



Newsletter February 2016

Hinkley Point C likely to be “dead in the water”

Stop Hinkley Press Release, 27 Jan 2016

The Stop Hinkley Campaign has learnt that the final investment decision on Hinkley Point C has been taken off the agenda of today's EDF Board meeting because of serious concerns among the private investors about how the project will be financed. The main item on the agenda is now expected to be the company's merger with Areva, the French nuclear energy group.

The managers' union CFE-CGC, which has a seat on EDF's board, posed a set of last-minute questions to the company about the financial risks. It has voiced concern that "significant" financial issues related to Hinkley could "put EDF in danger" in the long term. CFE-CGC document highlighted the construction problems at both Flamanville and another similar plant in Finland, which is 10 years behind schedule and €5bn over budget. It asked: "What is the rationale for starting construction on two EPRs [European pressurised reactors], at the same site, in such a short period of time?" The second largest shareholder after the French Government – the Association of Employee Shareholders (EAS) - has asked for the project to be halted.

Other points of interest from today's press include:

- EDF has debts of €37 billion (£28 billion) and its share price has fallen from €29 in April 2014 to €11.87 this week. Peter Atherton, an analyst at Jefferies, the US investment bank, said: "Financing such a massive project will place a significant strain on EDF's finances."
- EDF is struggling to find the cash for its 66.5% share of Hinkley Point C and is now "putting pressure on the [French] state, which owns 84.5% of the Company, to come up with fresh funds".
- According to Analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch EDF may now need to find a new financial partner to fund 16.5% of the project, reducing EDF's share to 50%.

- The earliest a final investment decision can now be made would be 16 February.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Roy Pumfrey said: "By our reckoning this is the ninth time EDF has said a final investment decision is imminent, and then nothing has happened. With all the problems that EDF has – the need to spend €55bn upgrading old French reactors; find €1.4bn to buy Areva and increasing waste disposal costs, I really can't see how the situation will be any different by 16th February".

"Problems with the construction of other EPRs at Flamanville in France, Olkiluoto in Finland and Taishan in China continue to mount up. It is now looking increasingly likely that Hinkley Point C is dead in the water."

<http://stophinkley.org/PressReleases/pr160127.pdf>

Safety review delays China's Areva-designed nuclear reactors

Authorities are looking into weaker-than-expected steel in part of the reactor vessel for an EPR.

Bloomberg News, 27 January 2016

Construction of two Areva-designed nuclear units in China is delayed while tests are conducted on the reactor vessel of a similar project in France, regulators in Beijing said on Wednesday.

China will review the construction of the reactors in the southern coastal city of Taishan, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) from Hong Kong, after French authorities complete their own safety evaluations of an Areva-designed EPR unit in France, Yao Bin, head of the nuclear emergency and security division under the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, said at a briefing on Wednesday. An Areva spokeswoman declined to comment.

PUBLIC MEETING
30 years since Chernobyl
5 years since Fukushima
THE ANNIVERSARY LEGACIES

**Chernobyl;
Casting A Shadow
Over Generations**



BY LINDA WALKER

Executive Director of Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)

“My Visit to Fukushima”

BY BRIAN JONES

Vice Chair of Wales CND

**Recently Returned
From A Study Tour
Of Fukushima**



THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2016

7.00pm for 7.30pm Till 9.30pm

Temple Methodist Church

Upper High Street

Taunton TA1 3PY

www.templemethodist.org.uk

www.stophinkley.org

mob: 07966034925

Solar Faces Off Against Nuclear Power's Latest White Elephant

[Solarlove.org](http://solarlove.org) - 28 Dec 2015

Opponents of the proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant, got something to cheer about last summer, when questions over funding brought a halt to preliminary work at the site. The delay gave solar energy advocates an opportunity to assemble more evidence that Hinkley C would result in a colossal shock for UK ratepayers compared to alternative sources. Though the project lumbered back to life last fall thanks to a massive investment by China, solar may have one last chance to make its case.

The Hinkley C Nuclear Power Plant vs Solar Power

For those of you familiar with the movement away from nuclear power in some European Union countries, the Hinkley Point C project is a bit of a head-scratcher, given the rapid drop-off in costs for wind and solar energy. The cost of energy storage technology that complements these intermittent sources is also dropping rapidly.

In contrast, the cost of Hinkley Point C has been rising, partly due to the use of newly "enhanced" nuclear technology that has not been put into commercial operation elsewhere. Two other projects with a similar design are underway in Finland and France, both suffering from delays and cost overruns that have provided Hinkley opponents with more ammunition.

Last October, The Guardian estimated that 30 million electricity customers would be on the hook for at least £4.4 billion for the new nuclear power plant, with potentially £20 billion in government subsidies.

Around the same time, the UK's Solar Trade Association also weighed in with an assessment of the damages. The STA solar power analysis is an interesting attempt to calculate how much subsidy solar power would need to achieve an electricity output equal to that of Hinkley Point C over its 35-year subsidy period.

STA points out that Hinkley C was awarded a "strike price" of £92.50 per megawatt-hour at 2012 prices, under a 35-year contract. The Guardian points out that's twice the going market rate.

The analysis found that, compared to an overall subsidy cost of £29.7 billion for Hinkley Point C, a total subsidy of only £14.7 billion would be needed for an equivalent output of electricity sourced from solar, including the solar facilities themselves, energy storage facilities, and other balancing mechanisms that complement solar power.

Three Nuclear Power White Elephants... Or Make That Two

Among other issues besetting the much-delayed project, the almost complete lack of a domestic

nuclear power supply chain in the UK means that aside from site work, much of the equipment will be sourced overseas. Here's The Guardian explaining:

At least £4bn worth of spending on items such as pipes and pumps – around 15% of the project by value – will be up for grabs for the UK but only if local companies can provide the higher specification supplies required by EDF.

Also not helping matters much is the fact that the two similar aforementioned nuclear power projects that are already underway have been experiencing, to put it mildly, problems.

The design is so complex that at one point 5,000 workers were on site. The workers had to be drawn from all over northern Europe; communication problems have been so severe that different teams appear to have been building to different specifications.

Its costs have more or less quadrupled. Already the plant is bogged down in lawsuits, as the different contracting parties blame each other for the delays and costs.

While these two projects seem too far along in construction for the plug to be pulled, opponents of the Hinkley project still have a measure of hope left. According to one source, the final details of the financials haven't been worked out yet:

The agreement between EDF and China General Nuclear Corporation will enable construction of the UK's first nuclear power plant in a generation.

With some pre-development work already complete at the Hinkley site, the construction project is due to start in earnest very soon, subject to a final investment decision.

It's also helpful to keep in mind the experience of US nuclear opponents who rallied against the Shoreham nuclear power plant, built on Long Island in New York State in at a cost of \$6 billion. They lost the battle but won the war, as the plant was completed by 1983 but never put into operation due to the lack of an evacuation plan in the densely populated New York City metro region.

Electricity customers on Long Island are still cleaning up after the mess in the form of higher rates, and since nobody wants to pay for the cost of dismantling the facility it has continued to take up real estate that could be put to other uses, providing a stellar demonstration of what not to do in terms of nuclear power planning.

As for Hinkley Point C, sometimes you just have to learn the hard way.

<http://solarlove.org/solar-faces-off-nuclear-powers-latest-white-elephant/>

New reactors would quadruple waste stockpile

Stop Hinkley has published a new briefing on the huge impact a new reactor programme would have on the UK's radioactive waste stockpile.

The proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power station alone would produce radioactive wastes and spent fuel with a radioactivity inventory equal to roughly 80% of the radioactivity in all of the UK's existing radioactive wastes put together.

The Stop Hinkley Campaign uses figures from Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) Ltd which show that the UK's proposed 16GW new reactor programme will altogether increase the UK waste inventory in terms of radioactivity four-fold. And if the industry ever finds a site to put this dangerous waste deep underground the amount of space required underground would almost triple.

As the Stop Hinkley Campaign notes it is morally reprehensible and totally irresponsible to go ahead with building new reactors when we still have no idea what we are going to do with the waste we have already created.

<http://stophinkley.org/PressReleases/ImpactNewReactorProgrammeUK.pdf>

Hinkley Update

The 6 union members on EDF's 18-seat board would vote against the French utility's plans for two nuclear reactors in the UK, but other board members do not want to postpone the project, sources familiar with the situation said. The unions want EDF to put off the £18bn project to build two Areva-designed EPRs at Hinkley Point in southwest England until it has strengthened its balance sheet and started up at least one of the four EPRs it has under construction elsewhere.

With six seats on the 18-member board the unions are a large minority block and would need to get at least three other board members to side with them.

<http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/news/3-february-2016/>

www.stophinkley.org

Renewals & Postal problems

In December, for some inexplicable reason, the Royal Mail returned a few of the letters addressed to Stop Hinkley at 8 The Bartons, TA13 5LW. If your renewal has been returned, you may prefer to by-pass the post by using PayPal. You can use a debit or credit card to pay via the Donate button on our website at <http://stophinkley.org/JoinDon.htm> or log into your PayPal account and send a payment to admin@stophinkley.org.

Alternatively, please send your renewal again. There is no reason why it should not be delivered and I hope that the glitch was caused by temporary Xmas staff. Most of the post has been safely received and the renewals processed. Many acknowledgements were sent by email and others are included in this mailing. If you have sent a renewal; but not received a receipt, please get in touch.

We apologise to everyone who has been inconvenienced by this problem and many thanks to all of you who have renewed. Your continuing loyal support is greatly appreciated.

Events

All Events information here:
<http://stophinkley.org/Events.htm>

Stop Hinkley meetings

Mondays 15 Feb & 21 March at 7pm
West Bow House, Milton Place
Off West Street, Bridgwater TA6 3RT
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Hinkley C Information Evening.

Fri 4 March 7pm: Talk by Roy Pumfrey of Stop Hinkley, short film & discussion
Crossroads Carers Centre, 1 Graham Road,
Weston-s-Mare BS23 1YA
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Public Meeting remembering Chernobyl and Fukushima

Thurs 10 March in Taunton. See page 2.
Please display the poster.
Contact Val or Jo for more copies

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