



# Newsletter July 2011

## EDF Application to Start Work on Hinkley C: Protest at Council Planning Meeting, Williton, 28 July

The application by Electricite de France to carry out substantial “preparatory works” at the site proposed for the Hinkley C nuclear reactors will be decided by West Somerset Council on 28 July.

If granted permission, EDF will effectively be allowed to start the pre-construction of Hinkley C. Their plans include clearing over 400 acres of land of all vegetation and trees and excavating large holes where the reactors would be sited. The amount of soil and rocks to be excavated is more than was dug up for the London Olympic Games.

West Somerset Council is devoting a whole day to the Planning Committee meeting at its Williton offices, starting at 10.00 on Thursday 28 July. Stop Hinkley supporters will be outside from 9.00 with the message that this beautiful stretch of countryside should not be trashed before EDF has even applied for permission to install the reactors. This will involve a separate application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Join us for the protest with your own placards and voices. We need to make the strength of local opinion clear to the elected members of the Planning Committee.

Stop Hinkley has also applied to speak during the meeting itself. A number of SH speakers are expected to be allowed 3 minutes each to make their points to the Councillors.

More details of the meeting and the Planning Officer's recommendations at [www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Planning---Building/Planning/Hinkley-Point/Planning-Committee-28-July-2011](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Planning---Building/Planning/Hinkley-Point/Planning-Committee-28-July-2011)

- This meeting follows two important recent decisions in Parliament – to rubber stamp government policy in favour of nuclear power through a series of National Policy Statements and to provide additional nuclear subsidies through changes to the way the electricity market operates. See [www.no2nuclearpower.org](http://www.no2nuclearpower.org) for more details.

## Stop the Next Generation of Nuclear Power Stations: Blockade at Hinkley Point on 3rd Oct

*(From the Stop New Nuclear Campaign)*

Hinkley Point is the first of eight sites proposed by the government for nuclear “new build”. We stopped them here before (in the 1980s) and we can do it again. If they fail at Hinkley, it is unlikely the “nuclear renaissance” will have the momentum to continue.



With the catastrophe still unfolding at Fukushima in Japan it is unbelievable that the British government is still continuing with its plans. Other countries have put their nuclear plans on hold, or, like Germany, abandoned them altogether in favour of a switch to safe, non-polluting renewable energy.

Like a mantra, the government and the nuclear industry keep repeating that Fukushima could not happen in Britain because there are no earthquakes of that magnitude. We heard similar excuses after Chernobyl (1986) and Three Mile Island (1979). But nuclear accidents can and do happen – even in Britain; the disaster at

Windscale in 1957 released massive levels of radiation into the atmosphere.

If we continue to use and expand nuclear power, there will certainly be more catastrophic accidents, not to mention all the other enormous problems associated with nuclear power production.

### **We can stop new nuclear**

The government and the nuclear industry want us to believe that nuclear new build in Britain is a done deal. They want to discourage us from protesting – the message they want us to swallow is clear: opposition is futile, and we will be going ahead anyway!

However, that couldn't be further from the truth. Yes, the government has introduced a framework which effectively will subsidise new nuclear at our expense – as electricity consumers and taxpayers. Yes, the government has effectively deprived local communities from having a say in the planning process for new nuclear and other major infrastructure projects, thus dumping a crucial cornerstone of local democracy.

But nuclear new build in Britain is already behind schedule and has faced legal and other setbacks. Public concern is mounting following the Fukushima disaster. If we can stop the building at Hinkley, we can stop the whole process. Now is the time to mobilise and take action.

New nuclear in Britain is far from being a done deal, and we can still stop it!

### **CAN YOU HELP WITH THE BLOCKADE?**

This will mark the start of a campaign of non-violent civil resistance against the new nuclear power stations planned by the government and to prevent another disaster like the one still unfolding in Japan.

We would like you to help us in any way you can, even if it is only to sign our pledge on the [website](http://stopnewnuclear.org.uk/). Visit <http://stopnewnuclear.org.uk/> for further information. The blockade is supported by Stop Hinkley and other organisations, including national CND.

We are holding a local meeting at Friends Meeting House, 10 Friarn Street, Bridgwater TA6 3LH from 10.15am to 2pm on Saturday 13th August.

The meeting will outline and discuss plans for the blockade and work out ways in which locals can provide support. Would you be willing and able to support the blockade?

Accommodation will be needed for various periods from Friday 30th September to Monday October 3rd. Most people will be camping but there will be a few people who cannot camp. Has anyone got a spare bed or even floor space?

Drivers and vehicles will be needed for a few chores over the weekend, running to and from the campsite, but mainly we need people willing to collect those arrested from police stations on the Monday and take them to a central place.

If you are broadly in sympathy with our aim of replacing nuclear power with clean, safe, sustainable, renewable energy, but find it difficult to accept our campaign of non-violent civil resistance you will be most welcome to address your concerns to the speakers or other people at the meeting on 13 August.

**For more information contact Peter Kirkham:** [peter.j.kirkham@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.j.kirkham@btinternet.com) or 01278 453843

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### **Environment Agency meeting on Hinkley Point contamination**

Officials from the Environment Agency met with local Councillors and officers, representatives of Green Audit and Stop Hinkley at Rivers House, Bridgwater on 1<sup>st</sup> July to discuss the allegations of radioactive contamination at the site earmarked at Hinkley Point for the proposed new nuclear power reactors by the French company EdF Energy.

Presentations were made by Bridgwater resident and independent researcher Cecily Collingridge and by Professor Chris Busby of Green Audit and the University of Ulster. There was discussion of the evidence to be found in the EdF application to carry out "preliminary works" at the site that enriched uranium was present in the soil.

*(More details at [www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org))*

## "Government Tried to Play Down Effects of Japanese Accident"

The Stop Hinkley campaign raised the issue of the dangerously cosy relationship between the nuclear industry and the government at a meeting in London earlier this month. This followed revelations that government officials tried to play down the potential effect of the Fukushima accident in Japan on the UK's nuclear ambitions.

A number of organisations representing the anti-nuclear movement, including Stop Hinkley, met the head of the Office of Nuclear Regulation, Mike Weightman, as well as officials from the Department of Energy's Office for Nuclear Development. They discussed the lessons to be learned from the events in Japan.

Private emails revealed in the *Guardian* newspaper showed that government officials asked the nuclear industry to play down the potential effects of the Fukushima nuclear accident.

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## Stop Hinkley at Glastonbury

There was a good presence of Stop Hinkley at Glastonbury Festival this year (22-26 June). Six members joined forces with other anti-nuclear groups, coordinated by the Aldermaston Women, and based in the Green Futures Field, where the stall was able to spill out among young trees, and was clearly recognisable by large 'No to Nuclear Power' and 'Remember Fukushima' flags. In the event everyone worked hard campaigning for Stop Hinkley as this issue is now seen as more immediate. Next door in the Croissant Neuf Field there were also 'No to Nuclear Power' flags flying high on large poles.

Overall, the campaign was better represented at this year's Festival. There was a mention in the official programme and a short film sponsored by Greenpeace and Stop Hinkley was shown on the Pyramid stage between acts. Green MP Caroline Lucas (Stop Hinkley patron), speaking on the Pyramid stage, encouraged people to go to Hinkley next year to demonstrate on the last weekend in June as there would be no Glastonbury Festival.

In spite of the mud and rain everyone had a good time. Over a thousand signatures were

collected for the petition and many very interesting discussions had with festival goers. It became apparent that there is great interest in attending the peaceful, non-violent blockade of Hinkley on 3 October.

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## Pedal Power at Hinkley

About 30 cyclists from the Bicycology group visited Hinkley Point on 3 July to hear about the Stop Hinkley campaign. They were given a guided tour of the site by Crispin Aubrey, who pointed out the area of countryside that would be destroyed by EdF's "preliminary works".

The night before they met Crispin and Sue Aubrey and Trevor Houghton, another campaigner who was involved in the original late 1980s battle against nuclear power. This culminated in the successful scrapping of plans for a Hinkley "C" power station.

The Hinkley stop-over was part of a ten day "Silent Victories" tour which took the cyclists round a series of West Country locations where environmental campaigns are being pursued, and in some cases won.

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## Nuclear News: Flamanville Delayed

*(From Financial Times, 21 July)*

EDF has been forced to delay one of the worlds biggest atomic power projects by two years in part because of the need to carry out stringent new safety tests following the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster in Japan. Europe's biggest power generator also warned that the expected costs of the project the first new nuclear reactor to be built in France in 15 years had risen to 6bn (\$9bn).

The company originally hoped to have the new 1,650-megawatt plant at Flamanville in northern France up and running by 2012 and had pencilled in a construction cost of 3.3bn. The cost over-runs and delays are a blow to the state-owned company and to France because the reactor, known as the EPR, is the first of a new generation of reactors that Paris hopes to export around the world.

Another EPR reactor is being built in Finland by Areva, the French nuclear group, but that has also been beset by delays and spiralling costs. EDF said there were structural and economic reasons behind the new delays to the Flamanville site in Normandy. However, it highlighted specific delays related to the need to carry out new safety audits in the wake of the Fukushima catastrophe.

## NEW! Anti-Nuclear Flags



**SPECIAL OFFER TO STOP HINKLEY MEMBERS - ONLY £9 incl. UK P&P**  
(usual price £11.50)

Two designs to choose from:

- ❖ **Nuclear Power? No Thanks** (Yellow, with red smiling face, above)
- ❖ **Remember Fukushima** (White with red image, below)



90 x 150cm (2' x 3') Great for festivals, protests and the Hinkley blockade on 3rd October.

Pay by Cheque or PayPal.  
Contact [admin@stophinkley.org](mailto:admin@stophinkley.org)  
or send a cheque (payable to "Stop Hinkley")  
to Stop Hinkley, 8 The Bartons, Yeabridge,  
South Petherton TA13 5LW.

All proceeds to Stop Hinkley campaign funds.  
Also available on Ebay and at  
[www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org)

## ++ Do you have email? ++

If you don't already receive the newsletter by email, we can send it to you more quickly and economically via the internet. Please contact [admin@stophinkley.org](mailto:admin@stophinkley.org) We can also send you a paper copy by post if you want, but it will arrive a few days later.

Once you are on the email contact list, you will also receive other mailings about local events and updates.

If you are already receiving the newsletter by email and don't require the paper copy, please let us know.

## Events

**Stop Hinkley 'business' meetings** are held on the second **Monday** of each **month - August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm at West Bow House, Milton Place (behind Squib pub) West Street, Bridgwater

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**Stop Hinkley Social evenings**  
Mondays 7.30pm **August 1<sup>st</sup> (Hope Inn, Taunton Road, B'water) 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**.  
(Every Monday unless there is a business meeting or bank holiday.) Ring Peter for details and to confirm location 01278 453843

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**Protest at Planning Committee meeting and vigil for Fukushima**  
From 9.00 am, 28<sup>th</sup> July outside West Somerset Council offices, Killick Way, Williton TA4 4QA

## A SERIES OF FILMS



MONTHLY  
WEDNESDAYS  
7PM

FRIENDS MEETING  
HOUSE  
FRIARN STREET  
BRIDGWATER

£3 Donation  
(No one turned away  
for lack of funds)

In this Year, the 25th Anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, there is, in Japan an unfolding catastrophe of unknown proportions. Whilst here in the UK we are faced with government plans for New Nuclear Builds starting here in Somerset...The media are remarkably quiet, they are not discussing the issues but we are! In the coming months we will be showing.....

**HEAVY WATER** 13th July

A Film for Chernobyl

**INTO ETERNITY** 10th Aug

Kubrik made real.you will question everything

**WINDSCALE** 24th Aug

Britain's biggest nuclear accident

Stop Hinkley & South West Against Nuclear

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