

Hinkley INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

Running Out Of Energy

Christopher Wilcock from the *Department of Energy* returned to the Inquiry on Day 149 just as the Bill to privatise the electricity industry was passing its final stages in parliament.

A man of tight-lipped caution and memorable throwaway lines, Wilcock managed to leave many of his questioners still puzzling about what this major piece of government legislation might mean for Hinkley C.

Wilcock's supplementary evidence (DEN 1 Add 1) gave a brief outline of the latest state of play on privatisation. His evidence was too early, however, to mention the dramatic announcement (on July 24) that the Magnox stations had been pulled from privatisation, and would remain in state hands.

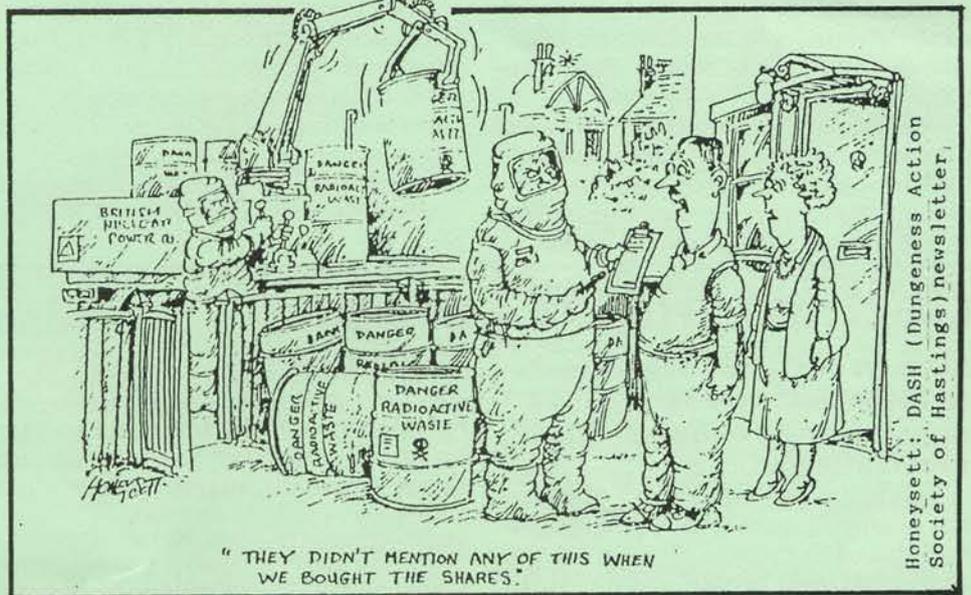
Gerard Ryan for COLA spent some time trying to establish how smaller companies generating relatively small amounts of electricity would fit into the new system. This is of particular interest to COLA because part of its evidence has been to promote a network of small, flexible generating options such as landfill gas. Wouldn't they be ignored with no specific provision in the new law, Ryan suggested. Wilcock's replies didn't produce much comfort.

Wilcock wasn't much more helpful (in response to many questioners) about how and when the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO) would beset. It could change in succeeding years and apply to each distribution area

separately, he said. He also confirmed that there was no commitment to keeping it going after the year 2000.

referred to the recent North West Electricity Board report which said the region could get 12% of its electricity from renewables. "I think it shows there is potential," said Wilcock.

Questioned by Crispin Aubrey (SHE) about the special fund of up to



Honeysett: DASH (Dungeness Action Society of Hastings) newsletter.

No sanction

Answering questions from Mike Harper (*Friends of the Earth*) Wilcock said that one reason for being able to vary the NFFO was to allow, for instance, for new plant, such as a PWR, not being on stream on time. Wilcock also said that if the NFFO wasn't met, it was "hard to see any sanction being applied" unless there had been a wilful refusal to take the necessary actions.

On the prospect for the renewables, Wilcock said that he knew of some landfill gas and wind projects which were already expected to contribute to the initial NFFO. He was also

£2,500 million to cover the "back end" costs of nuclear power, Wilcock said he didn't "think we can be certain that the limit will stay at that point." There was no upper limit.

Shopping around

On the sudden exclusion of the Magnox power stations from privatisation, Aubrey suggested that the "new information" which Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson referred to in his statement included the fact that potential investors had put the pressure on. "It has not been quite like that," said Wilcock. "One hasn't been, as it were, shopping around and asking investors which bits they would like to buy."

IN THIS ISSUE

Final days of evidence. Latest on privatisation. Combwich replay. Moral objections. Tolkeinesque farewell.

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In answer to a question from Aubrey that the CEGB might not have supplied the full economic picture, Wilcock said: "They are, like the rest of us, engaged in a learning process about this matter." He denied Aubrey's suggestion that future nuclear stations, including the AGRs, might suffer from the same cost overruns.

Survey results

Wilcock was also presented with the results of a recent survey which showed that only 17% of those questioned wanted to buy shares in electricity, and even less if it contained a nuclear element.

Cross-examined by Trevor Houghton (*Bristol Energy Centre*), Wilcock agreed that the imposition of a special nuclear levy was a recognition that nuclear costs were still uncertain. He said the levy would be worked out each year based on a formula which assessed the difference between nuclear and fossil-fuel generation. "Nuclear power is more expensive than other electricity and the levy will collect that cost," he said.

Wilcock told Brian Rome (*Bristol Conservation Society*) that contracts for the present and proposed Hinkley stations were being negotiated "at the moment" with the future distri-

bution companies. He said later that he thought there was "a reasonable expectation of success".

Bill Hicks (*Council for the Protection of Rural England*) suggested to Wilcock that the NFFO was anti-competitive by its nature and might prove to be incompatible with EC law. Wilcock said the government was "in dialogue" with the European Commission.

The words and wisdom of Christopher Wilcock.

Asked for his advice to consumers who don't want nuclear electricity: "Well, I think they had better purchase a little generating set and put it in the basement..."

On whether nuclear electricity will ever be too cheap to meter: "I should think that is very doubtful."

On the CEGB's ability to make adequate provision for Magnox in their accounts: "History has proved them wrong".

Asked whether AGRs are "practical and economic": "Well, they exist and they work up to a point, some of them better than others."

On the Magnox decision: "This is a recent decision, yes. We were going to do one thing with the Magnoxes and now we are going to do something else."

Cathedrals Or Tombs

Dickon Fell (DF 5) returned to the Inquiry on Day 148 to give evidence on landscape and transport.

Fell believes that people's sense of the aesthetic quality of the land has broadened to include concern for the ecological well-being of our natural environment. Nuclear power plants were "widely accepted and even eulogised as Cathedrals of Science when they first appeared over 30 years ago; now they are more often perceived as Tombs of Technology," he said.

Comparing the impact of nuclear power stations and wind turbines on the landscape, Fell thought that when people understood the potential of wind turbines, they would recognise that they were "far more welcome in the landscape". Fell maintained that the visual images of Chernobyl remained in people's minds and created a fear and distrust that did not occur when people saw wind turbines.

"Wind power evokes positive responses in people," he said. "The wind is associated with pleasure and enjoyment, sailing boats, kites,

windsurfers and hang gliders." This government, he concluded, had shown itself to be out of touch with the public by giving a very low value to environmental protection.

Policy vacuum

Fell then introduced Michael Birkin of *Bristol and Severnside Friends of the Earth* as an expert witness. Birkin was concerned with the issue of global warming and the greenhouse effect.

His evidence demonstrated that there was no coherent strategy for dealing with greenhouse gas emissions in which nuclear power could play a clearly defined role. "The government's policy is in fact beset by contradictions, and this Inquiry is therefore handicapped by having to operate in a policy vacuum."

The recent government white paper "Roads for Prosperity" stated that total traffic is forecast to increase by between 83% and 142% by the year 2025. "The prospects for reducing the UK's carbon dioxide emissions are severely prejudiced by the acceptance of such a level of traffic growth," Birkin concluded.

Soviet Visit

A delegation of top officials from the Soviet Ministry of Nuclear Power visited Cannington on July 20 and 21 to find out about the British public inquiry system.

Members of the six-man delegation included the chief designer of nuclear power stations, the head of department at the Ministry of Nuclear Energy and directors of two nuclear power stations.

During their brief stay in Somerset the delegation visited Hinkley Point and heard presentations on the strengths and weaknesses of the British Public Inquiry system from the CEGB, COLA and Stop Hinkley Expansion.

The Russian visitors also spent a short time in the Stop Hinkley Centre, hearing how objectors were helped to understand the Inquiry process. Even when they were well-laden with anti-nuclear leaflets, they responded eagerly to offers of badges and T-shirts with the slogan "Hinkley C - No Thanks".



After hearing from Stop Hinkley Expansion, the leader of the delegation said that they weren't starting with a blank sheet in the Soviet Union as far as public consultation was concerned.

At present, the Soviet system was for a potential power station plan to be discussed through a series of State committees, including a new one established to take on board issues of the environment. This process could take one to two years. At the same time, there would be public discussion, including a response from the local authorities.

After the recent political changes in Russia, and after Chernobyl, however, the state must get the agreement of the local authority, or the project wouldn't go ahead. He found it interesting that we involved individual (non-expert) people in the process, although he also saw that could mean the process might "last forever".

Combwich Replay

After the abandonment of the Combwich Compulsory Purchase hearing on June 13 (see *Inquirer* 17), a number of village people gave their views on the issue on Day 151.

In fact, since that date the *CEGB* has obtained planning permission from the Sedgemoor District Council to build a new road skirting the village, and linking its wharf on the River Parrett to the main Hinkley road.

Vicky Henderson, on behalf of *Combwich Residents' Environmental Concern* (CREC 2), said the group objected to the use of Combwich wharf, whatever route was planned for the traffic, for either building Hinkley C or for the removal of waste from the Hinkley site.

The objection was based on environmental impact, including road safety, damage to property and services, disruption to village life, accelerated erosion of the river bank, and the effects on emergency services. "The established character of the village, and therefore our quality of life, would be seriously impaired," she said.

Village survey

A village survey in November 1988 had shown that out of 315 replies, 72% were opposed to use of the wharf and Brookside Road (subject of the original CPO application) for construction traffic, 81% opposed to its use for decommissioning.

Both John and Maureen Randall, active members of *CREC*, also gave evidence. John Randall said he had found that "widespread resentment against the *CEGB*" had set in since the first two Hinkley stations were built. He criticised the Board's arrogant presumption that they could do what they wanted in the village. House prices had already slumped because of the threatened use of the wharf (30 - 40 houses are said to be on the market). He recommended use of a direct berthing facility off Hinkley Point instead.

Maureen Randall said she had been forced to participate in the Inquiry "because the *CEGB* proposals threaten to destroy the village I have grown to love." The Board had treated Combwich residents "shamefully", especially by serving CPO notices just before Christmas. The

village objection was supported by local MP Tom King and other politicians.

She concluded by saying she had come to the Inquiry with "no particular views on nuclear power. But I am afraid that the manner in which the *CEGB* has conducted itself, in particular their treatment and tactics with regard to Combwich, has convinced me that we do not need any more nuclear power stations."

Answer In The Soil

Jon Lucas (AOG 1) spoke on behalf of the Avon Organic Group, the local branch of the Soil Association and the Henry Doubleday Research Association, the country's two leading organic growers' organisations.

Lucas said he represented the interests of "all those who are growing their own food or who wish to

consume wholesome food, free of artificial contaminants." For many of these people living close to Hinkley Point it was their only source of food, and they would therefore be affected 100% by any problems caused to their supply.

He was also concerned with the everyday contamination that would occur from the building of another nuclear plant and the effects on the soil, plants and consumers. "I fear the same mistake is being made with artificial radionuclides that was made when the use of artificially-made chemicals became dominant in gardening and agriculture".

Lucas thought that the *CEGB* could learn a lot by studying organic gardening, "because therein lies the answer to the whole energy problem, energy saving and recycling - using only what cannot otherwise be provided, on an individual and small scale."

In conclusion, Lucas read out a statement from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (*IFOAM*) calling for the closure of all nuclear power stations and an end to all nuclear research.

The Plutonium Trail



FROM 'DRAIN PIG' BY DAN PEARCE

After months of background correspondence and hustling, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament finally got the opportunity on Day 147 to question the *CEGB* about the vexed issue of "plutonium accountancy".

Peter Wilmer, from the Board's Nuclear Fuel Cycle Department, appeared at the specific request of the Inspector. But his appearance also reflected a long-running argument which started when British Nuclear Fuels first admitted at the Sizewell Inquiry in 1984 that it "co-processed" military and civilian plutonium, and from which the *CEGB* has consistently tried to distance itself.

During Wilmer's cross-examination by Dr. Keith Barnham for *CND*, a number of interesting points emerged.

★ The *CEGB* admitted that it had

been unable to produce the "full and accurate" records of plutonium produced in its reactors which had been called for by the Sizewell Inquiry Report. Its excuse for this was in part the reluctance of the Department of Energy (which controls publication) to issue accurate figures. But in the background hung the spectre of "national security".

★ The Board accepted that it handed over total responsibility for managing its plutonium to British Nuclear Fuels. "We rely on the skills and integrity of BNFL in ensuring that we are getting our appropriate allocation (of plutonium)", as Wilmer put it.

★ This answer led *CND* to the inevitable conclusion that if the *CEGB* didn't control the plutonium, it could give no categorical assurances about whether or not, as has been alleged, it had been "diverted" into military use.

Polls Apart

The subject of public opinion was raised by *Stop Hinkley Expansion on Day 151* as the very last piece of evidence presented to the Inquiry.

Robin Sadler, a partner in the New Perspectives social and market research organisation, summarised in SHE 11 the recent findings of national and local opinion surveys. He said these showed that "the great majority of the British public opposes the further expansion of nuclear power."

By contrast, the surveys showed that the development of renewable sources of energy, alongside energy conservation, would be far more acceptable. "People would support (this policy), invest in it, and be prepared to pay for it," he said.

Majority opposed

Sadler quoted from surveys conducted by Gallup, his own company with the British Market Research Bureau (for COLA), and Greenpeace. These showed that about 70% of people were opposed to further nuclear expansion both nationally and in the two Somerset constituencies of Bridgewater and Taunton.

Sadler was cross-examined extensively by Michael Humphreys (CEGB), who attempted to show that opinion polls were a blunt instrument to help policy decision-making because it was unknown what expertise or information the respondents brought to the issue. They might, for instance, have read misleading newspaper reports. "I think it is a very dangerous course to go down," said Sadler, "if you start ignoring public opinion on the basis that the public is not as fully informed as you might like..." He thought that polls should be given equal weight alongside technical arguments.

Duped Generation

Elaine Mendoza spoke on Day 150 "as a feeling, frightened and angry person" hoping to find "an infinitesimal scrap of power in this system" which would allow her to express her thoughts about Hinkley C.

Mendoza said that a large pro-

portion of her generation had been duped, and were saddled with "the worst threat to life on earth that we will ever know." She went on to outline the arguments in favour of Hinkley C, which she believed were "madness under five topics".

★ The Madness of narrow-mindedness
★ The Madness of complacency and self-congratulation

★ The madness of ignorance and shortsightedness

★ The Madness of optimism

★ The Madness of selfishness and subterfuge.

"I wish that every single one of the 23,000 registered objectors to Hinkley C felt able to come here and each tell you what they feel too. Perhaps if they all did, you would be prepared to consider feelings from the heart as part of the evidence," she said. She produced a list of 237 replies she had received after placing newspaper adverts for "people who had wanted to come but were unable to."

She pointed to features of some of the replies: 20% felt the proceedings were too intimidating; 30% could not take time off; 16% found the venue too inaccessible; 23% didn't think they could express themselves in a way that would be acceptable.

In conclusion, Mendoza said: "I hope you will realise that I am not part of a small lunatic fringe but one of thousands and thousands of people locally and nationally who oppose Hinkley C..."

Active Citizen

Robert Green (RDG 6) examined the issue of democracy and nuclear power on Day 148.

He had been encouraged to appear

as an individual objector at this Inquiry "by the Prime Minister's advocacy of the concept of the Active Citizen," he said. Like his late aunt, Hilda Murrell, he had "exercised his democratic right to object", but had found in the process that both she and he had been accused of being "manipulated by organised anti-nuclear protest groups, invariably labelled left-wing. Active citizenship in this area had suddenly become subversion".

Green went on to explain his belief that the government's selective view of freedom was an "inevitable consequence of its Faustian contract with nuclear power", and outlined the role he believed the Inquiry could play to "reinvigorate the democratic process through which we can choose a coherent energy policy."

Green proposed that the Inspector should recommend to the Secretary of State for Energy to set up a Public Inquiry Commission into Energy Policy, "before any decision is made on Hinkley C".

The terms of reference should be:

- ★ Membership should incorporate a representative cross-section of views.
- ★ It should be open to the public.
- ★ Evidence should be given under oath.
- ★ Public funds should be provided for witnesses opposing government policy.
- ★ It should be free to challenge that policy.
- ★ Its aim should be to consider objectively the benefits and hazards of all available energy options, with safety as a top priority
- ★ Its recommendations should be subject to some form of democratic referendum.



NUCLEAR ECONOMICS

The last time she saw them, they were still trying to make the public swallow nuclear power.

"It's the stupidest tea-party I ever was at in all my life!" said Alice.

Set of 12 postcards: £2 from SHE, Hockpit Farm, Nether Stowey, Somerset

Last Informal Session

The last informal session at Cannington on Day 148 saw another good turnout of speakers addressing the whole range of issues.

Worries about radioactive waste, both in the present and in the future - burdening further generations with the problem - were expressed by a number of objectors. *Catherine Kingcombe* said: "We continue to build nuclear plants that even if subsequently closed down will be so dangerous that they will have to be guarded for thousands of years. We continue to commit little children, as yet unborn, to guarding the waste from our power stations for thousands of years." *Margaret Hobbs* echoed this sentiment: "In no way should they (the government) be creating a problem for my grandchildren to have to pay the cost of looking after and living with such a lethal inheritance..."

Alternative energy and energy efficiency were advocated by many speakers. *Mr. J. Putnam* called for the millions of pounds that have gone into nuclear expansion to be invested into alternative power and cleaner coal power. *D. Selman* criticised the CEBG for their adverts promoting greater consumption of energy rather than adopting a more sensible approach "to promote a more efficient use of electricity and not the consumption of ever more electricity".

Further to the evidence that he gave at Cardiff, *Don Arnott* presented more information on the problems with control rods experienced in France. "The French nuclear industry is in very deep trouble with its control rod system." They had found fracture and jamming in their control rods but they do not understand what is at the root of the problem, he said. As a result, they were having to undergo massive replacement but didn't have enough rods to meet the unanticipated large demand.

A local fisherman from near Hinkley Point, *Anthony Brewer*, objected to Hinkley C on the grounds that it will do untold damage to the marine life in the area. He quoted figures to demonstrate the effect that the A and B stations have had. "In 1979, from February to July, I caught 1023.5 pounds of shrimps. In the same period for 1989, it was 573 pounds, which goes to show that the power station has an effect on fishing."

James McClune, Chairman of the *South Western Electricity Consulta-*

tive Council, put forward a case for the building of Hinkley C. He believes that the extra generating capacity the station will provide is needed, both in the South West region and nationally. Addressing some of the objections put forward, *Mr. McClune* said: "A nuclear plant, with hydro, is by far the cleanest source of electricity. Its waste products are dangerous and long-living, but they are compact and controllable and they can be stored, as Sweden has shown."



Illustration by Paul Peter Plech

Ron Smith offered an amusing alternative view to the Combwich wharf argument by drawing an analogy with a character created by *Mary Shelley*. "Baron Frankenstein von CEBG decided to make another monster. He already had two called *Magnox* and *Agar* but he wanted another for some perveted wicked reason (or PWR)." The story continues: "He was short of an arm (an access road means). He advertised and made many cunning palm-greasing offers (or CPOs) but to no avail." The tale ends with *Mr. Smith* calling for the CEBG to build their own wharf at Hinkley Point, rather than use the one at Combwich.

A number of other individual objectors also made statements during the last few days of evidence.

Day 150 heard evidence from a Traditional Acupuncturist, *Miranda Cox*, who drew a comparison between holistic medicine and the consumption of energy. A holistic approach to electricity production would be to use renewable sources of energy like the wind, sea and sun. These are not harmful to the whole in

the way that radiation is, with risks from leakages, accidents and radioactive waste.

Lynn Wetenhall from Exeter believed that we have a moral obligation to improve life on earth.

"When the history books of the 20th century are written this Inquiry will be seen as one of the crossroads... We must start down new roads and shape our societies and activities to be in harmony with nature, not opposed to it."

The nuclear industry had been described as "a ruthless giant born in secrecy, nurtured in ignorance and growing in contempt. I appeal to you, don't let the giant push us down the wrong road now."

Simon Fairlie, representing the *Salisbury Rainforest Campaign*, asked the Inspector to make his decision in a global context on Day 151. He pointed out that the world is disturbedly unbalanced, with one quarter of the world's population consuming something like two-thirds of the world's resources, while the rest of the world live in conditions of relative or absolute poverty. *Fairlie* ended by saying that it is the height of hypocrisy for Britain to try and persuade poorer Third World countries to cut back on electricity generation schemes for global environmental reasons, while a wealthy country such as ours promotes increased domestic demand and then uses this as an excuse to build still more power stations.

Working Out The Inquiry

- The Inquiry is still on target to finish on Wednesday September 20. During the summer break, August 5 to September 4, there will be no permanent staff in the Stop Hinkley Centre, although the Secretariat will still be operating. Enquiries for *Stop Hinkley Expansion* should be addressed either to 0278 732921 or 422 632.
- Several important documents have been published in the past week or so. These include reports on the Inquiry's Chernobyl visit (S 4715-7), an up-to-date list of evidence submitted (P 117), an up-to-date list of "S" documents (P 118), a list of objectors up to December 31, 1987 (P 119), and a list of written representations made to the Inquiry since then (P 120).

Closing Submissions

Over 30 organisations and individuals are currently programmed to make closing statements to the Inquiry, ending with COLA and the CEGB. In this and the final edition of the Inquirer, to be published in mid-September, we will try to summarise the main points they made.

Day 152

Bristol Energy Centre



Trevor Houghton, speaking for Bristol Energy Centre, concentrated on economics and the need for Hinkley C, in particular the role which could be played by energy conservation measures and "least cost planning".

On the new privatisation law which the CEGB used to justify Hinkley C, Houghton said it was still "quite possible that National Power (the CEGB's successor) could decide that it is not in its best interests to build Hinkley C", preferring instead a range of other options, including the renewables.

Houghton also pointed out that the Director General of Electricity Supply proposed in the law had a duty to "protect the interests of consumers" and promote efficiency, and could decide to judge new investment options against the cost of the energy derived services to consumers.

On the greenhouse effect, he said that it had been shown repeatedly at the Inquiry that "energy conservation and efficiency programmes are the most cost-effective abatement strategies." He added that the possibility that "the problem of global warming might radically change the emphasis of the government's policy in the near future does not appear to have been considered by the CEGB."

Security of supply

On the issue of diversity and security, Houghton said his view that energy efficiency would help security had been supported by other participants. "Our contention is that for low income domestic consumers, security of supply is tied up to their ability to pay for essential services such as warmth... Decisions that increase

their fuel bills or maintain them at an artificially high level, such as building Hinkley C, undermine their security... Investment by the industry in end-use efficiency measures in the domestic sector would enhance the consumers' security by reducing the likelihood of disconnection..."

Houghton reminded the Inquiry that the thrust of his expert witness Dr. Brenda Boardman's evidence had been about the energy needs of the 30% of the population on low income. He quoted her stark summary of their plight:

"The inability to keep warm is already putting the lives of many thousands of poor people at risk each winter... It is not an exaggeration to say that the decision on whether to invest £1.5 billion in Hinkley C or to invest in the more efficient use of electricity in the homes of the poor is a matter of life and death for some of the most disadvantaged electricity consumers."

Spending half the cost of Hinkley C in energy efficiency measures would displace twice its output, he said.

In summary, Houghton said that Hinkley C should be rejected because it was premature, given the uncertainty about the NFFO, that end-use efficiency would be more cost effective in meeting consumer needs, and it would hit the poor hardest.

Dr. Brian John

Dr. John, a renewable energy consultant from Newport, South Wales, attacked the basis of the CEGB's reliance on government policy.

He said that all the worst predictions about the problems of privatising nuclear electricity were coming true. The result was that Joe Public was having to pay the extra costs twice over - as electricity consumer and as taxpayer.

The CEGB had "demonstrated neither the need nor the cost-effectiveness of Hinkley C, neither has it shown that it is required as an inevitable consequence of government policy. It hasn't demonstrated that it has customers for the product, and it hasn't demonstrated that it is supported by public goodwill."

"The CEGB has lost the argument as inexorably as it has lost public support," he concluded. "To build a Hinkley Point PWR would be to build yet another nuclear folly."

Stogursey Parish Council

James Murphy, in a brief closing statement on behalf of Stogursey Parish Council, said they had "been assured on several occasions by the CEGB that the views of the parish would be taken into consideration." That hadn't happened.

Continuing worries included the possibility of a caravan site on the edge of the village, the workers' hostel on site - to which there were "very strong objections" - and the background concerns about safety. "We have had our share of trouble; we have made our contribution to the need for power generation. We consider that we have done enough..."

David Ross

David Ross, an individual objector and the author of a book on wave energy, made a final plea for the "non-polluting" renewable alternatives to nuclear power.

Serious investment in a mixture of offshore wind, wave and tidal power schemes "would have no difficulty in providing by 2000 the electricity required from Hinkley C," he said.

Ross then made brief assessments of the potential from wave power (he had brought two wave experts, Stephen Salter and Peter White, as witnesses), wind and the Severn tidal barrage.

Ross said he hoped the Inspector's report would "contribute to the early burial of nuclear power."

Irish Sea Project

Regular participant Tim Deere-Jones gave a detailed summary of the main arguments put by the Irish Sea Project under Topics 2 (safety), 3 (waste and decommissioning) and 4 (emergency planning).

Under Topic 2, the ISP had shown that neither the authorising departments on discharges nor the CEGB had "sound and reliable models for the behaviour of the Irish Sea", he said. This included such criticisms as lack of daily end-of-pipeline monitoring or full understanding of the movement of marine sediments. They had also failed to undertake serious investigation into the discharge of tritium, in particular, and "miss or ignore a number of significant pathways by which people would be subject to radiation doses from Hinkley C".

Until these weaknesses had been

rectified, "all liquid discharges of radioactivity into the sea should cease".

Deere-Jones also emphasised the conflict that had arisen between the National Radiological Protection Board and the nuclear industry, with the industry "currently operating... at a level of risk which is 30 times that which the *NRPB* regards as the maximum acceptable annual risk for members of the public. This shows there has been a complete breakdown in the statutory system of radiological protection in this country."

Poor management

On Topic 3, Deere-Jones referred to a number of examples he had brought up of poor waste management by the nuclear industry. He also criticised the fact that sea dumping might still be considered a possibility for some waste.

On Topic 4, he reiterated criticisms made of the Ministry of Agriculture's ability to handle the effect of the Chernobyl fallout on upland pastures, especially in Wales and Scotland. He described the impossible position faced by hill farmers - an "unconsidered critical group" - in attempting to handle their irradiated stock.

If a Chernobyl type accident happened at Hinkley, large parts of South Wales would come within the immediate danger zone, he said. "It is hubris of an extreme kind to maintain that we are better than anyone else and that 'it won't happen here'."

The *ISP* statement also included promised details of float releases aimed at tracking water movement conducted by the Project in the sea off Hinkley Point.

Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance



The government's requirement for a fixed proportion of non-fossil-fuel electricity could be satisfied by "more flexible, more robust and more economic" means than a Westinghouse PWR, according to the *Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance*.

Presenting the *WANA* conclusions, Dr. Brian John said that "by providing generating capacity from a large number of renewable sources,

supply can be matched far more closely to demand, with very much smaller lead times, more flexibility and with less financial risk."

Dr. John reminded the Inspector of *WANA* evidence on the poor worldwide performance of PWRs, on the large number of cancelled orders, and on substantial doubts about the optimistic construction time and operating life of Hinkley C. By contrast, he emphasised the promising performance of the renewables, exemplified by the confident expansion of wind power in Denmark.

"In this context Hinkley C becomes an irrelevance," he said. "We already know that the public does not consider the risks inherent in an extension of nuclear generating capacity to be tolerable. We now also know that the public is well disposed towards renewable energy developments. We submit that it is perfectly feasible to replace and, indeed, exceed the predicted output from Hinkley C from renewable energy sources in a cost-effective and socially and environmentally acceptable way."

Day 153 Greenpeace

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace had produced a "comprehensive and viable basis for an energy policy in this country" which excluded nuclear power, lawyer Arthur Marriott told the Inquiry.

The problem was that politicians had decided that four PWRs would be built whatever the economics, he said. "It doesn't matter whether they're 10 or 50% more expensive. The price must be paid for the claimed diversity of supply. You should not lend your authority to that policy," he told the Inspector.

The Inquiry did not turn on matters of detail or deciding between one set of statistics and another, said Marriott. "It turns on how you define and how you answer these major questions of policy and principle."

Marriott said that with escalating nuclear costs compared to other sources - underlined by the various protection measures in the privatisation legislation - there was now "no evidence that the diversity argument cannot be met by the market by other means". Given half a chance, the investors themselves would develop renewable energy.

Unwarranted complacency

In the background to these economic arguments there was also always the fact that a nuclear accident was "generally different" to one in other generation methods.

On evidence presented by *Greenpeace* about emergency planning, barrister James Cameron said that European commitments could force the *CEGB* to adopt much stricter planning rules, including a wider emergency zone, than was the case at present. The Board's statement that there was no feature of Chernobyl which calls into question the basis of existing emergency plans "must stand now as a remark of unwarranted complacency".

Marriott concluded by stressing the importance of public opinion as the ultimate judge on whether the right decisions were being taken.

★ ★ ★ ★

"The last three-and-a-half years have been the best in my life. I have attended this Inquiry practically every day since it began, either to listen to what others have to say or to carry out investigations and representations on behalf of Combwich Residents' Environmental Concern. I have met many interesting people and have made many, many friends... The camaraderie here is something which, as far as I am concerned, will probably never be repeated." (Maureen Randall, Day 151: 64G)

★ ★ ★ ★

Farewell To The Fellowship

*In the land of Westminster where the shadows lie,
One Bill to rule them all, One Bill to exclude them,
One Bill to bring them all and in the darkness separate them,
In the land of Westminster where the shadows lie.*

It was towards the end of my journey southward from the Shire that I first encountered Gollum. He had been sent by the new Dark Lord of Westminster to defend and cling onto his precious Bill and to return it safely from the clutches of the fellowship and from Saruman.

Gollum was evasive and talking riddles. He fended off questions from the like of Aragorn, Lord of Nether Stowey, from the penetrating and inquisitive Legolas, son of the Elven king of FOE and even from Gandalf the Grey, the old wizard whose knowledge and wisdom amazes us all. Even when confronted by Saruman the White (whose side he is on we are never sure), Gollum still continued to squirm and think of new riddles in response to questions put to him.

But all was not lost, some headway was made and although Gollum still had his claws on his precious Bill, it was in tatters!

Much of this happened on the day when we had support from King Theoden, who rode in to take a break from his battles with the Dark Lord. During his brief stay, Theoden publicised his opposition to the Bill and the stance that he and his fellow warriors would take the next time the Dark Lord of Westminster went to war. Theoden was confident that the people would support him and rise up against the Dark Lord.

Gandalf also took the opportunity to pass on some of his wisdom to the people. He had been pursued all day, since dawn in fact (Ed's note: look out for him on BBC TV "Nature" in November).

News From Stop Hinkley Centre

It's a long time since we had a letter from you. We are very interested to hear from you and would like to see you again. We are very interested to hear from you and would like to see you again. We are very interested to hear from you and would like to see you again.



But now my adventures are drawing to a close. Perhaps fittingly, this week has seen the final appearance of Elrond, down from Rivendell from where I set out many a long day and night ago and without whose support none of this would have happened. This week also sees the return of Bilbo (from whom I took over) no doubt with many a tale to tell!

Finally, a word of thanks to all those members of the fellowship with whom I met up with on the way through my adventures; to Peregrin for all his running, to Gandalf for the benefit of his advice and wisdom and to Samwise whose appetite would do any hobbit proud!

Stuart Purves

P.S. Thanks also to SHE, especially to Crispin and Danielle and to Jenny, Pete, Keyna and Mowena for putting up with me for so long.

Facilities For Objectors

TRANSPORT

There is a free bus service to and from Cannington, as below.

Use it or lose it!

Tuesday - Thursday		
9.00 am	Taunton BR Station	5.55 pm
9.30	Bridgwater BR Station	5.25
9.40	Inquiry Venue	5.15
9.45	Creche	5.10
N.B. When the Inquiry starts at 9.30 am, all morning bus times are half an hour earlier.		

Friday		
8.00 am	Taunton	4.25 pm
8.30	Bridgwater	3.55
8.40	Inquiry Venue	3.45
8.45	Creche	3.40
Creche on Fridays 8.30 am - 4 pm.		

CRECHE

People with children under five are welcome to use the excellent creche at Cannington. Open each day of the Inquiry from half-an-hour before proceedings begin. Telephone in advance to book your place: (0278) 653081.

DIARY

The programme is provisional and subject to change, so keep in touch with the Programme Officer, Keith Parker (0278 444005, ext. 128) for up-to-date information.

Weeks 41, 42 and 43

The starting time is 9.30 am unless otherwise stated, finishing about 5.00 pm. Fridays start at 9.15 am and finish about 3.30 pm.

Tuesday September 5

Closing submissions by Dr. Richard Webb, Friends of the Earth and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Wednesday September 6

Closing submissions by the Town and Country Planning Association, the National Union of Mineworkers, Don Arnott, West Somerset CND, Railway Development Society, Severnside Branch, South Wales Women's Support Groups and Cwmbran Anti-Nuclear Group.

LIBRARY

The Public Office at Cannington Court dealing with the Public Inquiry contains the whole gamut of documents being prepared in connection with the PWR proposals.

TRANSCRIPTS

These can be obtained from the Secretariat, cost of weekly posting for four issues £2.00.

The Hinkley Point C Public Inquiry Secretariat, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA. Telephone: 0278 444005.

**STOP HINKLEY CENTRE, CANNINGTON COURT, CHURCH STREET, CANNINGTON, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET TA5 2HA
Tel: Bridgwater 652408 Fax: 652459**

Thursday September 7

Closing submission by Stop Hinkley Expansion.

Friday September 8

Closing submission by the Health and Safety Executive (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate).

Monday September 11

Closing submission by the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Tuesday September 12

Closing submission by the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities.

Wednesday September 13

COLA continued.

Thursday September 14

Closing submission by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Friday September 15

CEGB continued.

Tuesday September 19

CEGB continued.

Wednesday September 20

CEGB continued.

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