



Press Release

2nd February 2012

Report shows successive Ministers and Parliament were misled on case for nuclear power.

A new report, **A Corruption of Governance**, prepared for the **Association for the Conservation of Energy and Unlock Democracy** was presented to MPs and NGOs on Tuesday at the House of Commons. It exposes that the evidence given to Ministers and Parliament, promoting the use of nuclear power, was a false summary of the analysis carried out by government departments.

The report, supported by a cross party group of MPs, calls for the case for nuclear power to be re-examined in a parliamentary debate, so the true facts can be discussed. It shows that on the basis of the **Government's own evidence**:

- **There is no need for new nuclear power stations** to deliver energy security i.e. to "keep the lights on" and to achieve 80% reductions in carbon dioxide by 2050.
- Government statements that electricity supply will need to double or even triple in order to achieve a low carbon economy are **disproved by its own evidence**.
- Decisions taken by previous and current Governments that new nuclear power stations were needed are **not based on evidence**.
- A recent consultation on 16 possible pathways suggested by the Government to achieve 80% reductions in CO2 by 2050 is undermined by the fact that the decision on new nuclear power stations **had already been taken**.
- Ministers, MPs and Parliament were **kept in the dark with false information and half truths** on which to base the decisions on new nuclear power stations.

Ron Bailey, report author, said: "What has gone on is appalling. Ministers and MPs have been fed false information about the need for, and the cost of nuclear power. The information they have been supplied with is **NOT** a correct summary of the evidence held by government. They have been fed half truths and incorrect evidence on the basis of which only one decision was possible: to support more nuclear power stations. But that evidence they were given was false.....either it's

a monumental series of mistakes or **the 'nuclear lobby' has got control of the Whitehall machine**.....Governance has been corrupted by this process. The question of new nuclear power stations needs to be re-opened and decided by Parliament on the basis of the correct evidence”.

Caroline Lucas, MP said:

“Given what we know about the strength of nuclear industry lobbying, there needs to be far greater transparency around the decisions which will determine where our electricity comes from in 10 or 20 years’ time.

With other countries turning away from nuclear, MPs and the public must be told the truth about how we can really achieve energy security and a genuinely green economy.”

Guardian, 1st February:

Evidence for nuclear power was ‘distorted’ by ministers:

“If MPs had been presented with an accurate picture of the evidence for and against new reactors, the Government’s plan would have been challenged.”

Stop Hinkley campaigner Suki Lilienthal said: “The debate about the need for new nuclear power stations must be re-opened. Hinkley C is the first of eight new nuclear power stations planned and Electricite de France are moving in with their bulldozers in the next few weeks, even before their full application is reviewed by the IPC. It is crucial that Government decisions are based on accurate facts and the public is made aware of the government whitewash.”

➤ We urge you to read the report on www.ukace.org

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Notes:

- Guardian Article 1st February 2012:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jan/31/ministers-misled-nuclear-powerstations>
- An Executive Summary and Full Copy of the Report can be found from The Association for Conservation of Energy: www.ukace.org