



**News Roundup for Stop Hinkley  
Meeting  
17 August 2020**

20 July – The Times: Tory backbenchers are calling for the government to review potential avenues of Chinese influence in Britain and Beijing’s investment in the nuclear power station at Hinkley Point.

23 July – Electrical Review: Nuclear Lies and Deceit. A damning article on HPC from nuclear enthusiasts.

23 July - Whitehaven News: Copeland Council's executive has voted to "open up discussions" on the possibility of building an underground nuclear waste repository (the national GDF) in the borough - though not in the Lake District.

25 July – Telegraph: EDF executives suppressed horror as their Chinese partners made a risky suggestion. Senior engineers from China General Nuclear (CGN) proposed a way to lift a concrete dome on to the reactor at Hinkley Point C in Somerset. According to EDF sources, their plan would have entailed dangling the 270-tonne structure over more than 5,000 workers on site at the time. (NB Although SH knows that it would be impossible to gather all the 5,000 workers on site over a 24 hour period into a spot under the dome where they would be in mortal danger, it’s an interesting aspect of EdeF working with CGN and indicative of the Chinese company’s attitude to H&S matters.)

25 July – Telegraph: Tories demand review of Chinese involvement at Hinkley nuclear site. Calls for a new review are growing amid diplomatic tensions between Britain and China over Hong Kong and the telecoms equipment maker Huawei.

27 July – Bristol Post etc: Construction giant Balfour Beatty has temporarily closed one of its manufacturing plants near Bristol after 19 staff tested positive for Covid-19. The company, which is helping build cooling systems for Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Somerset, said it had carried out a "deep clean" of the facility over the weekend.

30 July – FT: Ministers challenged on future of nuclear energy industry dogged by doubts about China and rise of renewables calls for clarity. The head of construction at the UK’s first nuclear power plant in three decades has challenged the government to decide whether “it wants nuclear or not” as ministers prepare to publish a new energy policy later this year and uncertainty hangs over China’s continued involvement in the sensitive sector. “The government needs to decide if it wants nuclear or not,” said Stuart Crooks, managing director of Hinkley Point C. “If it doesn’t want nuclear, no amount of financing will make it happen,”.

1 August – Bloomberg: No Fukushima at HPC! In the event of a crisis (at HPC), a computer command will start a process to melt the nuclear core funnelling the liquid into the pool where it’s mixed with concrete, that sets and then can’t escape into the atmosphere. The reactor would be destroyed but the surrounding area kept safe.’

3 August – The Times: No let up in heavy lifting at Hinkley plant. Includes quote from HPC MD: How confident was Mr Crooks that the plant would start up in 2025 as planned? “There’s a long way to go yet. It is a big, complex project.”

3 August – Popular Mechanics: France EPR Nuclear Reactor Is a Mess -implications for HPC.  
A damning indictment of EdeF's work at Flamanville - from self-confessed nuclear enthusiasts!

4 August – WNN: France's nuclear safety authority, Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire, last week authorised EDF to commission the Iceda activated waste conditioning and storage facility on the site of its Bugey nuclear power plant. ASN insisted on 15 amendments to EdeF's Safety File.

5 August – World Nuclear News: EDF counts the cost of coronavirus to new build projects. HPC liable to budget and time overruns.

6 August – Financial times: China tensions raise doubts over UK nuclear projects. “The big question is: if CGN were chucked out of Bradwell, whether they would walk from Hinkley,” said Stephen Thomas, emeritus professor of energy policy at University of Greenwich. “They are contractually obliged but good luck suing the Chinese government.” Aside from the financing questions, this could potentially increase the construction risk at Hinkley. “The Chinese have an engineering role in the project,” said one nuclear expert. “It would be a blow if they took away that know-how.” Ministers are yet to deliver their verdict on the RAB funding model and have continuously delayed a white paper on energy, originally expected last year, and which nuclear industry executives hope will emerge in October.

6 August - Nuclear Engineering International: In its decision of 28 July 2020, France’s Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF) Enforcement Committee fined EDF €5 million (\$5.9m) for disseminating false information in a news release in October 2014. It also imposed a fine of €50,000 on former EDF Chairman and CEO Henri Proglio.

8 August – The Times: National Grid pays EdeF £73m to halve the output of Sizewell B (hot weather/lack of demand)

11 August – Western Daily Press: Alan Debenham’s letter on Hiroshima published.

14 August – Maldon Nub News: Turmoil as Maldon District Council meeting stopped abruptly due to disagreements over Bradwell Site Prep Application.

**Roy Pumfrey**  
**17 August 2020**