



Press Release

17th February 2012

Stop Hinkley Condemn Token UK Jobs

The nuclear deal agreed today between David Cameron and Nicholas Sarkozy is a PR exercise for the Nuclear Industry. 1,500 jobs for Rolls Royce, who have no experience in working with nuclear power, will not affect the unemployment figures. Thousands of jobs could be created in the renewable industry immediately; by investing heavily in nuclear, the Government is not putting money into simpler, safer and sustainable alternatives.

Spending £15m on training our young people to work in an industry that is dangerous and not sustainable is misguided. 344,000 people in Germany are employed in their growing renewable energy industry. This is 10 times the entire current UK nuclear workforce.

Paul Steedman of Friends of the Earth says, "Cameron's deal today will leave British taxpayers footing a massive bill for new nuclear plants we don't need and can't afford - while EDF continues to rake in huge profits.

"Billions of pounds have already been spent subsidising nuclear – and dealing with nuclear waste is expected to cost many billions more. We're already seeing lengthy delays and spiraling costs at the two nuclear reactors currently under construction in Europe.

"Meanwhile solar panels and wind turbines are becoming more affordable; they are clean and tested alternatives we know could provide tens of thousands of new jobs with the right Government support."

Stop Hinkley and many other anti-nuclear groups will be forming a human chain around Hinkley B power station on 10th March to commemorate one year since Fukushima; a nuclear disaster which is still not over. They will be joined by countries around the world to maintain a 24 hour vigil.

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