



Newsletter December 2011

13,000 signature petition against Hinkley C delivered to Downing Street

Stop Hinkley took the battle to Downing Street on 6 December when a petition signed by almost 13,000 people opposed to Hinkley C was delivered to No. 10.

Stop Hinkley members Jo Smolden, Suki Lilienthal and Katy Attwater were joined by Wells MP Tessa Munt and Green Party leader Caroline Lucas for the presentation, which was covered in the Western Daily Press and other newspapers.

Collecting the 13,000 signatures, the majority of which were hand-written by Somerset residents, has been a major enterprise for the campaign. Thanks to all those who helped make our voice heard.



Green MP Caroline Lucas (far left), Stop Hinkley members Suki Lilienthal, Jo Smolden, Katy Attwater and Wells MP Tessa Munt outside No. 10 with the petition

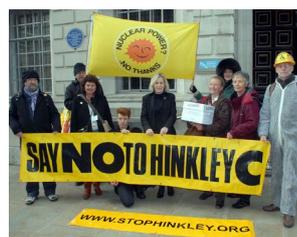
The petition received a less friendly welcome when it was presented on the same day at the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in Whitehall (see below). Despite being officially addressed to Energy Secretary Chris Huhne, he would not agree to receive it and it was instead handed in to a doorman.



Stop Hinkley issued a press statement criticising this treatment and pointing out that DECC is

allegedly packed with numerous consultants working for EDF, the proposers of Hinkley C.

Commenting on this, Caroline Lucas said: "Companies such as the big six energy firms do not lend their staff to government for nothing – they expect a certain degree of influence, insider knowledge and preferential treatment in return..."



Stop Hinkley added: "Employees of a French owned nuclear power company are lobbying on the inside of government while the passionate British public are excluded on the outside. How can this be fair in a democracy?"

The wording of the petition says: "We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the plan by EdF to construct a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset. Instead, a government-backed programme of energy saving and clean renewable energy would combat climate change and avoid the risks of a catastrophic accident, dangers to health and the storage of highly radioactive waste at Hinkley for 160 years."

A version of the petition will also be submitted by Tessa Munt to the House of Commons.

-o0o-

EDF Submits Application to IPC: Register Your Objection Now!

The official application for consent to construct the Hinkley C nuclear power station has been submitted by EDF to the Infrastructure Planning Commission in Bristol.

Running to 30,000 pages, the application details the French company's plans for the construction of two giant EPR reactors, traffic management, workers accommodation, landscaping, economic benefits, environmental effects and details of land it intends to compulsorily purchase. You can access the documents through the IPC website:

<http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/projects/south-west/hinkley-point-c-new-nuclear-power-station/>. A CD with all the documents in electronic form can also be obtained free of charge from EDF's offices in Kings Square, Bridgwater. Hard copies of all the documents can also be inspected there, as well as at Sedgemoor and West Somerset Council offices and in Taunton Library.

There's a catch, however. The IPC is not prepared to consider any arguments against the plan which challenge government policy in favour of nuclear power as enshrined in the series of Energy National Policy Statements published this summer. This technically excludes such issues as the potential for a serious accident and the disposal of radioactive waste.

Nonetheless, it is still vital that all Stop Hinkley supporters register their interest in participating in the IPC process. You can do this online at the IPC website address above or request a paper form by phoning 0303 444 5000. You have until 23 January to register.

In the section of the form where it asks for your views on the application we suggest that you choose a number of the issues raised at the Stop Hinkley website (see the section "Leaflets and Posters") but make sure you include some of the "non-nuclear" arguments against the plans such as traffic, housing, pressure on services, lack of economic benefit and damage to the local environment.

Registering does not commit you to making a fuller statement of your views but it does give you the opportunity to take part in local "open forum" meetings which are likely to be held in the vicinity of Hinkley.

Once the registration period is over the IPC will lay down a timetable for considering the application, most of which will be done by written submissions. There will be a preliminary meeting to explain the process, which any interested party can attend. A time limit of six months is laid down for the IPC to complete its examination, after which it has to make a recommendation for approval or rejection to the Secretary of State for Energy, who will have the final say.

The IPC has already held a series of advice sessions in villages near Hinkley Point. EDF will be following these with its own series in January – see www.edfenergy.com/newnuclear/hinkleypointc for details.



Surround Hinkley Point: 10-11 March 2012

On 10 - 11th March 2012 - one year since the Fukushima nuclear disaster began - we will return to Hinkley Point to form a human chain around the station to show our determined opposition to new nuclear.

After that we will continue to show our determined opposition to new nuclear with a 24-hour blockade.

In 2010, dozens of us blockaded the gates at Hinkley/

In 2011 hundreds of us blockaded the entrance again (see report below).

In 2012, thousands of us will surround the power station to say No to new nuclear! Not here, not anywhere!

In October 2011, people pledged to blockade. This time, pledge to bring 5 friends and tell them to do the same. Thousands are needed to surround the station!

The event is being organised by the Stop New Nuclear Alliance, which brings together the Stop New Nuclear Network, Stop Hinkley, CND Cymru, CND, Kick Nuclear, South West Against Nuclear, Trident Ploughshares, Shut Down Sizewell, Sizewell Blockaders and Rising Tide.

For more information about how to get involved, pledge to support the blockade and for copies of mobilising leaflets, go to <http://stopnewnuclear.org.uk>

Hinkley C Jetty Public Inquiry

A number of Stop Hinkley supporters, including Katy Attwater, Cecily Collingridge, Crispin Aubrey and Alan Jeffery gave oral and written evidence at the public inquiry held in Bridgwater into EDF's proposal to build a jetty out into the Severn Estuary to bring in aggregate and other material for the construction of Hinkley C. This is part of the company's proposed "preliminary works" in advance of the construction of the power station itself.

Despite their best efforts, however, with no opposition from any of the statutory authorities – such as the local councils, the Environment Agency and Natural England – it was hard to battle against a wall of complacent and supercilious barristers who were only interested in tying up details about the effects of the jetty.

The Inspector still has to write his report and come to a conclusion but it seems certain that he will give EDF the go-ahead.

The objections raised by Stop Hinkley supporters included the environmental damage that would be caused to the shoreline and estuary by the jetty,

the prematurity of the proposal when the power station has not yet been agreed, the potential radioactive contamination of the land to be disturbed and the lack of need for the whole project in the first place.

-o0o-

Objection Raised to Proposed Hinkley C Discharges

Stop Hinkley was one of the sponsoring organisations of a detailed report submitted by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities organisation to the Environment Agency on the levels of marine and gaseous radioactive discharges that could be permitted from the proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power station.

The report concludes that the proposed development in its current form should be rejected outright.

The submission was co-sponsored by Stop Hinkley, Friends of the Earth Cymru and CND Cymru. It was also endorsed by Caroline Lucas MP, Martin Caton MP, Paul Flynn MP, Jill Evans MEP and the Green Party of England and Wales.

The report was written by marine pollution consultant Tim Deere-Jones and consultant on radiation in the environment Dr Ian Fairlie. It was submitted to the Environment Agency in mid-December.

The overall conclusion of Tim Deere-Jones's marine discharge submission was that there are a number of highly significant weaknesses and flaws in aspects of EDF's understanding of the behaviour and fate of radioactive wastes, their proposed management of the discharges and their proposed sampling and monitoring programmes.

Full details of the report's findings can be found at www.stophinkley.org or www.nuclearpolicy.info

Thanks also to all those who responded individually to the EA consultation.

EDF fined €1.5m for spying on Greenpeace

France's state energy firm EDF has been fined €1.5m by a Paris court for spying on the environmental campaign group Greenpeace.

Its head of nuclear production security in 2006, Pascal Durieux, was given a three-year sentence with two years suspended, and a €10,000 fine for commissioning the spying. The Nanterre court also sentenced the security No 2 in 2006, Pierre-Paul François, to three years, 30 months suspended.

EDF has also been ordered to pay €500,000 in damages to Greenpeace.

EDF is the world's biggest nuclear energy supplier; it owns the UK nuclear power operator, British Energy, and is a major sponsor of the London Olympics. It was charged with complicity in concealing stolen documents and complicity to intrude on a computer network.

EDF and Greenpeace have fought for years over France's power production, more than three-quarters of it nuclear. According to confidential court testimony released by a French website, Mediapart, two years ago, EDF had organised surveillance not only of Greenpeace in France, but broadly across Europe since 2004.

In 2006, EDF hired a detective agency, Kargus Consultants, run by a former member of France's secret services, to find out about Greenpeace France's intentions and its plan to block new nuclear plants in the UK. The agency hacked the computer of Yannick Jadot, Greenpeace's then campaigns director, taking 1,400 documents.

"The fine and the damages awarded send a strong signal to the nuclear industry that nobody is above the law," said Adélaïde Colin for Greenpeace France. "In the runup to the next presidential elections ... voters should keep this scandal in mind."

The outrage among anti-nuclear campaigners echoes that which emerged when it was revealed that France's secret services were behind the bombing of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior 26 years ago. (*From Guardian, 10 Nov 2011*)

-o0o-

EDF gets time extension for Hinkley clean-up

Somerset County Council has granted EDF a time extension until the end of Feb 2012 to complete clean-work at Hinkley Point, including removing a mound containing asbestos left over from old construction. Stop Hinkley objected to this on the grounds that they'd already had six months to do the job and the real purpose was to clear the site in preparation for Hinkley C. Signs along the road referring to the "Hinkley C construction site" are therefore inaccurate.

-o0o-

October 3 Hinkley Blockade: Special Report

Up to 400 people joined a peaceful blockade at the gates of Hinkley Point power station on Monday 3 October in protest at EDF's plans for the largest nuclear plant ever built in the UK.

Protesters came from all over the country and overseas, including many local Stop Hinkley

supporters, and stayed in front of the closed main gates for nine hours, from daybreak at 7am until after 4pm. There were numerous colourful banners, street theatre re-creating a Fukushima-style evacuation and music from the band Seize the Day.

The day began with the arrival of a radiation-suited protester with a mock geiger counter to check the approach road for contamination. A giant yellow banner reading "Stop New Nuclear" was then quickly strung across the entrance to the power station in front of the locked gates and the waiting ranks of police and security guards. During the day more people arrived to swell the numbers, including representatives from Wylfa in Wales, Oldbury in Gloucestershire, Heysham in Lancashire and Sizewell in Suffolk, all places where new nuclear power stations are planned. Fifty people came in a coach from Glastonbury.



At mid-day, after a minute's silence, 206 yellow balloons with nuclear hazard signs were released into a blue sky, representing the number of days since the Japanese nuclear disaster. Some carried as far away as Gloucestershire in a matter of hours, showing how quickly radiation could spread in the event of an accident at the plant.

During the day other musicians used the open mic, there was circle dancing and street theatre. Alongside the entertainment to keep up people's spirits on a blistering hot day, the core message given out by the protest was that a new nuclear power station at Hinkley would bring even greater danger to the South West and - especially after Germany's decision to phase out nuclear - is simply not needed to keep the lights on.

A large number of police were deployed for the event and the last third of a mile of road leading up to the power station gates was coned off for several days in advance. A French gendarme, evident among the local and regional police on duty, was said to be on a training visit from near Paris. Police observation of the event included extensive filming by a CCTV team.

Because the station gates were closed voluntarily by EDF, who gave all non-essential staff the day

off, the purpose of blocking the main entrance to the plant had been achieved. Detailed

negotiations between the protest organisers and the police in advance had established a reasonable relationship. A car park and toilets were provided. There was only one arrest, for alleged possession of an offensive weapon (a craft knife); the person was released without charge.

The blockade was the culmination of a weekend of activities which started with the establishment of a protest camp near Nether Stowey, with workshops, discussions and NVDA (non-violent direct action) training.

On Saturday 1 October there was a march through the centre of Bridgwater (see box below), one of the largest demonstrations seen in the town for many years.

Bridgwater March Against Hinkley C – 1 Oct

More than 150 people marched through Bridgwater yesterday (Sat 1 October) to protest against EDF Energy's plan to construct Hinkley Point "C" nuclear power station, the largest ever planned in Britain.

Protesters converged opposite EDF Energy's regional headquarters in Kings Square with an array of costumes and banners before marching through the town centre. The leading banner read "Stop New Nuclear" and spread right across the road, stopping traffic on the last day of Bridgwater's annual fair.

Two protesters were dressed as the grim reaper and carried a large banner saying: 'Nuclear energy: the death of a safe, affordable future. Boycott EDF.' A choir from Wales sang songs opposing a new reactor proposed for Wylfa nuclear power station on Anglesey.

After the march, a rally in the Cornhill shopping area was addressed by speakers from Stop Hinkley, CND and Greenpeace France.

Yannick Rousselet, nuclear campaigner from Greenpeace France, said that construction of the Flamanville EPR reactor, the planned precursor to Hinkley C, was now well behind schedule, well over budget and the workforce was living in appalling conditions. The attraction of potential jobs had nonetheless brought an influx of people to the area, creating more unemployment than before.

The weekend's events were organised by Stop New Nuclear, an alliance of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Stop Nuclear Power Network UK, Kick Nuclear, South West Against Nuclear, Stop Hinkley, Sizewell Blockaders, Shutdown Sizewell and Trident Ploughshares.

This was the largest direct action so far taken against EDF's plans but is intended to spark a wave of protests which will get larger and more vociferous as the company attempts to progress its plans for two French EPR reactors.

Stop New Nuclear spokesperson Andreas Speck said afterwards that the blockade had put the government and EDF on the back foot. 'Following the interest this blockade has attracted, both regionally and nationally, the government and EDF can no longer claim that we need nuclear energy to keep the lights on,' he said.

There was extensive TV coverage, including the Daybreak show and BBC News Channel, as well as on the radio and in newspapers.

Nuclear debate in Bristol, 9 November

A packed meeting organised by the Nuclear Consulting Group was held in Bristol's Colston Hall on 9 November. 240 seats were taken, many people turned away and the meeting ran 20 minutes over time.

The speakers were Andy Hall, Deputy Chief Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation, Doug Parr, Chief Scientist, Greenpeace UK, Nigel Knee, Head of Nuclear Policy, Nuclear New Build, EdF Energy, Steve Thomas, Professor of Energy Policy, Greenwich University, Peter McDonald, Deputy Head of New Nuclear, Department of Energy and Climate Change, and Paul Dorfman, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Nuclear Policy Research Fellow. The meeting was chaired by Damian Carrington of the Guardian newspaper.

Doug Parr listed safety, weapons proliferation and waste among Greenpeace's main concerns. Spent fuel from the new EPR reactors would be twice as radioactive as that currently used, he said, and a massive waste dump would be needed to deal with it. Fukushima was not only a human tragedy; it would cost an estimated \$250 billion to deal with. Despite these concerns the debate on energy policy in the UK had been totally distorted by the government's concern to support the nuclear industry, including through hidden subsidies. He added that a recent study had shown how Europe could get 100% of its electricity from renewable sources at only a 10% increase in costs.

Steve Thomas spoke about economics, saying that the total liability for dealing with the UK's existing nuclear legacy (waste and decommissioning) had now reached £100m. He stressed the cost over-runs on the EPRs currently being built in Finland and France.

Stop Hinkley had a stall at the entrance to the meeting and handed out leaflets to passers-by in the street outside. It was good to have a strong message going out to Bristol, which is definitely fertile ground for opposition to Hinkley C (see "Street Stalls").

2012 Subscription Renewals

Annual subscriptions are due in February 2012. If you are due for renewal, there will be a reminder with this newsletter. You may wish to consider setting up a Standing Order which saves you the time and trouble of sending a renewal cheque and saves us the cost of sending a reminder.

Future Newsletters

This is the last newsletter that Crispin will be able to produce at present, so we need volunteers to help with production in the future. Val will be able to continue dealing with the layout, printing and posting the newsletter, but won't be able to decide on content and write the articles. If you can help contact Val, see below.

Stop Hinkley Street Stalls

Help spread the anti-nuclear message to a new audience! Jo Smoldon and her team are currently running street stalls in Glastonbury and Bristol. Volunteers to help would be much appreciated. Perhaps you can run a stall in your local town. Contact Jo for more information on 01278 459099.

Events

Stop Hinkley meeting – 9th Jan 2012

7.30 pm, West Bow House, Milton Place
(behind Squib pub) West Street, Bridgwater
This will be a relaxed discussion, with food,
on how to respond to EDF's IPC application.

**Please note: There will be no Social
evenings over Xmas/New Year**

**Surround and blockade Hinkley Point
10th -11th March 2012**

<http://stopnewnuclear.org.uk/pledges>

Contacts

Katy Attwater, Press and general enquiries:
attyhoops@hotmail.com 0798 073 1896

Allan Jeffery, Assistant Coordinator:
ajjeffery@talktalk.net 01278 425451

Val Davey, Membership, Treasurer, Website
Manager: 8 The Bartons, Yeabridge, South
Petherton TA13 5LW. val@stophinkley.org

www.stophinkley.org