



For Immediate Release
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Stop Hinkley asks why should anyone believe this astonishing level of incompetence will suddenly end when we start building new reactors?

The day after the Government announced it was being forced to pay nearly £100m for botching a nuclear decommissioning contract (1) and on the same day that nuclear company Westinghouse has filed for bankruptcy in the US courts (2), the Stop Hinkley Campaign asks why anyone should believe that this astonishing level of incompetence will suddenly end when we start building new reactors?

The Government also announced that it will cancel the £6.1bn contract to decommission 12 old nuclear sites, including Hinkley Point A, nine years early because of the huge increase in work which needs to be done to decommission these sites.

The Toshiba-owned Westinghouse Company has built more nuclear reactors than any other company. It owns a 60% share of the NuGen consortium which had been hoping to build three Westinghouse AP1000-type reactors at Moorside next to Sellafield in Cumbria.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Roy Pumfrey said:

“Why should anyone believe that this astonishing level of incompetence will suddenly end when we start to build new reactors? Just because Hinkley Point C is not a Magnox reactor doesn't just suddenly make the industry competent.”

The Daily Telegraph (3) declared today *“if we could, we would stop this madness ... In committing to new nuclear, we seem to have joined a runaway train, with no hope of getting off. Has not the time finally arrived for a fully fledged rethink of the merits of Britain's nuclear energy strategy?”*

Roy Pumfrey continued: *“We agree – it is time to stop this madness. The UK's nuclear decommissioning costs have increased from £55.8 billion in 2008 to £117.4 billion at the last count. Although EDF is required to set aside funds for decommissioning Hinkley Point C, this is only up to an agreed limit. The taxpayer will be on the hook for the all too predictable shortfall.”*

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Notes

- (1) Guardian 27th March 2017 <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/mar/27/uk-nuclear-decommissioning-debacle-costs-government-100m> and Times 28th March 2017 <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bungled-nuclear-clean-up-deal-costs-taxpayer-100m-qkwtr2mt8>
- (2) Bloomberg 29th March 2017 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-29/toshiba-s-u-s-nuclear-unit-westinghouse-files-for-bankruptcy>
- (3) Telegraph 28th March 2017 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/03/28/costs-nuclear-energy-just-keep-rising-could-would-stop-madness/>