new nuclear power plants, everyone will have a toxic waste dump in their back yard. This will put many people's health at risk and highlights the short-sighted and cavalier nature of the government's energy policy."

Nancy added that the government's nuclear renaissance is now on its knees. "Both the investment community and the environmental movement are saying that nuclear power is simply too risky. Japan and France, the heartlands of nuclear power, are pulling back from building more nuclear power stations and German and Chinese energy companies have recently withdrawn from bids to build more reactors in the UK."

She concluded: "It's time for a new approach. Germany is moving towards a sustainable energy future that is safe, affordable and nuclear-free. The burning question is, if Germany can do it, why can't we?"

CRISPIN AUBREY

Crispin played a key role in the preparations for the protests on 6-8 October and was due to speak at the rally. His sudden, fatal heart attack was a great shock to the campaign. Crispin's wife Sue, also part of the Stop Hinkley campaign, bravely requested that the 'show must go on because it's what

Crispin would have wanted'.

The Aubreys were involved in the original protest against Hinkley C over twenty



years ago. Crispin took a lead role in the public enquiry and coordinated the campaign which was heralded a success as the reactor was never built.

Crispin was a life-long campaigner and had been a journalist all his working life, starting at the Hampshire Chronicle and London's Time Out magazine. He wrote widely on environmental issues and was committed to the promotion of renewable energy.

The family have requested that you do not send flowers, but you may wish to make a donation to Stop Hinkley.

Donations can be sent to Grandfield & Sons, Keenthorpe, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater TA5 1HZ (tel 01278 732219) or donate at www.stophinkley.org

There will be a SH business meeting to discuss the way forward without Crispin and all members are welcome to attend on 12th November. Katy Attwater will be Acting Spokesperson until that meeting.

These are the words that Katy Attwater said at Crispin's funeral, on behalf of the SH membership.

I have only known Crispin for the last 3 years since I joined Stop Hinkley so I can't talk about the past.

I was always in awe of the fact that Crispin has been stopping Hinkley C being built for such a long, long time. I think it is very rare for someone to be able to sustain that level of commitment and passion over so many years.

After the successful campaign of the early 80's everyone thought that Nuclear was finished; not so. Crispin and Sue had to come back and do battle again when many, completely understandably, just couldn't face it for a second time.

Crispin understood the issues so well; he was very knowledgeable about both renewable and nuclear energy; he guided us wisely and he spoke and wrote very eloquently.

Crispin was a brave and capable knight in shining armour and he has left us in a very strong position to make sure that no new nuclear power station is ever built in his beloved Somerset.

Through his example I feel that Stop Hinkley has set a standard for all those working against government plans for a nuclear energy strategy.

Crispin has always personified that amazing saying "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

He loved his home, his family, Somerset, and this beautiful planet. I believe that is what sustained him for so long to stand in such an uncomfortable place.

It's a myth that wind turbines don't reduce carbon emissions

Excerpts from The Guardian Environment Blog

Conclusive figures show that the sceptics who lobby against wind power simply have their facts wrong

The assertion that wind turbines don't reduce carbon emissions is a myth, according to conclusive statistical data obtained from National Grid and analysed here in the Guardian for the first time. With a new wind generation record of 4,131 megawatts set on 14 September, the question of how far the UK's wind generation fleet can help in meeting our climate targets is increasingly controversial. Now it can be shown that the sceptics who lobby against wind simply have their facts wrong.

On 14 September, wind turbines connected to the National Grid produced over 80 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity, just over 10% of total UK generation. This was far from being a one-off: With more than 4,000 turbines now connected to the grid, wind produced 48 GWh of usable electricity per day on average during September, adding up to about

6% of overall daily national electricity requirement. On many days, wind is now the fourth-largest source of UK electricity. Indeed, this figure is a significant underestimate, because about two gigawatts of wind are connected directly to local networks and so not directly visible to National Grid.

However, according to increasingly vocal critics of wind power, the intermittent nature of wind generation means we must burn more gas to provide backup. But their arguments are not borne out by current statistics. If the sceptics were right, the recent windy conditions would have seen considerable use of less-efficient OCGT as wind input to the grid ramped up and down. In actual fact, during the entire June-September period, OCGTs and equally dirty oil-fired stations produced less than one hundredth of one percent of all UK electricity. In total they operated for a grand total of just nine half hour periods in the first 19 days of the month – and these periods had nothing to do with changing wind speeds.

From analysing National Grid data of more than 4,000 half-hour periods over the last three months, a strong correlation between windiness and a reduction in gas-fired generation becomes clear. The exchange rate is about one for one: a megawatt hour of wind typically meant the UK grid used one less megawatt hour of gas-derived electricity. This means that actual CO2 savings can be calculated from the data with a high degree of accuracy – these are not guesstimates from models, but observations of real-world data

Over a year wind turbines save around 6.1m tonnes of carbon dioxide, or about 4% of the UK's emissions from electricity. This figure provides independent confirmation for the trade body RenewableUK's estimate of a current reduction in annual emissions from the entire UK wind fleet of about 6m tonnes.

Looking to the future, about 26 gigawatts of onshore and offshore wind is expected to be connected to the grid by 2020, nearly four times today's capacity. Even so, National Grid expects to be able to handle the increased wind generation without major new investment in dirty open-cycle gas backup, contradicting the claims from the GWPF.

National Grid is also improving its wind forecasting system to make coping with times of low demand and high generation easier.

Indeed, the wind sceptics may have their case backwards. The biggest blackout risk is not intermittent wind but the threat of total loss of a single giant power source, such as a large coal or nuclear plant, possibly within just a few seconds. But the grid is already engineered to withstand catastrophic loss with existing back-up – and wind is unlikely to change this picture for the foreseeable future.

The UK may be the windiest country in Europe, but other nations already have much greater installed capacity. Spain occasionally produces 50% of its power from wind.

Data, not assertions, are what must win the argument over wind – and the data is very clear.

Fullabrook Wind Farm Trip

Report by Jo Smoldon.

One of the best times shared with Crispin was a trip he recently organised to the Fullabrook Wind Farm in North Devon.

Wind power was one of Crispin's passions that he wanted to share with people who had heard negative things about how noisy they are, how much land they use up and how many materials they consume.

The trip was incredibly interesting. We met at the site with a representative of the company that runs the wind farm. Standing below the blades showed me how quiet they are. We learnt about the technology that can alter the speed of the blades depending on the direction of the wind to reduce noise to houses downwind. This technology is improving each time a wind farm is built.

Apart from planning time, the farm only took a year to construct (it is the largest in England). In 3 years it is carbon neutral, so the rest of its life (at least 22 years) it is combating the CO2 problem. Animals can graze and crops can be grown up to a small hard standing square below the windmill.



The photo is taken with a local Green Party member who offered us tea and biscuits after our trip. They told us how initially the locals were all against the wind farm but are now wishing they had got involved, as they realise how good wind power really is.

Thanks Crispin.

Green Party Conference Bristol

SH members took the street stall to the GP conference. Luckily the railings surrounding the Bristol Council offices offered the perfect support for the SH flag and banner.

It was very successful, with many delegates coming out to the stall and picking up information. Several people gave their contact details and expressed support. The 'no nuclear' conversation reached from the street into the conference and was raised in many of the lectures inside, including one by Jonathon Porritt.

Lib Dem Conference Brighton



Picture of the SH street stall, set up at 8.15am before the rush of delegates. It proved to be a busy weekend for Stop Hinkley members Jo Smoldon, Chinks Grylls and Ian Horsfield. Richard George of Greenpeace was on site early too. As the day 'hotted up' the sunshine combined with an 'anti-cuts' march kept us all busy.

Stop Hinkley member John Laband worked on the situation inside the conference and was successful in raising questions to Nick Clegg. Extra helpers were recruited outside to leaflet. Lou, and Stuart and 'occupy Brighton' members all came to the rescue and passed over approximately 1,500 letters to the Lib Dems.

Events

Stop Hinkley business meetings Mondays
12th November and 14th December 7.30pm
West Bow House, Milton Place
(behind the Squibb pub)
West Street, Bridgwater

Witch Watch 29th October
Samhain Soup Special 4pm onwards
last lay-by before the gates of Hinkley Point

Contacts

Membership/Treasurer/Website Manager:
Val Davey: val@stophinkley.org

Press Officer: Katy Attwater:
kattwater@hotmail.com 0798 073 1896

Local Information: Allan Jeffery
ajjeffery@talktalk.net 01278 425451

Street Stalls: Jo Smoldon:
josephine.smoldon@virgin.net
01278 459 099

www.stophinkley.org