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For Immediate Release

### Stop Hinkley calls on EDF Energy to cut its losses on HinkleyPoint C

The future of the Hinkley Point C Project is hanging in the balance this week-end after further details emerged about problems at a similar nuclear plant being built at Flamanville in Normandy.

Anomalies have been found in the bottom and lid of the reactor vessel which could reduce the strength of the metal according to the French regulator ASN.

ASN says that a similar forging technique may have been used for the reactor vessels for Hinkley Point C, but Areva has not confirmed whether the Hinkley vessels have already been manufactured. (1)

The Chinese have said they will not load fuel at the two EPR nuclear reactors under construction in the southern province of Guangdong which were designed by France's Areva until recent safety issues have been fully resolved. Parts of the Taishan 1 and 2 nuclear reactors were made by the same manufacturer that supplied the reactor vessel for EDF's EPR in Normandy. (2)

It now seems inevitable that the Hinkley investment decision will be postponed yet again until the issue of the safety of the French and Chinese pressure vessels has been resolved.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson, Alan Jeffery said:

*“EDF Energy should cut its losses and give up on Hinkley C now, so that the south-west can get on with developing a sensible sustainable energy strategy. To tackle Climate Change effectively we need to get started on energy efficiency and renewable energy programmes now, not waiting around for the nuclear industry to sort out its problems first. We don't need this massive project that is going to leave us with a legacy of highly dangerous nuclear waste and radioactive emissions into our environment.”*

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#### **Notes**

- (1) Reuters 17th April 2015 <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/04/17/areva-nuclear-idUKL5N0XE11320150417>
- (2) Reuters 16th April 2015 <http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/04/16/china-nuclear-areva-idINL4N0XD3AU20150416>