



## Stop Hinkley Newsround for Business Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Probably one of our busiest months ever due to Coronavirus.

Before the Hinkley C (HPC) business, a wider look. Fukushima remains a problem for the Japanese Government, a faction of which wants to dump radioactive water into the Pacific. Olkiluoto remains hopelessly delayed and its projected start up date has been postponed again. Flamanville has been delayed again and fully closed down during the Coronavirus. A forest fire near Chernobyl has resulted in the release into the atmosphere of worrying amounts of radioactive material.

Both reactors at Hinkley B were shut down in April, Reactor 3 temporarily due to an unplanned outage, Reactor 4 on a planned outage until December 2020.

18 March – SH submission to Natural Resources Wales on EdeF's plans to dump a further 780kt of sediment from HPC in the Cardiff Grounds.

19 March – the Environmental Law Officer of the Irish Environmental Network called SH with useful info about the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD).

20 March – As the UK goes into Lockdown, Somerset Live published the first article about HPC workers' concerns about Coronavirus affecting operations at the site.

21 March – Letters Extra in WDP, Katy Attwater, "Sea wall protecting nuclear plant is simply not enough". The Stop Hinkley press release is a modified version of Katy's letter.

<http://www.stophinkley.org/PressReleases/pr200325.pdf>

23 March – BEIS publish Site Operating Procedures (SOP) for the construction industry. Operations at HPC clearly can't comply with any number of these, Social Distancing and the fingerprint entry system in particular, but HPC has Government exemption as a Critical Infrastructure Project.

24 March – ITV West Country covers worker concerns; Bridgwater Mercury reports 'HPC construction continues'. ('Looking Back' in the Mercury includes the 1980 visit of Prince Charles to HPB; despite the presence of 40 anti-nukes, 'the prince did not stop for a chat with protestors'!)

24 March – The Guardian reported HPC worker concerns but EdeF made no mention of reducing the workforce. SH Press Release on EdeF irresponsibility. Prospect Union expresses concern. EdeF announces it will reduce the workforce from 4,600 to 2,000, but work will continue.

25 March – BBC PointsWest interviewed Roy [SH spokesperson]; the one line broadcast was that 'EdeF should stop HPC work now.'

25 March – Ian Liddell-Grainger, local MP and nuclear proponent, announces relief at halving of workforce.

25 March – WDP has 3 full pages "Hinkley Slashes thousands of jobs, over virus pandemic". EdeF's actions with Katy's SH press release concerns along with views from local councillors and Union reps.

25 March – Letters in WDP and WMN, Jo Smoldon [Stop Hinkley member], "Now is the time to scrap nuclear energy".

26 March – an aside; (from a local source) trainee operators for the 'Big Carl' crane have given up as the French operator and trainer has no English and they have no French!

27 March – West Somerset Free Press (WSFP) has articles and letters criticising EdeF's stance on continuing work at HPC + Letter from Jo Smoldon, "Nuclear Power an extra Worry"

27 March – WDP letter from Jo Smoldon, "HPC Site a breeding ground for Corvid 19".

28 March – Mercury online reports that 'village neighbouring HPC (Stogursey) labels virus measures unacceptable'.

30 March – Other NGOs had taken up the cudgels with letters to Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) urging them to advise BEIS to get work stopped at HPC.

31 March – Bridgwater Mercury has articles and letters from Roy [SH Spokesperson] and Helen [SHMember] 'Hinkley site needs to be closed down now' and 'Shut Hinkley'.

1 April – call to Roy regarding lack of PPE for cleaners at HPC. Letters to SCC, SDC and SWAT asking what they're doing about the situation at HPC. (Replies – not very much.)

2 April – County Gazette article 'Measures (at HPC) 'not enough' plus Helen's letter. Gazette also has an article on SD with a photo from an EdeF statement titled 'BUS STOP: HPC workers SD after a day's work'. The clipped caption of the photo is timed at 06.24 on 27 March!

3 April – Roy represents SH in a conference phone call with ONR including several NGOs. ONR insists that it is satisfied with the assurances from EdeF that it is doing its best (and improving) to comply with the SOP at HPC. First SH ZOOM conference to discuss ONR call.

6 April – Western Mail article and Leader on mud dumping in Cardiff Grounds.

6 April – EdeF stops bus pick-ups in Bridgwater (just using P&Rs at M5 J23 and J24 and Cannington), does away with fingerprint scanner and turnstiles and tells workers in digs to come to live in their hostels. Says it will reduce workforce to 1,000 during the pandemic and only 500 over Easter.

7 April – Mercury reports 'Mixed reaction to new virus measures at HPC' with a Councillor, Union rep and 'disgruntled worker' still unhappy.

9 April – BBC Points West piece on concerns of local residents and the HPC bus drivers over Covid-19 with more buses being used as only 30% seats used.

10-13 April – Easter weekend - very little traffic on roads serving HPC.

13 April – SH letter to Acting PM Dominic Raab urging him to close HPC as workers are unable to effectively Social Distance and workers travelling distances to and from the site is a contradiction of HMG requirements.

14 April – Mercury reports 'Under 2,000 workers at HPC' with statement from EdeF and extracts from a joint statement by 'antinuclear NGOs (including SH) and NFLA'.

14 April to present – the level of traffic to HPC remains very low.

17 April – Somerset Live article 'Coronavirus: Calls for Government to shut down HPC build' includes latest EdeF spin and quotes from Roy's letter to Raab.

Roy Pumfrey, 19 April 2020