



# Newsletter

## April 2018

### Nuclear watchdog raises Hinkley C concerns

Guardian, 25 March

The UK nuclear regulator has raised concerns with EDF Energy over management failings that it warns could affect safety at the Hinkley Point C power station if left unaddressed, official documents reveal.

Britain's chief nuclear inspector identified several shortcomings in the way the French firm is managing the supply chain for the £20bn plant it is building in Somerset.

Though not serious enough alone to raise regulatory issues, together they "may indicate a broader deficiency" in the way the company is run, concluded Mark Foy, chief inspector at the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

In October and November 2017, a team of 11 inspectors led by Foy visited the Hinkley site, EDF facilities in Bristol and Paris, and a French factory making parts for the plant.

The visits were triggered by the regulator's concerns that EDF did not have sufficient oversight of the Creusot nuclear forge in France, where records have been found to be falsified.

A summary of the inspections, published by the ONR earlier this month, judged EDF's supply chain management to be improving but below standard in some areas.

The full reports, released to the Guardian under freedom of information rules, paint a critical picture. They show that:

- The ONR was concerned that EDF's internal oversight and governance had not identified the shortcomings at the forge
- Stuart Crooks, Hinkley Point C managing director, admitted that EDF, not the ONR, should have spotted those shortcomings first
- A lack of resources meant EDF did not undertake an internal audit of its quality control processes during 2017. Foy said this was "disappointing" as it might have picked up problems

On safety, the report said: "Throughout this ... inspection, themes have emerged that relate to both improvements in NNB GenCo's [the EDF subsidiary building Hinkley] processes and to shortfalls in management system arrangements

that, if unresolved, have the potential to affect safety."

EDF's own assessment of how it managed Hinkley's supply chain had discovered shortfalls that could affect safety, the regulator found. The ONR also felt that the company's plan for improving its self-assessment process was inadequate.

Moreover, they said that it was not clear who at EDF was managing quality control on the supply chain.

Interviews with EDF's contractors for the Hinkley project, which include civil engineering groups Kier BAM and Bylor, also found that EDF had not done enough to pass on information about the failings at the Creusot forge to its suppliers.

However, the regulator said it was confident the company could make improvements before the next key regulatory milestone for the power station, in August 2018. Overall, EDF was found to be operating within the UK's exacting nuclear regulations.

"Current arrangements for the control of quality are judged, through ONR's wider regulatory activities, to be appropriate at present," said Foy.

Experts said the inspection's conclusions were significant as nuclear regulation language is usually restrained.

Paul Dorfman, of the Energy Institute at University College London, said: "Looking at this report with a practiced eye, you can see that the UK regulators are worried, and things aren't necessarily going to get any better.

"In all things nuclear, safety is absolutely paramount. The fact that the UK nuclear regulator says that these problems could affect safety is very significant."

EDF said it was already implementing improvement measures where required before an increase in construction activity at the site. The company is also completing the outstanding internal quality assurance programme.

A spokesperson said: "The chief nuclear inspector's report recognises that the current quality control arrangements for Hinkley Point C are appropriate."

# HPC Site Tour, Thursday 22 March 2018

Roy Pumfrey

After nearly 18 months, I thought another visit to the site might be interesting. Spoiler alert - it's an enormous hole in the ground, seen better in the recent drone footage that has shocked people preparing to resist a new nuclear power station being built near them.

18 of us pitched up at the EdeF office in Angel Place. Ex-EdeF employees wander about offering info. When asked about the model PWR, one told me that they do work on nuclear submarines; he didn't appreciate the difference in scale between a sub and any of the PWRs on power station sites that don't work. After checking our status by photo ID, the random security check picked me out for frisking, much to the amusement of the resident security guard.

EdeF are proud of their office having just chalked up its 75,000th visitor; the fact that that was a primary school child seemed immaterial, it's just about footfall. To be fair, they are equally proud about, in the UK at least, being big on renewable electricity generation.

They showed the same promo videos as at the Community Forum, the most misleading of which purports that 50% of the new Apprentices are photogenic women. Sadly, the truth is that only 15% of the on-site workforce are women. They also set store by people retraining as the project moves through its phases, which is great, but undermines the '25k Job Opportunities' claim if one person is getting several of them. A farmer in the group offered disgruntlement that his tractor driver is threatening to quit as, desirably skilled as he is, he can get paid far more than the farmer can afford working at HPC.

New to me was a 'Gridwatch' website which shows live how much electricity the UK is using and how it's being generated. Nuclear was only 18%, which means that there must have been more of those nuclear 'outages' viewable on EdeF's own website.

The most interesting part of the journey to HPC was meeting two huge dumper trucks being transported away from the site. They had Police motorcycle and car outriders which were causing consternation to unsuspecting motorists. More worryingly, as they avoided the bollards in the middle of the road where our coach was parked up, they 'scythed' over the pavement on their near side; a pedestrian could easily have stepped off their front path onto the pavement and been knocked down. Accident waiting to happen.

Once at HPC, we picked up our own security guard; his purpose was to make sure we didn't get off the coach or take any photos (clearly he wasn't about when the sit-in was on and strikers videoed themselves in the canteen).

The tour took in less of the site than previously. The hideous temporary accommodation campus is coming along, but it will be 'summer' 2018 before there's anything on site or in Bridgwater to take the pressure off the local rented accommodation market. A local one bedroomed cottage 'ON HPC BUS ROUTE' - their block capitals - is going for £520pcm.

The guides are long standing HPB guides with a HPC script; they're less able to deal with questions about HPC than HPB.

The supposedly permanent Control Building looks as temporary as the other office, welfare and operations buildings.

They're keen to bombard visitors with big figures, there's a lot of shock and awe about, as many of the tour party were retired HPA and HPB workers. They bandy the '3 million tonnes of concrete' about as if that were a good thing. There's no appreciation that each tonne of concrete produces 140kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, so that's over half a million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> going into the atmosphere and contributing to climate change before HPC ever generates a single kwh of electricity, if it ever does.

The jetty is proceeding apace; shame it takes so much material shipped in by road to build it and, of course, a lot of HGV trips to haul away the steel when it's dismantled, like all the temporary buildings, once the structure is complete.

It becomes clear that Lady Gass, the site landowner, has only sold the land the completed power station will occupy; everything to the south of the historic Green Lane will have to be cleared and restored as it's only rented to EdeF.

Ecology continues to be a challenge for EdeF. The bats have to have trees moved in and out in the evenings and as for those pesky badgers! Some of them can scale the fences to get back to their territory, others have learned to hide by the gates and slip into the site when the gates open for vehicles!

In addition to the disgruntled farmer, a teacher from City Academy, Bristol was on the tour; I hope to take the electric car on a trip to enlighten his Year 9 about the reality of new nuclear, though he was pretty clued up himself.

We all thanked the guides for the tour. Demand is such that they now run on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Unless visitors appreciate that digging out 4m tonnes of earth and dumping it in the Holford culvert, constructing miles of galleries for cabling and piping and getting the concrete mixes consistent is the 'easy' part of the work and getting the reactor to work is infinitely more difficult, they will be impressed.

# Fukushima Exhibition in Taunton

It was a wonderful opportunity for Stop Hinkley to have Lis Fields Exhibition '20 millisieverts per year.' at the CIC centre Taunton to give us insight here in the West Country to the situation in Japan since the awful nuclear accident of Fukushima 2011. The exhibition focused in detail on the many different aspects of the disaster that had not been previously publicized in other reporting. Lis had an eye for observing and a unique way of capturing the heart wrenching aspects of what it is actually like for the people that have survived the disaster and their need to look for a safe future for themselves, their families and future generations. All aspects of the artwork lead us to shout from the rooftops "No more nuclear please....."

The Exhibition triggered 2 letters from a local resident that had viewed the exhibition that were printed by the West Country newspaper Western Daily press. Here are extracts:

My recent visit to Taunton took me to the CIC - The Creative Innovation Centre, Paul Street, Taunton, where I was in awe of the Fukushima Exhibition '20 millisieverts per year'. The current display is a collection of snapshots of the horrific nuclear accident at Fukushima Japan 2011 and the 7 years that have unfolded since.

None of us can imagine the reality of what it must be like living with radiation risk – you can't see it, you can't trust your government to keep you safe from it and all around you people are suffering the fallout from it. The photos are separate insights into the situation that has developed since 2011. From the vastness of the radioactive waste build up, the leaking daily of gallons of contaminated waste water into the landscape and Pacific ocean, the constant risk of a further earth tremor causing a compounding nuclear disaster to questions of food safety and realisation that hot spots have been found in Tokyo. Each portrait tells an individual story that has been captured by Lis Fields the artist who went to see for herself what is happening now in Japan.

The difficulties that arise from such an event are unimaginable by those of us who live on the other side of the world. So many people see it as a disaster that happened 'over there' but, as with global warming, the effects are being felt across the planet.

The collection has so many facets to think about, different view points that trigger thoughts closer to home. As I watch Hinkley C nuclear power station being built right next to the sea, which will have extremely high level radioactive waste stored for over 160 years, I can't help drawing parallels to the potential risk we are under here in Somerset.

For me the words of Mrs Yuhiko Aoki captured on one of the photos resonate loud and clear: "Please learn from Fukushima. Please learn from

our mistake. You do not want to apologise to your own children, to your grandchildren, for making the wrong choice before they were even born. I believe no one in this world should go through what Fukushima is going through right now. I deeply hope my voice helps you make a wise decision"

## Incredible co-incidence - a shock

As I sat watching the Stop Hinkley sponsored 'Little voices from Fukushima' film at the Creative Innovation Centre (CIC) in Taunton one Saturday afternoon, listening to the disturbing facts following the nuclear disaster after the Japanese earthquake on 11th March 2011, I find out that the biggest earthquake to hit the UK since 1906 was happening here at 2.31pm!

What an earth shattering co-incidence it was that the horrors that are unfolding in Japan, could happen here. Unseen radiation contaminated food, children with growths in their thyroid glands, distressed mothers not knowing which way to turn to keep their families safe but wanting them to lead a 'normal' life, fractured families distraught with guilt, fear and huge anxiety that will never go away. All this could have been our future too if Hinkley Point B station had been just a bit closer to the epicentre. The aging reactors, already showing cracks in their graphite cores, are extremely vulnerable to any external movement such as earth tremors.

There can be no better warning for us all here in Somerset than the earth movements of that Saturday afternoon are telling us to stop nuclear power. We don't need nuclear any more. We need to move on to the renewable revolution that is happening around the world. Other countries are taking the moral high ground and making decisions for a sustainable green future and considering the carbon footprint of their energy choices.

Have a think about that when the next 300 Hansen lorries thunder past you to take rubble out to build the next Hinkley nuclear reactor.

Radioactive contamination is for life, for hundreds of generations of life. What we do now shapes the lives of the future people of this planet, and indeed mother earth is watching.....

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## Somerset hit by 'earthquake' according to seismic monitoring sites

UK residents from Cornwall to Liverpool are reporting feeling tremors as seismic monitoring systems pick up an earthquake.

According to a Greek seismic monitoring site the quake happened in South Wales and had a magnitude of 5.

## An Inspirational Few Days

Allan Jeffery and Sue Aubrey

Stop Hinkley were invited to attend the Lush Summit Feb 14-15th which took place at the Old Billingsgate Fish Market, London. You will have all walked past Lush shops with highly scented soaps wafting from the entrances. We had no idea that there were over 100 Lush shops in the UK and 1,000 worldwide.

The summit was a hotbed of discussion and debate on activism from campaigners and grass root groups and there were Lush workers from the UK and from all over the world. The air was full of energy, commitment and passion, with the belief that we CAN make a difference. Some of the areas covered included conservation, pollution, animal and human rights, migration, universal benefits, LGBT and digital ethics.

Stop Hinkley members spent most of the time in the Environment Corner where there was a display of SH photographs and where Allan Jeffery did a presentation on the reasons why we don't need nuclear power and the problems of nuclear waste. We met Rik from Kick Nuclear who was presenting on Fukushima and Helga Kolb-Kromp and Wolfgang Kromp from Austria. Helga works at the Institute of Meteorology in Vienna and spoke passionately about global warming and Wolfgang, professor at University of Vienna, explained how Austria built a nuclear power station that has never operated because the government held a referendum that was narrowly won by the anti-nuclear lobby.

These 2 days were really inspirational and we met people from all over the world.

Helga and Wolfgang came back to Somerset and walked around Hinkley C site and later met more SH members for a meal where all had interesting educational discussions. They had time to look around the Fukushima exhibition in Taunton before going home.

## Contacts

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## Tributes have been paid following the death of Stop Hinkley member Phillip Wearne

We are sorry to report the death of Phillip Wearne on Wednesday 14th March 2018 following a sudden cardiac arrest in North Devon on Sunday 11th March from which he was unable to recover.

After a private goodbye his family plan to hold a Celebration of Phillip's life later in the year.



He campaigned on numerous issues. He was instrumental in organising the North Devon Sees Red Day, which saw thousands of people gather in Barnstaple to demonstrate against health cuts, as well as fighting for democracy in Latin America. His support for Stop Hinkley will be greatly missed.

He was described by his family as a Mentor, Advocate, Campaigner and Activist for Social Justice and Champion of the underdog. Phillip was passionate about everything he was involved with. His loss will be felt far and wide by all those whose lives he touched in so many ways.

## Events

**Stop Hinkley meetings**  
**Mondays 16 April & 21 May at 7pm**  
**West Bow House, Milton Place**  
**Off West Street, Bridgwater TA6 7RT**  
**NB the AGM is on 18 June**