



**Newsletter**  
**May 2010**

# Hinkley C application slips amidst uncertainty

**The anticipated date for the Hinkley C planning application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission has slipped by four months from 2nd August to 1st December.** This is the second delay in the application which was originally expected at the beginning of July.

The delay comes amidst new uncertainty over the project following the appointment of an anti-nuclear Energy Secretary Chris Huhne. In the Times on 15<sup>th</sup> May Chris Huhne strengthened his assertion that new nuclear build will not receive any Government subsidies including in the event of a nuclear accident. This is a hardening of position from the previous Labour Government who had not insisted on full liability insurance for the proposed generation of reactors. The cost of full insurance may well be prohibitive to developers such as EdF Energy who want to build two giant reactors on the Somerset coast.

## **N-waste subsidy**

Chris Huhne may also be under pressure from anti-nuclear Lib-Dem colleagues to examine other potential aspects of Government subsidy such as the Labour proposal for fixed pricing of nuclear waste management after the expected 60 year life of the reactors. This pricing model would give some assurance to the industry over future costs of nuclear waste disposal but could be at the expense of tax-payers. A Deep Disposal Repository is thought to cost between £12 and £20 billion. But no country in the world has a working deep repository and future costs could spiral. Barack Obama last year threw out the proposed US repository at Yucca Mountain in Utah after 20 years of development and the German nuclear repository has been mired in controversy following the discovery of misinformation from former Chancellor Helmut Kohl over its safety. Obliging to the nuclear industry, the Labour Government missed out the risks of no repository being available in the recent 300 page National Nuclear Policy Statement. Chris Huhne will have the job of rewriting this document with obvious risks to nuclear developers.

## **Fast-track Planning**

The unelected quango which is the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) is to be replaced with a Conservative model known as the Major Infrastructure Unit. It is said to be more democratic and accountable but will still have fast-track powers and a start date has not yet been set. In any case a rewritten Nuclear Policy Statement (NPS) to guide the planning process may also involve the appraisal of the on-site spent fuel store which EdF want to build alongside Hinkley C. The spent nuclear fuel will be so hot and radioactive it will need to cool in the storage pond for one hundred years when it comes out of the reactor. Given the 60 year life of the reactors, the dangerous toxic fuel would be sited at Hinkley and other nuclear sites for 160 years but inexplicably the Labour NPS document did not require the IPC to examine this crucial part of the power station planning application.

## **Public Inquiry**

Chris Huhne's colleague and former Shadow Energy Secretary, Simon Hughes, has called for a public inquiry into the 'Justification' of new nuclear build. The 'Justification' process is an EU requirement to judge the health detriment of new radioactive processes against any benefits. Governments can call a public inquiry to make this judgement but the Labour Government signalled that pro-nuclear Ed Milliband would say yes or no in his role as Energy Secretary. Stop Hinkley supported other campaigners and academics in saying this biased approach was wrong and in fairness a public inquiry was needed. If Chris Huhne does set up the inquiry this will delay EdF and other nuclear proposals, adding to their costs and uncertainty.

No reason for the Hinkley C planning delay is currently available from either the Infrastructure Planning Commission or EdF Energy who simply said: "We still have a lot to do and must get it right."

The new 1<sup>st</sup> December date is clearly shown on the IPC projects page.

### **Carbon price 'floor'**

EdF has been calling for a compulsory minimum price below which the cost of carbon emitted by energy producers cannot fall, saying it will pull out of new nuclear build if the UK cannot provide this consumers' subsidy which may add between £35 (EdF's estimate) and £200 (other experts' opinion) to annual electricity bills. Many believe it would be unworkable for the UK to set this up, separately from the EU.

### **Reactions to EdF consultation**

EdF Energy has also been expected to launch the second phase of its local consultation on Hinkley C for some time with an anticipated date of late spring or early summer. They received over 1,000 replies to the first round of their consultation from which the results have still not been revealed. According to their December '08 Hinkley C Newsletter, respondents to a pilot questionnaire felt the top 'issues that needed to be addressed **to a very great extent'** (EdF's emphasis) were:

- Pollution / emissions control 77%
- Health and safety of surrounding communities 75%
- Traffic on local roads 68%

Since then the 'Save Cannington Action Group' has called for a complete rerouting of traffic through the village and for the abandonment of plans for hostels, park and ride schemes and a lorry depot which campaigners say would traumatise the village. 800 Canningtonians signed a petition to this effect.

Williton residents have also called for plans for hostels to be thrown out with a West Somerset Free Press poll showing a large majority against local hostels. The view seems to be that all anticipated 4,000 workers should be accommodated on the massive 500 acre Hinkley site.

In an unusual act of defiance, West Somerset Council last month rejected an EdF planning application to dig twenty trenches near the village of Shurton after numbers of angry villagers wrote in to say the plan was not justified and development should be contained nearer the coast.

Jim Duffy, spokesman for Stop Hinkley said: "It's an uncertain time right now for the nuclear industry with the sudden requirement on them to insure their reactors against a nuclear disaster. The loss of this and other hidden subsidies which the industry was expecting may well be making EdF think twice about their giant project at Hinkley. I hope Chris Huhne and his colleagues stick to their guns over public subsidies, reverse the unelected fast-track planning process and set up the public inquiry on nuclear justification that his colleagues have called for. These are fair requirements but if the industry cannot fulfil them it will be a relief for many, many people."

## **Chernobyl Radiation Killed Nearly One Million People**

**NEW YORK, April 26, 2010 ENS**

**Nearly one million people around the world died from exposure to radiation released by the 1986 nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl reactor, finds a new book from the New York Academy of Sciences published today on the 24th anniversary of the meltdown at the Soviet facility.**

The book, "Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment," was compiled by authors Alexey Yablokov of the Center for Russian Environmental Policy in Moscow, and Vassily Nesterenko and Alexey Nesterenko of the Institute of Radiation Safety, in Minsk, Belarus.

The authors examined more than 5,000 published articles and studies, most written in Slavic languages and never before available in English.

The authors said, "For the past 23 years, it has been clear that there is a danger greater than nuclear weapons concealed within nuclear power. Emissions from this one reactor exceeded a hundred-fold the radioactive contamination of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

"No citizen of any country can be assured that he or she can be protected from radioactive contamination. One nuclear reactor can pollute half the globe," they said. "Chernobyl fallout covers the entire Northern Hemisphere."

Their findings are in contrast to estimates by the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency that initially said only 31 people had died among the "liquidators," those approximately 830,000 people who were in charge of extinguishing the fire at the Chernobyl reactor and deactivation and cleanup of the site.

**The book finds that by 2005, between 112,000 and 125,000 liquidators had died.**

"On this 24th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, we now realize that the consequences were far worse than many researchers had believed," says Janette Sherman, MD, the physician and toxicologist who edited the book.

Drawing upon extensive data, the authors estimate the number of deaths worldwide due to Chernobyl fallout from 1986 through 2004 was 985,000, a number that has since increased.

By contrast, WHO and the IAEA estimated 9,000 deaths and some 200,000 people sickened in 2005.

On April 26, 1986, two explosions occurred at reactor number four at the Chernobyl plant which tore the top from the reactor and its building and exposed the reactor core. The resulting fire sent a plume of radioactive fallout into the atmosphere and over large parts of the western Soviet Union, Europe and across the Northern Hemisphere. Large areas in Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia had to be evacuated.

Yablokov and his co-authors find that radioactive emissions from the stricken reactor, once believed to be 50 million curies, may have been as great as 10 billion curies, or **200 times greater than the initial estimate, and hundreds of times larger than the fallout from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.**

Nations outside the former Soviet Union received high doses of radioactive fallout, most notably Norway, Sweden, Finland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Austria, Romania, Greece, and parts of the United Kingdom. About 550 million Europeans, and 150 to 230 million others in the Northern Hemisphere received notable contamination. Fallout reached the United States and Canada nine days after the disaster.

The proportion of children considered healthy born to irradiated parents in Belarus, the Ukraine, and European Russia fell from about 80 percent to less than 20 percent since 1986.

Numerous reports reviewed for this book document elevated disease rates in the Chernobyl area. These include increased fetal and infant deaths, birth defects, and diseases of the respiratory, digestive, musculoskeletal, nervous, endocrine, reproductive, hematological, urological, cardiovascular, genetic, immune, and other systems, as well as cancers and non-cancerous tumors.

In addition to adverse effects in humans, numerous other species have been contaminated, based upon studies of livestock, voles, birds, fish, plants, trees, bacteria, viruses, and other species.

Foods produced in highly contaminated areas in the former Soviet Union were shipped, and consumed worldwide, affecting persons in many other nations. Some, but not all, contamination was detected and contaminated foods not shipped.

The authors warn that the soil, foliage, and water in highly contaminated areas still contain substantial levels of radioactive chemicals, and will continue to harm humans for decades to come.

The world now has 435 nuclear reactors and of these, 104 are in the United States. The New

York Academy of Sciences says not enough attention has been paid to Eastern European research studies on the effects of Chernobyl at a time when corporations in several nations, including the United States, are attempting to build more nuclear reactors and to extend the years of operation of aging reactors.

The academy said in a statement, "Official discussions from the International Atomic Energy Agency and associated United Nations' agencies (e.g. the Chernobyl Forum reports) have largely downplayed or ignored many of the findings reported in the Eastern European scientific literature and consequently have erred by not including these assessments."

***Stop Hinkley campaigners took to the streets around Chernobyl Day to leaflet and remind people of the relevance to new nuclear power stations.***

## **EDF trenches proposal rejected by council**

**South West Business News  
Saturday, May 08, 2010**

**Plans to build a new nuclear power station on the Westcountry coast will not be derailed by council officials rejecting plans to carry out preparation work on the site, the developer has said.**

Set to be operational by 2018, Hinkley Point is one of ten sites earmarked for a huge expansion of nuclear power across the UK.

EDF Energy wanted to dig 20 trenches close to the village of Shurton, near Bridgwater, Somerset, to ascertain the nature and depth of the soil above rock in the area. But despite the move being recommended by planners, councillors on West Somerset District Council have rejected the plan.

Permission for the trenches was requested as close as 100 metres from nearby houses in Shurton.

Jim Duffy from Stop Hinkley, which has long campaigned against the station, said: "This is a blow for EDF, showing they took for granted the approval of this piece of preliminary work required before they can build their giant reactors.

"It's dismal if such a big company misses the detail in their grandiose but fearsome plan and arrogant that it doesn't bother to send a representative to the council meeting. We congratulate West Somerset Council for representing local people in standing up to the industry."

A spokesman for West Somerset District Council said the application was refused because the trenches "are sited in an inappropriate and

unacceptable location" which would cause an adverse effect on the landscape and wildlife, among other factors. Members were said to be puzzled by the request for trenches so far away from the main part of the proposed nuclear power station. A number of objections had been raised by Shurton residents due to the potential for noise and dust.

The new EDF site for the two giant reactors at Hinkley covers about 500 acres. The first is set to be operational by 2018. The Government claims building the new station alongside the existing reactors could lead to 4,000 extra jobs, with another 1,000 needed to run it.

A new planning system will fast-track the £2 billion proposal to prevent opponents stalling it in the courts. The main planning application is due to go to the Infrastructure Planning Commission as soon as August 2. [Ed: See story on Hinkley delay]

A spokesman for EDF Energy said: "EDF said the decision will not affect the main proposal. We will examine the reasons provided by the council for turning down this application before determining the best course of action to ensure the collection of this data."

### **Write to Chris Huhne!**

With the new opportunities brought about by a change in Government, we urge supporters to sign and send our enclosed letter to the Energy Secretary. We hope he sticks to his pledge not to subsidise the nuclear industry and bring on the public inquiry on nuclear justification which top academics have called for.

### **EU consultation on n-waste**

The EU is pressing all national governments to adopt a policy to bury nuclear waste in Deep Geological Repositories, opposed by campaigners as they create a risk to future generations. Details of the web-based consultation are available together with guidance on answers on: <http://www.stophinkley.org/Temporary/Deadline31May2010.htm>

### **Hinkley summer camp**

Campaigners plan to hold a camp in August to highlight our message, have discussions with local people and even have some fun!

### **Stop Hinkley at Glastonbury**

We'll have a marquee in the Green Field of the festival between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June. A solar-powered DVD player will show the full version of Jonathon Porritt's recent talk in Taunton. Displays will show our view of nuclear and the alternatives. 3,000 information broadsheets like the one enclosed with the newsletter will be distributed together with copies of our petition. Please drop by if you're at the festival!

### **Jonathon Porritt on You-tube**

A four minute clip of Jonathon's Taunton speech is viewable on the Stop Hinkley website or: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RIacFBllw>

### **Quote on Huhne**

"I think being sceptical is no bad thing. The worst thing you can have is a situation where the state bends over backwards to [financially] support nuclear. Look where that got us."

Ian Marchant, Scottish Southern Electric chief executive, Guardian, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## **Events**

**Stop Hinkley monthly meeting  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
at 7.30pm  
West Bow House, Milton Place  
off West Street, Bridgwater**

**Green Scythe Fair  
Sunday 13th June 11am to 11pm**  
Thorney Lakes, Muchelney, near Langport,  
£5 entry. Stop Hinkley will have a stall there.  
Come and support us.

**Stop Hinkley stall  
at Glastonbury Festival  
In the Green Field  
23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June**

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