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For Immediate Release

Government's own data no longer justifies nuclear power: Group threatens legal action if it fails to review policy

The Stop Hinkley Campaign has welcomed the publication of a report which demonstrates unequivocally that the Government's own data no longer justifies the choice of nuclear power as part of the energy mix.

Using figures from the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC's) own 'Pathways' website, the report shows that, far from helping to achieve government energy objectives, the inclusion of the nuclear component will:

- risk 'the lights going out';
- waste billions of pounds;
- be less effective in meeting energy policy objectives than a more 'demand-side-led' strategy; and
- leave the 'urgent need' for new electricity supplies that the Government claims are necessary unmet.
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The report by Together Against Sizewell C (TASC) uses pathways or scenarios based entirely on DECC's own data, to demonstrate that new nuclear reactors – like the proposed Hinkley Point C station are unnecessary. In fact, far from making government policy easier to achieve, nuclear power's inclusion in the energy mix will hamper successful policy implementation.

The pathways identified by the TASC document, will, without exception:

- cost the country less than every single government Pathway;
- more successfully ensure energy security ('keep the lights on') than every government Pathway because they rely on less imported energy overall, less imported fossil fuels and less imported oil and gas in particular;
- use less energy overall and less electricity in particular;
- involve a (slightly) greater diversity of energy supply;
- more successfully achieve the need to balance demand and supply of electricity at all times;
- achieve an 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050;

- rely on less use of fossil fuels;
- ensure warmer homes at less cost;
- cause less air pollution and less damage to human health.
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Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Roy Pumfrey said *“The Emperor has got no clothes after all. There are plenty of ways of providing our energy needs which are cheaper than any Government scenario for energy involving nuclear power. The total savings to the UK economy of going for much more energy saving instead could be very large indeed and more successfully reduce greenhouse gases and provide energy security. Nuclear power only hampers the achievement of these objectives.”*

Pete Wilkinson, Chairman of TASC points out that the government has a legal obligation to justify its increasingly bizarre and incomprehensible obsession with nuclear power. TASC is threatening to take legal action if the Government fails to meet its legal obligation to review its National Policy Statements for Energy.

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Notes to Editor

- (1) Together Against Sizewell C Press Release 12th October 2015
<http://www.tasizewellc.org.uk/index.php/168-secretary-of-state-amber-rudd-faces-legal-challenge-to-review-nuclear-decision>
- (2) Full Report Nuclear Power: New Evidence is available here:
<http://www.tasizewellc.org.uk/images/publications/reports/NuclearNewEvidence.pdf>
- (3) A short summary is available here: “National Policy Statement on Energy should be reviewed”, nuClear News No.77
<http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/nuclearnews/NuClearNewsNo77.pdf>