



Press Release

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Hinkley Point Nuclear Site Blockaded on Fukushima Anniversary

Anti-nuclear protesters continued to blockade the entrance to Hinkley Point nuclear power station throughout today, Sunday 11th March, in protest at plans to build new reactors on the site.

Over 100 people blocked the main entrance to the site, stopping all traffic from entering or leaving for over 24 hours. They intend to continue until 2pm this afternoon. A ceremony will be held to mark the first anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Fukushima in Japan.

The blockade followed on from yesterday's "Surround Hinkley" demonstration, which attracted over 1,000 people from Somerset and around the country. There were coaches from Bristol, London and Suffolk.

Protesters with banners and flags carrying the message "Nuclear Power No Thanks!" stretched right round the two mile perimeter fence of both the closed Hinkley A power station, Hinkley B, due to close in a few years, and the fields where French electricity company EDF plans to build Hinkley C, the largest nuclear plant ever proposed in the UK.

Among those who addressed the crowd were Green MP Caroline Lucas, environmental campaigner Jonathon Porritt and Makoto and Akiko Ishiyama, a Japanese couple who were evacuated from the area around Fukushima. "The government says it is now safe and they want local people to come back, but it's a total lie," said Makoto Ishiyama. "There is still a risk, it's not safe and the accident isn't over."

Jonathon Porritt said that new nuclear power stations like Hinkley C could never operate without massive public subsidies towards their costs, including insurance and radioactive waste management.

The weekend's events were held to mark the first anniversary of the world's second worst nuclear accident at the Fukushima power station in Japan. Three reactors suffered a meltdown, 100,000 people have had to leave their homes and a vast area will be uninhabitable for the foreseeable future because of the radiation risk.

The demonstration and blockade were organised by Stop New Nuclear, a coalition of anti-nuclear groups which includes the Somerset-based Stop Hinkley.

Stop Hinkley spokesman Crispin Aubrey said: “This has been one of the biggest protests ever held at Hinkley Point and shows the strength of feeling against EDF’s plans. The new reactors would be unsafe, especially following the Fukushima accident, a constant drain on public funds and we don’t need nuclear power to keep the lights on.”

EDF has permission to carry out “preparatory works” on the 400 acre Hinkley C site but does not yet have safety approval for their new nuclear plant or planning consent to build the twin reactors.

For more information: Stop Hinkley Press Officers Kate Attwater (0798 073 1896) or Crispin Aubrey (01278 732921)

www.stophinkley.org