



**For Immediate Release
23rd January 2018**

Stop Hinkley calls for Hinkley Point B to be shut down permanently

A new report (1) published by Green MSPs in the Scottish Parliament reveals that EDF Energy is asking the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to relax safety standards by doubling the number of cracks allowed in the radioactive cores of ageing reactors like Hinkley Point B.

Prolonged radiation bombardment causes the thousands of graphite bricks that make up reactor cores to crack, threatening a safe shutdown. EDF wants the ONR, to permit an increase in the proportion of cracked bricks from 10 to 20 per cent.

Spokesperson for the Stop Hinkley Campaign, Roy Pumfrey, said:

“Hinkley Point B is over 40 years old and well past its sell-by date; its ageing problems are now getting deeply worrying. It is time to shut it down – permanently.”

“EDF is gambling with public safety, but this is a lottery we are not prepared to take part in. Despite the fact that cracks are beginning to appear in the graphite core of these reactors, increasing the risk for us all, we haven’t been asked for once our opinion about extending their life .”

The ONR says the periodic safety review for Hinkley Point B and its sister station in Scotland, Hunterston B, is due at the end of January.

“It is time for the ONR to get a grip and order these reactors to shut down before it’s too late,” said Pumfrey.

Stop Hinkley Contact:

Roy Pumfrey email roy@stophinkley.org

Tel: 07886 028 910

Notes:

Plant Life-Time Extensions for Scotland’s Ageing Reactors the Lack of Public Participation in the Decision-Making Process A report for the Green MSPs by Pete Roche Published January 2017

<https://greens.scot/sites/default/files/Nuclear%20lifetime%20extensions%20-%20Pete%20Roche.pdf>

N.B. Virtually everything said about Hunterston B in this report also applies to Hinkley Point B

See also Scottish Sunday Herald 22nd January 2017

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15039668.Safety_fears_over_EDF_bid_to_permit_doubling_of_nuclear_reactor_cracks/ and The Ferret 23rd January 2017 <https://theferret.scot/nuclear-firm-double-reactor-cracks/>