



# Newsletter

## September 2018

### Stop Hinkley expresses concern about sea-level rises at nuclear site

Press Release 30 July

The Stop Hinkley Campaign has written to the Office for Nuclear Regulation to express concern about recent reports that we could be heading for a sea-level rise of as much as 6 metres during the lifetime of the Hinkley Point C site.

Some researchers say sea levels could rise by six metres or more even if the 2 degree target of the Paris accord is met. Sustained warming of one to two degrees in the past has been accompanied by substantial reductions of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets and sea level rises of at least six metres – several metres higher than what current climate models predict could occur by 2100.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Allan Jeffery said: “Hinkley Point C is expected to have a 60 year life, which will take us to almost 2090. After the last load of highly radioactive spent fuel is removed from the reactor it will need to be cooled for at least another 60 years. That means the site needs to be kept safe from flooding and storm surges until at least 2150”.

He continued: “While the prospect of dip in the sea might be appealing during this heatwave, having the sea encroach into coastal nuclear plant would be a disaster? When there is so much uncertainty about sea-levels and storm surges over the next 125 years do we really want to be building new nuclear facilities and highly radioactive waste stores on the coast?”

Briefing on Hinkley Point C and Sea Level Rise Letter to Office of Nuclear Regulation: <http://stophinkley.org/Health/Hinkley%20Point%20C%20&%20Sea-Level%20Rise.pdf>

### MEP hits out at European court ruling over Hinkley C funding

Bridgwater Mercury, Steven Salter, 13th July

AN AUSTRIAN appeal against UK Government funding for Hinkley C has been dismissed after a sprawling investigation.

This week the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled on whether the UK government's contribution to the new nuclear power station in Somerset constituted 'state aid', and found that it did not.

Green MEP for South West Dr Molly Scott-Cato described the ECJ's decision as 'hugely regrettable'. She said: “There can be no justification for EU subsidies to be thrown at nuclear.”

“Hinkley C is a particular tragedy for the South West when we are blessed with exciting renewable energy alternatives. The region has huge potential for both onshore and offshore wind; for tidal and geothermal energy and is the region best suited in the whole of the UK to capture the power of the sun. Sadly, today's ECJ ruling will only serve to reinforce the government's ideological obsession with nuclear.

“The National Infrastructure Commission agrees that nuclear is not the way forward for the UK and that we should seize the golden opportunities that renewable energy technologies provide.”

She also warned that Brexit could have devastating impacts on the UK's ability to generate nuclear power. “Brexit could leave nuclear power in the UK in meltdown. There is on-going uncertainty around our membership of Euratom. While this EU body may be a relic of the past that gives unfair privilege to nuclear power, it none-the-less governs procedures, regulations and safeguards for nuclear power across the EU. This includes the transportation of nuclear materials around Europe. Unless new arrangements are agreed the UK could run out of nuclear fuel within two years, meaning nuclear power stations would be unable to produce energy.”

## Majority of UK public want to install solar panels, poll finds

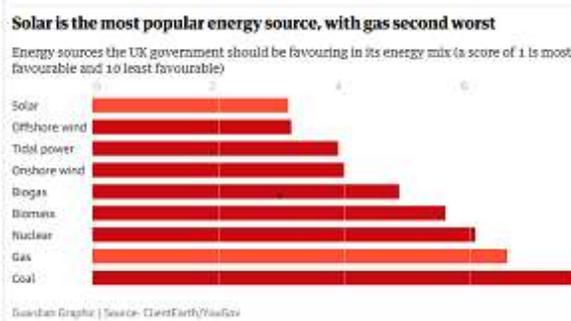
More than 70% would make homes more energy efficient given government support

Adam Vaughan, Guardian 20 Aug

More than half of the British public would install solar panels and home batteries to tackle climate change if there was greater assistance from the government, polling has found.

While many have already made their home more energy efficient, 62% said they wanted to fit solar and a surprisingly high 60% would buy an energy storage device such as those sold by Tesla.

An even greater number – 71% – would join a local energy scheme such as a community windfarm or solar panel collective, according to the YouGov survey.



The results run counter to the government's approach to climate change and energy, which favours large-scale power generation such as nuclear plants and offshore windfarms.

Community energy projects have flatlined in the face of government subsidy cuts and tax changes, while incentives for household solar will expire next year without a replacement. There is no support for people considering a home battery.

James Thornton, CEO of environmental law group ClientEarth, which commissioned the research, said: "Government policy is plainly at odds with public sentiment – and its own ambition to tackle climate change – as far as our energy sources are concerned.

"People want to know more and take ownership of how they get their energy – that's clearly demonstrated by the broad support in the poll for household solar and community energy schemes."

Solar installers have told the Guardian that, increasingly, people are also opting for home batteries when they buy solar.

Energy storage is also making inroads at utility scale. On Monday, water company Anglian Water will announce it has bought a 300 kilowatt hour (kWh) storage system from UK-based firm redT, for use at a water treatment site alongside solar panels.

Solar was ranked the most popular of all energy sources in the ClientEarth survey, while gas was second worst behind coal.

More than two thirds (68%) thought the big six energy suppliers' market dominance should be broken up to allow smaller clean energy firms to grow. Exactly half said they would move their pensions to avoid fossil fuel investments, a figure that rose to 59% for 18-34 year olds.



Stop Hinkley will be joining other groups across the country for a national day of action next year at Springfields, the nuclear fuel production installation near Preston in Lancashire.

Come and join other Stop Hinkley members who have already pledged to be there on Saturday 27th April 2019.

Please let us know you are with us and what area you live in, so we can facilitate transport needs etc. If you live outside Somerset and want to be involved with making additional barrel costumes, do let us know as barrel making workshops are being rolled out around the country.

Please contact [jo@stophinkley.org](mailto:jo@stophinkley.org)

To find out more email:

[springaction2019@stopenewnuclear.org.uk](mailto:springaction2019@stopenewnuclear.org.uk)

Over the last few years Stop Hinkley have been working with the Environment Agency, who test the mud twice a year along the bank of the river Parrett. On both occasions during 2016 Stop Hinkley members Jo Smoldon and Allan Jeffery were able to go out with the people collecting mud samples to collect our own.

The Stop Hinkley samples were sent to an independent laboratory, CRIIRAD, in France. The results were in line with those of the Environment Agency, however the SH samples were more in depth and identified Americium.

Full details of the analysis are on the Stop Hinkley website, 'Nuclear Safety and Public Health' page. Direct link:

<http://stophinkley.org/Health/CRIIRAD%20report%20sediments%20Hinkley.pdf>

# PETITIONS

Here are some new petitions.

**WANA** have a petition on the National Assembly for Wales website calling on them to urge the Welsh Government to invest in green renewable energy sources thus reducing the need for fossil fuels and nuclear energy in Wales. More specifically to:

- Support emerging low carbon technologies that could put Wales at the forefront of renewable energies and help to slow – down climate change; and
- Invest in energy sources that do not leave a legacy of radioactive waste, spoil heaps and damage to health and the environment.

Please sign the WANA petition here:

<https://www.assembly.wales/en/gethome/e-petitions/Pages/petitiondetail.aspx?PetitionID=1373>

**Greenpeace** are calling on the UK government not to risk billions on nuclear power. Hitachi is demanding government funding to save its struggling nuclear power project. If something goes wrong, we could lose billions of pounds of public money.

We don't need new nuclear plants. Offshore windfarms are already cheaper and quicker to build - and fast-improving energy storage tech means we can have clean, reliable power instead.

Greenpeace are asking Theresa May to drop this nuclear deal and back renewables instead.

Sign the Greenpeace petition here:

[https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/nuclear-hitachi-petition?source=EM&subsource=ECENNAPEEM02XA&utm\\_source=gpeace&utm\\_medium=EM&utm\\_campaign=ECENNAPEEM02XA](https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/nuclear-hitachi-petition?source=EM&subsource=ECENNAPEEM02XA&utm_source=gpeace&utm_medium=EM&utm_campaign=ECENNAPEEM02XA)

**Max Wallis** is asking Carwyn Jones AM, first minister of Wales and Government, to Halt the Dumping of Hinkley Mud in the Severn Estuary. He says "Your ministers have failed to meet your duties on safeguarding our marine environment and to comply with the international agreements (OSPAR, London anti-dumping Convention) on assessment of effects upon human health and marine flora and fauna. The mud was insufficiently tested at depth, The Senedd Petitions Committee was right to ask for further testing and NRW wrong to refuse it, as the few deeper samples show up to 3 times more uranium and radium."

Sign Max's petition here.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/halt-the-dumping-of-hinkley-mud-in-the-severn-estuary?source=twitter-share-button>

**All these petitions can be found on the Petitions page on the Stop Hinkley website.**

## Water at Fukushima nuclear plant still radioactive even after treatment

South China Morning Post, 19 Aug

**Government wants to dump the contaminated water into the sea, but locals and fishermen oppose the idea**

Radioactive substances have not been removed from treated but still tritium-containing water at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The government and Tokyo Electric Power Company have faced the pressing need to dispose of such treated water now kept in tanks. One option is to dump it into the sea, as tritium is said to pose little risk to human health.

If the plan goes ahead, tritium-tainted water from the nuclear plant is expected to be diluted so it is likely to lower the levels of other radioactive materials as well before being discharged.

But locals and fishermen are worried about the water discharge and a government panel debating how to deal with it has mainly focused on tritium, not other radioactive substances.

According to Tepco, a maximum 62.2 becquerels per litre of Iodine 129, far higher than the 9 becquerel legal limit, was found in the water filtered by the Advanced Liquid Processing System used to remove various types of radioactive materials.

Iodine 129 has a half-life of 15.7 million years.

Tepco, which gathered data in fiscal 2017 through March, also detected a maximum 92.5 becquerels of Ruthenium 106 – more than the 100 becquerel legal limit – and 59 becquerels of technetium 99 against the limit of 1,000 becquerels.

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex was damaged by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Reactors 1 and 3 suffered fuel meltdowns as their cooling systems were crippled.

Water was injected to keep the fuel cold but it is extremely toxic. The water is filtered but it is hard for tritium to be separated.

In August, there were around 920,000 tonnes of tritium-containing water stored in some 680 tanks at the plant. But Tepco said it has not checked the concentration of radioactive materials in each tank.

The government has examined several ways to dispose of tritium-containing water, including the release of it into the sea or atmosphere.

Toyoshi Fuketa, who heads the Nuclear Regulation Authority, said pumping the water into the sea is the only solution.

# 60 years of CND

Jo Smoldon

Stop Hinkley members jumped aboard the Bristol CND bus on Easter Sunday April 1st to join the throng of protesters going to AWE Aldermaston. It wasn't lost on any of those present that we were saying once again what April Fools our governments have been all these years on, spending billions of pounds on weapons of mass destruction.



The banner "Can't believe we are still protesting against this shit" with a backdrop of the nuclear weapons testing establishment showed that many of the assembled crowd had been present on the original protest marches and were still angry that successive governments are continuing with nuclear weapons.



We took the Stop Hinkley banner to draw people's attention once again to the link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. see: <http://stophinkley.org/NucPower&WeaponsLinkLeflet.pdf>

We were informed that the treaty to stop nuclear weapons has now been signed by 122 countries; UK can be ashamed that we are, of course, not on the list.

Music played, prayers were said, food was shared and a special moment was made as flowers were placed on the railings to remember Phillip Wearne and Marg Behrman who both worked so hard for a world free of war and weapons.



Subscribe to Pete Roche's mailing list and receive updates either occasionally or daily, depending on the option you choose. Recommended.

<http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/mailling-lists/>

It is free to subscribe, but donations are appreciated.

## Senedd Welsh Assembly,

Cardiff: 23 May 2018:

Report by Jo Smoldon

Chinks, Liz and I were pleased to represent Stop Hinkley at the Welsh Assembly on the Cardiff Water front, travelling over the bridge to help highlight the radioactive mud that was to be quietly dumped in Cardiff Bay with no recompense to the Welsh people.

There were orange radioactive fish, hazard suited silt samplers and some amazing placards giving the messages loud and clear: "No Test No Mud Dump, The Clock is Ticking, Stop Toxic Dumping, Keep Cardiff Bay Not Toxic Bay, Test Before Dumping, Stop Toxic Waste, Nuclear Waste is a Ticking Time Bomb," as well as us in our waste barrels with the Stop Hinkley banner.

Tim Deere-Jones explained where the situation is at present and highlighted the fact that if 300 tons of mud had to be dumped on land it would cost £28 million, so why is it being dumped on the Welsh for free by EDF? The testing of the mud would be a fraction of the cost. He, and many others, have said how depth core samples are needed to reassure the public that appropriate testing has been carried out before the mud sediments are liberated into the environment. It is known that when contaminated silts dry out and blow in the wind, radioactive particles can be found up to 10 miles inland of the coast. One particle is too much and in itself a tremendous health risk.

## Events

**Stop Hinkley meetings**  
**Mondays 17 Sept & 15 Oct at 7pm**  
**West Bow House, Milton Place**  
**Off West Street, Bridgwater TA6 7RT**

## Contacts

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**Membership / Treasurer / Website:** Val Davey:

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