

STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION



Newsletter

November 1988

CEGB FORCED TO GIVE 'COAL COSTS' EVIDENCE AT INQUIRY

After months of prevarication, the CEGB has finally agreed to produce evidence at the Hinkley C Public Inquiry about the comparative economics of coal and nuclear power stations. This was the most dramatic development of the first few weeks of the hearings at Cannington Court.

Against a background of repeated requests from Inquiry Inspector Michael Barnes to produce such cost comparisons, the CEGB climb-down was inevitably seen by the media as a victory for the objectors (see below). (The CEGB has consistently argued that it doesn't need to compare Hinkley C with a coal station because the government has decreed under its privatisation plans that nuclear stations must be built as part of a special 'non-fossil fuel' proportion of electricity generation.)

The CEGB has promised to produce this new evidence by the end of November, and it will probably not be aired at the Inquiry itself until early January. Objectors will then have a chance to argue that nuclear is more costly than coal.

For full reports of the Inquiry, read the Hinkley Inquirer (see sub. form overleaf).

CEGB to yield on coal costs

OBJECTORS ASKED FOR 'TOPIC 1' STATEMENTS: Some of you will now have received letters asking you to submit a 'statement (proof) of evidence' on Topic 1 of the Inquiry, which covers 'the need for further generating capacity', 'economic issues', 'comparisons with other forms of electricity generation', 'privatisation' and 'general matters relating to the civil use of nuclear power', which could include the weapons connection, energy conservation, uranium mining etc.

SHE is encouraging as many people as possible to make such statements, however brief and non-technical, in order to show the strength and breadth of feeling about nuclear power. If you want help and advice on how to write it, please contact the Stop Hinkley Centre (see page 2). SHE may even be able to find somebody to act as a 'lay advocate' to help you present your statement at the Inquiry.

However, please remember that there are five topics altogether, and that others still to come, covering safety for instance, may be more appropriate. Also, we are still hoping that a large number of

HINKLEY POINT 'C' PUBLIC INQUIRY COMES TO TAUNTON

Thursday December 8

This 'informal session' of the Inquiry will be in the Queen's Suite, County Hotel, East Street starting at 10:00 am. It will continue into the evening if necessary. Please try to get along and have your say...

objectors will be able to present their statements right at the end of the Inquiry, because their views are generally against nuclear power, not defined by one topic area. Please get in touch with the Stop Hinkley Centre if you are interested in joining the list of people hoping to present their 'evidence' at that point.

INQUIRY NEWS

Below are some points and information which should help readers get to grips with the Public Inquiry:

INQUIRY HEARINGS happen every day in the Clifford Hall at Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington from Tuesday to Fridays only. Session times are normally 10am to 1pm and 2 to 5pm, except for Fridays, when it's 9 to 12 and 1 to 3.30pm. There has usually been a scattering of people watching the proceedings, but objectors having their say could always do with more moral support.

The STOP HINKLEY CENTRE, right next to the Clifford Hall, is open every Inquiry day from about 9.30am to 5.30pm. Jill Sutcliffe is there to help explain what is going on inside the Inquiry and to give advice on how objectors can prepare for either cross-examining (questioning) CEGB witnesses or giving their own evidence. She also has lists of other objectors so that you can find out who else is interested in the same subject. The address and phone number are:

STOP HINKLEY CENTRE,
Cannington Court,
Cannington, Bridgwater TA5 2HA.

0278 652408

0278 652459 (Fax)

Please pop in for a chat or a cup of coffee if you go to the Inquiry, but remember that the room can get very crowded, and Jill's capacity to cope with the number of visitors has been severely stretched! We are hoping to have general access to two other rooms in the building where objectors can go to look at documents, discuss the Inquiry etc.

Your chance to make it a really Public Inquiry

FREE TRANSPORT is provided to the Inquiry on a coach leaving Taunton British Rail at 9am, calling at Bridgwater BR at 9.30, and arriving at the Inquiry at 9.40 approx. Return journey leaves the Inquiry at 5.15, arrives Bridgwater 5.25, Taunton 5.55pm. On Fridays, the timetable is earlier, leaving Taunton BR 8am, Bridgwater BR 8.30, Inquiry 8.40, returning from the Inquiry again at 3.45, Bridgwater 3.55, Taunton 4.25pm.

The CRECHE is now working well after some teething troubles, and there were half a dozen children using it in the October half term week. If you have a child aged 3 months to 5 years, ring the organiser, Cilla McKenzie-Smith (0278 444005) to make a booking in advance.

GENERAL INFORMATION about the Inquiry, including timetables, details of documents, transcripts of the proceedings, can be got from the Inquiry Secretariat, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater TA5 2HA (0278 444005). If you haven't seen it, a helpful letter was sent out to most objectors on September 23, explaining about giving evidence etc. Ask the Secretariat to send you a copy.

A TRAVEL FUND is available for meeting the travel expenses of any body who can't afford to get to the Inquiry. Please apply with details of how much you're likely to spend to 'Travel Fund' at the Stop Hinkley Centre address, as above. ACCOMMODATION for objectors coming from a distance is also available through the Centre.

campaign
NEWS

NOV.9 - LOBBY PARLIAMENT: For details of this national lobby of MPs in the run-up to the Privatisation Bill, please contact Mary Newton (0452 76575) or Jill Sutcliffe (0278 652408). Speakers in the Grand Committee Room at the House of Commons (2.30-5.30pm) will include MPs from all parties.

BENEFIT CONCERT: The proceeds of a concert at the Colston Hall, Bristol on December 9 will be split between SHE and FoE. The line-up is Bristol band The Blue Aeroplanes, John Martyn and Helen Lederer. Tickets cost £7 (£5 concs) from the Colston Hall box office (0272 262957/291768) or the Stop Hinkley Centre.

SCHOOLS PROJECTS: The CEGB is currently setting up a link between Hinkley Point and Somerset schools on the basis that school children should get to know what happens inside a local industry. Special materials are being produced for the project - all generously paid for by the CEGB. If any teachers or parents would like the SHE display panels and other leaflets to counter this approach, or at least balance the pro-nuclear stuff, please get in touch with the SHE office (see end of newsletter).

NEW BRISTOL FOE WORKER: Nicola Ramsden has started working from Bristol for Friends of the Earth, specifically concentrating on the Hinkley C issue. To start with, she will be mainly fund-raising to pay for FoE's case at the Hinkley Inquiry, with a target of £30,000. Among other things, she has already designed a colourful T-shirt with the slogan 'Safe, Renewable Energy... Hinkley C - No Point'. These cost £7.50 each from Avon Friends of the Earth, Arnos Castle Estate, Junction Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3JP, where Nicola can also be contacted on 0272 710680.

NUCLEAR
NEWS

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT: Global warming produced by excessive emission of CO₂ and other gases into the upper atmosphere is the latest piece of science to be brought forward as an argument for more nuclear power. Government Ministers have found coal-fired power stations as the cause of the 'greenhouse effect', and suggested that the only solution is a massive programme of

Hinkley Cs.

Some simple answers to this argument include: 1. All the coal-fired power stations in the world only contribute about 5% of the man-made radiative gases responsible for the greenhouse effect. Much larger contributions come from spray cans and forest clearance. 2. A much cheaper solution to the problem of power station CO₂ emissions than more nuke stations would be energy efficiency and conservation measures, mixed with serious investment in the renewables. 3. Singling out the CO₂ problem with coal burning ignores all the unsolved problems of nuclear power, from waste to the risk of a catastrophic accident. 4. There are potential solutions to the greenhouse crisis - one US power company is planting 1,000 square kilometres of trees in Central America to compensate for the effect of the CO₂ from its new power station in Virginia.

STROUD INQUIRY WORKSHOP: A special Public Inquiry workshop will be held in Stroud on Saturday November 26, 10am to 4pm to help objectors in that area prepare for the hearings at Cannington. The format will be the same as at the Bridgwater workshop (see page 4). The venue is 8, Castle Street, Stroud. Details from Stroud 71189/70962 or Westbury-on-Severn 575.

I would like to subscribe to the "HINKLEY INQUIRER". Please rush me a copy every fortnight.

Name

Organisation

Address

Postcode

Subscription Rates: Institutions, Organisations, the Media - £40 for a year's issues. Individuals and Anti-Nuclear groups - £12. Cheques payable to "Stop Hinkley Expansion". Please return form to: Stop Hinkley Expansion Office, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA.

**NEWS
IN BRIEF**

If you would like to organise your own Inquiry Workshop to help objectors in your area prepare for giving evidence, then please get in touch with the Stop Hinkley Centre and we will do our best to make sure that somebody from SHE comes along to speak... The Safe Energy Roadshow's Bristol tour was a great success. The trailer made 17 visits on different days, taking in Bath and Nailsea as well. Over 4,000 signatures were collected in opposition to Hinkley C. Thanks to Jamie Gill for organising the tour, and to all the SHE members who got involved... The first witness at the Inquiry for SHE, Professor Jim Jeffery on 'A Dangerous, Unnecessary and Uneconomic Source of Power', is due to appear later this month. Check with the Stop Hinkley Centre for the exact date... The CEGB has ordered £17 million worth of work to be done by the French company Framatome on the reactor pressure vessel for Hinkley C. They claim that if the work isn't started now, the station would never be built on time. Do they know something that we don't, or is it just an attempt to put a bit more pressure on the Inquiry?... Meanwhile, the Board has withdrawn from proceeding for the time being with its application to build a coal-fired power station at Fawley in Hampshire. The reason given was the fact that the area distribution boards could not guarantee that they would buy the electricity produced by the station under a privatised industry. We're now waiting for the CEGB to try for the same guarantee over Hinkley C...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 9	London	<u>Parliamentary Lobby</u> against all proposed PWR nuclear stations. Speakers from 2.30pm. See newsletter.
13	Bristol	<u>SHE General Meeting</u> , Energy Centre, Philip Street, Bedminster, Bristol. 2.30pm. Call SHE office for directions.
22/23	Cardiff	<u>Hinkley C Inquiry Sessions</u> , New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff. 10am to 5pm both days.
December 8	Taunton	<u>Hinkley C Inquiry Session</u> , County Hotel, East Street, Taunton. 10am start, extended to evening if enough people want to speak.
9	Bristol	<u>Benefit Concert</u> for SHE and FoE, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol. Tickets 0272 262957.
10	Bridgwater	<u>SHE Public Inquiry Workshop</u> , Arts Centre, Castle Street, Bridgwater. 10am to 4pm approx. See below for details.

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For further information on campaign items in this newsletter, please write to SHE, Hockpitt Farm, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater TA5 1EX or phone Crispin Aubrey (0278 732921) or Danielle Grunberg (0278 422632). For Public Inquiry information, write to the Stop Hinkley

Centre, Cannington Court, Cannington, Bridgwater TA5 2HA or phone Jill Sutcliffe (0278 652408).

PUBLIC INQUIRY WORKSHOP

SHE will be running another Public Inquiry Workshop at Bridgwater Arts Centre, Castle Street, Bridgwater on Saturday December 10, 10am to 4pm. The aim will be to help objectors to understand how the Public Inquiry works, and how they can most easily present their own views at it. Please fill in the slip below if you would like further details.

I would like further details about the SHE Inquiry Workshop on Dec. 10 in Bridgwater.

Name Address Telephone

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