



Press Release

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EDF Breaks Planning Conditions at Hinkley Point

EDF has broken a time limit condition attached to its planning permission to remove a spoil heap from the Hinkley Point site, the Stop Hinkley campaign has discovered.

The work - removing spoil contaminated with asbestos left over from the construction of the original Hinkley A power station – should have been completed by 31 August. This was a condition of the planning consent granted to EDF by Somerset County Council last January. However, work is still continuing and the company is now applying for an extension to continue with the clean-up operation up to February 2012.

Although EDF is in breach of the conditions attached to its planning permission, County Council planners have decided not to take any action. The Council is concerned, however, that if the work continues into the winter months it could disturb migratory birds which fly along the coast past Hinkley Point.

“If EDF cannot stick to the rules on something like this, then it doesn’t bode well for when it comes to more serious issues to do with operations at Hinkley Point”, said Stop Hinkley spokesman Crispin Aubrey. “The company should be told to stop work until a new timetable has been agreed.”

The original planning application was challenged by Stop Hinkley on the basis that the asbestos had been buried under the ground for more than 30 years, did not pose a serious health risk, and that the real purpose of the “clean-up” work was to level the ground in preparation for building the proposed Hinkley C power station. EDF denied this at the time but signs directing traffic to the site are now clearly labelled “Hinkley Point C”.

The French energy company has still not received permission to construct the new nuclear power station, for which it will have to make a separate application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

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