



Newsletter February 2015

Hinkley – redundant technology past its sell-by date

No2NuclearPower.org.uk

Over the last year a series of reports from financial and energy analysts have concluded that, amongst other things, conventional utility models are no longer fit for purpose. The reports highlight the changes to the old centralised utility model which are on the horizon and the importance of new technologies. They suggest that decentralised energy supply will be increasingly important in the future. The latest issue of [NuClear News \(No.68 November 2014\)](#) looks at a selection of these reports.

Not surprising then that there was widespread disbelief when the European Commission approved subsidies of up to £17.6 billion to EDF Energy to build two new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point in Somerset.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Allan Jeffery said: "This deal is clearly illegal under European law; it will saddle UK consumers with the bill for paying huge subsidies for decades, and yet there are more cost effective and safer ways of providing low carbon electricity or not using the energy in the first place. It is mind boggling how the UK government managed to convince the Commissioners to go along with this crazy plan without even the pretence of a competitive process. The technology proposed for Hinkley Point C is well past its sell-by-date. It's time for Somerset to look to the future and develop a locally-controlled sustainable energy industry which doesn't involve leaving a toxic legacy for our grandchildren's children and which can tackle climate change and fuel poverty in a much more cost effective way."

Cambridge nuclear engineer, Tony Roulstone, says the EPR design is complex and extraordinarily difficult to build – perhaps even 'unconstructable'. Areva is no longer actively selling power stations of this type. In those countries still looking to expand nuclear power, such as Saudi Arabia, China and Turkey, Areva is now pushing an alternative reactor. In China, where several EPRs are currently being constructed, the authorities have indicated that they will not use the design for future power

plants. In other words, the Hinkley design is already regarded as a failure by those with most knowledge of it. In Finland and in Normandy, where the EPR is already under construction, delays of several years and enormous cost overruns are crippling the projects. By focussing on the increasingly unpopular EPR design, Britain may have saddled itself with an unmanageable and hugely expensive construction project that will sour the prospects for all other nuclear technologies for another generation.

Hinkley Point nuclear deal faces fresh delay

FT - 28 Jan 2015

The UK's parliamentary watchdog has abandoned plans to scrutinise the Hinkley Point C nuclear project after predicting that a deal over state support would not be struck before May's general election.

EDF said it still hoped to finalise a deal by the end of March. Besides concluding negotiations with the Treasury over a financial guarantee to underwrite the project, EDF needs to finalise agreements with investors from China and elsewhere.

But the Commons public accounts committee has given up any hope of examining the contract before the election, according to Margaret Hodge, who chairs the group of MPs that scrutinises public spending. "We don't think they will have struck a deal by then," Ms Hodge said. "The National Audit Office have said that it looks increasingly unlikely."

Tim Yeo, who chairs the energy committee, said any more delays to the scheme would be "extremely worrying" for long term supporters of nuclear power in the UK. "It will be disappointing if it slips to after the election. We do not need yet another element of doubt," he said.

When EDF struck a deal with the UK government to develop the site in October 2013, the company said it hoped to have a final sign-off from

investors, who will put in half of the capital, by the summer of 2014. That timetable was disrupted by a year-long state aid investigation by the European Commission that ended with approval in October.

EDF's potential partners in Hinkley Point are China General Nuclear Power Corp, China National Nuclear Corp, France's Areva, Saudi Electric and several pension funds.

The Chinese energy companies, which are rivals, have been at odds over their precise share of the project. Both have been pushing for a substantial share of the supply chain contracts — a demand that has held up negotiations, although it is now understood to have been met.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change refused to be drawn on the timing of any deal, saying it was a matter for the company. "EDF still expects the power station to come online around 2023," it said.

If the talks slip beyond March they will enter the pre-election "purdah" period, when Whitehall comes to a standstill.

In the deal struck with the government, EDF is due to get £92.50 per megawatt hour for 35 years. But concern is growing over whether this offers good value for money for taxpayers, given the recent slump in oil prices.

Mr Yeo said Hinkley Point was a long-term project and its merits were not weakened by temporary fluctuations in the oil price. However, Paul Flynn, a Labour MP, recently pressed Sir Nicholas Macpherson, the Treasury permanent secretary, during a hearing of the public affairs committee. "You have agreed to a contract, in this time of falling fuel prices . . . to guarantee a price of £92.50 per megawatt hour, which is twice the present going rate for electricity," he said. "Is this sensible planning?"

Sir Nicholas accepted these were "good questions" and said he would report back to the committee.

EDF's chaotic approach to French EPR reactor safety

Despite the fact that the EPR in Flamanville, France has been under construction for seven years, French power utility EDF has yet to provide a satisfactory answer to some fundamental questions about nuclear safety. So much so that French official experts are calling a recent choice by EDF about the EPR's safety "a step backwards". Time is running out for the French utility, who has only a few months remaining to complete a demonstration of the safety of the EPR.

Not only are the additional costs, delays and faulty workmanship of the EPR in Flamanville never-ending, but the very notion of the nuclear safety of the reactor is still a work in progress. Yet still, EDF touts the EPR as a nuclear reactor "equipped with a very high level of protection." According to the designer and supplier of the EPR in Flamanville, Areva, it is "a reactor with an unparalleled level of security, extremely resistant to both internal and external risks."

Experts at the French official Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) paint another picture.

The full article from Le Journal de l'énergie can be read here

<http://journaldelenergie.com/nucleaire/edfs-chaotic-approach-french-epr-reactor-safety/>

Key points are:

- **EDF asks for the waiver of a key element of the EPR's safety**
- **The EPR's emergency diesel generators are not in perfect running order**
- **The nuclear safety of the EPR in Flamanville still has not been demonstrated**

Stop Hinkley Supporters

Membership subscriptions are due this month and renewal reminders are enclosed, if due. We also enclose a copy of our current leaflet and would ask you to pass it on to anyone you think might be interested. We need to increase our membership at this crucial time. The more members we have, the louder our voice. Extra leaflets are available here <http://www.stophinkley.org/Leaflet.htm> or contact Val.

If you would prefer not to have to send us a cheque each year, there is a solution. Standing Orders are an instruction from you to your bank to automatically make the payment annually or monthly, as you prefer. It is NOT a Direct Debit, so you are in complete control. It also saves us the costs involved in sending reminders, so it's a win/win option.

May we take this opportunity to thank all our supporters, most of whom have

Thank You

been loyal to us for many years. The cost of campaigning, producing the newsletter, website and administration is entirely met by donations and subscriptions, so our ability to continue the fight against nuclear power in Somerset is totally dependant on support such as yours.

Witch Watch First Full Moon Vigil Of 2015

On the 4th January it was a very magical Full Moon. A beautiful clear and starry night. It is two and a half years now that these vigils have been taking place every month without fail. We would like to thank Wanda for the impeccable way she has organised this to happen and all the women who keep turning up.



We would also like to thank the Pixie Mound and its two beautiful Hawthorn trees for providing us with a safe and magical space for our prayers and ceremony.

We continue to be

optimistic that Hinkley Point C will never be built and that the land will one day be restored to beauty.

You would be most welcome to come and join us at the gates of Hinkley Point on the following dates:

Tues/Weds 3/4 Feb	Thurs/Fri 30/31 July
Weds/Thurs 4/5 Mar	Fri/Sat 28/29 August
Fri/Sat 3/4 April	Sun/Mon 27/28 Sep
Sun/Mon 3/4 May	Mon/Tues 26/27 Oct
Mon/Tue 1/2 June	Weds/Thurs 25/26 Nov
Weds/Thurs 1/2 July	Thurs/Fri 24/25 Dec

For time and directions call 07511 063152

NO 2 NUCLEAR POWER

news and information about the UK nuclear industry

Keep up to date on daily news about nuclear issues, as well as renewable energy. An excellent website for the latest stories.

You can also sign up to receive free daily email updates from www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk

A delegation from Stop Hinkley are going to Brussels later this month to join other European groups to



present a petition against Hinkley C. Watch this space..... and the website www.stophinkley.org

As they will be away for our scheduled meeting on 16th February, it has been put forward to the following Monday, the 23rd. That meeting will largely be given over to the plans for our public meeting on March 19th, see page 4.

Posters for the public meeting are available: <http://www.stophinkley.org/Temporary/SHMeet19March2015.pdf> Alternatively, contact Val, Jo or Allan for copies. Please put up the poster locally to spread the word.

Wrap Up Trident

Saturday 24th January

A valiant group of SH members travelled to London for the demonstration well organised by CND. The pink knitted scarf was unrolled and wrapped around the MOD buildings in Whitehall, quite a sight to see. Our membership was keen to tell Trident to Get Knitted! Many nuclear waste barrels were spotted amongst the throngs of thousands of protesters as anti-nuclear colleagues from South West Against Nuclear joined in.

Our songs from the anti-nuclear song book of the '70s gained new admirers with their clever lyrics, "Trident, Trident, - What an insane idea! Thousands homeless All for the cost of fear....." A large student element in the crowd, young people holding 'books not bombs' placards wanted copies of the words so they could join in the singing. Other placards that were seen, Climate not Trident, Jobs not Trident, NHS not Trident, indicated some of the wide variety of people that joined under one message against the nuclear weapon.

Once again the sun shone as we stood listening to the engaging, diverse group of speakers at the rally afterwards. The Green Party was well represented and the clear policy they have of wanting to end Trident funding was a significant message for the forthcoming election, for people to reflect on the journey home.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/trident-rally-wrap-mod-scarf-000738468.html#pATOBBq>

Nuclear Train Action Group 31st Jan 2015

Despite the freezing conditions the sun did come out and it stayed dry for our Stop Hinkley nuclear waste train leafleting session at Bridgwater station. The fierce icy wind set the flags flapping and we had to have continued top ups of tea from *Dave's Diner* at the station, essential for winter street stalls!



You can never tell how many people will pass by but, despite the weather, it was a steady flow which kept us busy. We had some in-depth conversations with local concerned people which shows that, despite nuclear waste being moved here for the last 50 plus years, the hazards are still live in some local people's awareness. Some are oblivious, but us being there causes them to stop and question, and many are sincerely grateful for the opportunity. Others make a point of coming over and thanking us for publicising the issue to others. It just tells me we must always do stalls and speak to people on the street.

By Jo Smoldon

No money for nuclear power: Stop Brussels.

Electricité de France (EdF), the French energy group, intends to build one of the largest nuclear power stations in the world at Hinkley Point. However, this project would be commercially viable only on the basis of massive subsidies granted by the British government, which would clearly violate EU competition law. The past EU Commission has approved these nuclear subsidies at its last but one session.

This scandalous decision has the potential to trigger an avalanche of new nuclear power projects across Europe. The Austrian government is determined to take this case to the European Court of Justice, and EWS has lodged a formal complaint directly with the EU Commission.

Sign the petition here. <https://www.ews-schoenau.de/campaign.html>



Public Meeting
**Radioactive Waste
In Somerset**

**Will EDF and the Government turn Hinkley into a high level waste storage facility for 160 years and beyond?
Who Knows What About Nuclear Waste?**

Speakers: Allan Jeffery
Stop Hinkley Campaign
Overview of Nuclear Radioactive Waste at Hinkley Point

Tim Deere-Jones
Marine Radioactivity Consultant
Radioactive Nuclear Waste in a Marine Environment

Molly Scott Cato
South West Green Party MEP
Europe's position on Hinkley C

Thursday 19th March 7 for 7.30pm
Temple Methodist Church,
Upper High Street, Taunton, TA1 3PY
templemethodist.org.uk

www.stophinkley.org
Mob: 07966034925



Events

Stop Hinkley meetings
**Mondays 23 Feb [note change of date],
16 March & 20 April at 7pm**
**West Bow House, Milton Place
Off West Street, Bridgwater**
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Public Meeting 19 March [see above]
Posters for the public meeting are available:
<http://www.stophinkley.org/Temporary/SHMeet19March2015.pdf>
Alternatively, contact Val, Jo or Allan for copies.

Contacts

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