

HINKLEY C INQUIRY ADJOURNED TO NOVEMBER

The Hinkley C Inquiry is not over yet! At least a week of further sessions will be held in November - after last-minute evidence from the CEBG about increased construction costs.

The CEBG produced its surprise new information just three days before the Inquiry was due to close on September 27, and in the middle of its closing speech. After hearing from objectors, the Inspector decided to adjourn the proceedings until Tuesday November 7. This additional session, which will hear responses from objectors (including SHE) to the new evidence, could last up to two weeks.

The new CEBG figures show that the cost of building the Sizewell B PWR in Suffolk has already risen by 10% over its original estimate of £1.6billion. This is certain to push up the cost of Hinkley C, which the Board had hoped to build more cheaply than Sizewell.

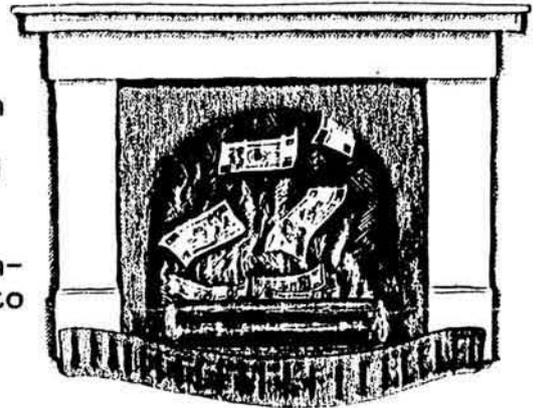
It is unclear whether this extension, which pushes the overall length of the inquiry to well over a year, will delay publication of the Inspector's report. It is also unclear why the CEBG should have suddenly produced these figures at such a late stage. One theory is that, set alongside other recent nuclear cost escalations, the Board was reminding the government just how expensive nuclear power will continue to be once privatised.

"IDEAL ENERGY" EXHIBITION TAKES TO THE ROAD

SHE is about to launch an exciting new touring exhibition. "The Ideal Energy Exhibition", housed in a 20 foot long converted caravan, has been designed by Trevor Houghton of Bristol Energy Centre. It looks at "the price we pay for energy", and at the "pollution bill" for electricity use in an ordinary family house.

We plan to hold a press launch for the exhibition in the centre of Bristol on November 16. The caravan will then initially tour round the Bristol area. Eventually, we plan to take the exhibition to schools and events throughout the West Country, but we will have to raise more funds before that can start.

Further information from Danielle Grunberg (0278 422632).



WHITE ELEPHANT BURIED

A sombre funeral march with appropriate music led the white elephant Hinkley to his "burial" at what was supposed to be the end of the Inquiry in Cannington on September 26. Just before he was laid to rest (in the skip normally used to collect waste paper), an oration to the unwanted creature was read by a priest. Champagne corks then popped in celebration.

The event got excellent coverage on regional television, as well as the BBC national 9pm news.

NEXT SHE GENERAL MEETING - SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH
UNITY HOUSE, DAMPIET STREET, BRIDGWATER - 2.30 PM
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME - CALL SHE OFFICE FOR DIRECTIONS.org

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SHE FUTURE STRATEGY

A wide range of ideas about the future direction of SHE has been discussed at a number of recent meetings. As the public inquiry comes to an end, we have looked at ways in which we can both keep up the momentum of opposition to Hinkley C and break new campaigning ground. This is a summary of current plans.

1. After the Public Inquiry

- * Lobby for full parliamentary debate about the Hinkley Inspector's findings before the government decides.
- * Prepare to react to the report's publication, and government decision, probably early next year. Assuming the news is bad, and apart from comments to the press on the details, this should involve protest action at Hinkley Point itself, other regional centres (e.g. Cardiff, Bristol, Exeter) as well as at Sizewell and Wylfa. The events would be coordinated on the first Saturday after the announcement.
- * Publish a book-length account of the Inquiry debate from our point of view.

2. National PWR Campaign

- * Discuss with Sizewell and Wylfa campaigners how best to project a united front of opposition to the "family" of PWRs. This could involve
 - coordinated actions or statements
 - a joint newsletter
 - joint fund-raising

3. Education

- * Publicise and use "The Ideal Energy Exhibition" as a mobile educational tool promoting the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable sources (see front page of newsletter).
- * Publicise and use the SHE video (when re-edited and improved).
- * Encourage visits to renewable energy and other centres, e.g. Carmarthen Bay, Bristol Energy Centre, Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth.

4. Members Action

- * Encourage members to lobby their local authorities about energy efficiency and conserving resources.
- * Encourage members to lobby their (soon to be privatised) Area Electricity Boards, e.g. SWEB, about energy labelling of products and consumers' rights (see newsletter back page).
- * Encourage more affiliations from trades unions and political parties.
- * Publicise the Consumers Against Nuclear Energy campaign for non-payment of a proportion of your electricity bill, including the special CANE cheque books.
- * Prepare new membership/recruiting leaflets, including a response to the greenhouse effect argument for more nuclear power.

The Coordinators are now in the process of working some of these ideas up into practical campaigning activities. Further discussions are also taking place about a fund-raising programme to ensure that these activities are viable.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

***** WIND PARK VISIT: About 35 members of SHE and Bridgewater Friends of the Earth went on the coach trip to the Carmarthen Bay Wind Energy Demonstration Centre in South Wales earlier this month. It was a really interesting day, with four different wind turbines to walk round (two in operation), an exhibition centre, and a guided tour of one of the turbines by an engineer. Thoroughly recommended to all SHE members. Phone 05546 4989 for full details.

DIRECT ACTION: Danielle Grunberg, SHE Joint Coordinator, replies to the Anti-Nuclear Network (September newsletter).

“We believe that SHE’s participation in the Inquiry has been of crucial importance in enabling hundreds of individual people to have a say. We have no doubt that the strength of the arguments in evidence put forward by objectors will have an impact on the outcome. We are not, however, blind to the political realities of the inquiry set up. There is no contradiction here.

The right time to organise a campaign of civil disobedience and non-violent direct action is not now, for the following reasons:

1. This would not, in our opinion, be well received by local people (i.e. villages around Hinkley Point) at the moment. The groundswell is not there because the time is not right.

2. It is important to wait for the decision on the Inquiry, whilst at the same time sounding out local people as to what they would want to do should the go-ahead be given. (Local opinion has shifted dramatically in the last year in our favour, but we cannot move too fast.)

3. The momentum against Sizewell C and Wylfa is building up. We are in the process of discussing future joint actions with people from Wales and East Anglia. Obviously we cannot organise anything at Hinkley until we are all clear about the future.

In summary, SHE has never seen non-violent direct action as the main plank of its campaign, but if the times comes - the right time - and people want to do it, then SHE would support it and make sure it is effective and well organised.

Lastly, we do think it’s important not to waste precious time attacking each other in public or elsewhere. We do not want to see the movement split between "direct actionists" and "Inquiro-maniacs". Diversity is our strength. Let’s keep it that way.”

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SHE is looking for a part-time fund-raiser to replace Sibylle Reisen, who has been responsible for the (highly successful) mailshots which you regularly receive. Ideally the person should have good administration and organisational skills, be self-motivated and able to communicate well. Previous direct mail fund-raising experience would be an advantage.

For further details (including current wages) please write to Sibylle at 14, Hughenden Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 8SF or phone (0272) 230359 (daytime).

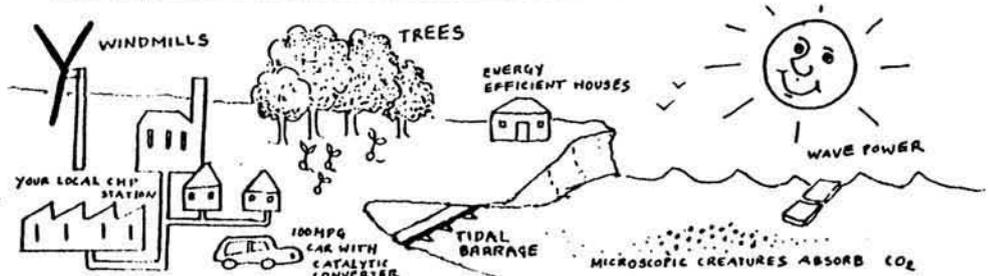
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GREENPEACE OPINION POLL: Greenpeace commissioned opinion polls at all three "front line" PWR sites just before the supposed end of the Hinkley C inquiry. The Hinkley poll (of 500 people living within a 35 mile radius) showed 61% were "unfavourable" towards a PWR and only 16% "favourable". Similarly, 68% wanted either a total halt to nuclear power or "no more at present", >>>

and only 21% wanted more. Results at Sizewell and Wylfa were much the same.

GREENHOUSE LEAFLET: The Druridge Bay Campaign (where a PWR is still possible) have produced a good, simple 6-page leaflet on the greenhouse effect and nuclear power. Write for copies to DBC, Tower Buildings, Oldgate, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1PY.

THERE ARE SOLUTIONS TO THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT WHICH AVOID THE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS OF NUCLEAR POWER.



CONSUMER CAMPAIGN: Welsh campaigners against the Wylfa B PWR (People Against Wylfa B Cymru) are launching a "consumer campaign" aimed at the area electricity boards. After privatisation, the area boards (like SWEB in the South West) will have the responsibility for supplying electricity, instead of the CEBG as at present, and are therefore potential allies in the fight against uneconomic nuclear power. Privatisation is also supposed to put the consumer "in the driving seat".

PAWB Cymru's specific idea is for consumers to negotiate a new contract with their local board which makes it clear that they don't want electricity from nuclear power. They are now drawing up a draft of this. The contract would also encourage the boards to support energy efficiency, and commit the consumer to use as little electricity as possible in return.

This idea could obviously be used anywhere in the country, and as soon as we have more specific details we'll publicise them in the newsletter.

NEWS IN BRIEF: Latest estimates put the cost of decommissioning the Magnox nuclear power stations at £6.6billion - double what had been suggested previously. This is a similar amount to what it would cost to build the stations from scratch at 1989 prices... The cost of the Severn Barrage has also risen. The final report of a feasibility study puts it at £8-9billion, but says it would still generate economic electricity, and could go ahead with government backing... The Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth in North Wales has launched a search for 100 hill farmers who will accept wind turbines on their land. A Danish company would supply the machines.

Public Inquiry

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Campaign Information

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TEL: (0278) 732921 Crispin Aubrey
(0278) 422632 Danielle Grunberg

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Nov | 7 | Cannington | Public Inquiry restarts after adjournment. See page 1. |
| | 12 | Bridgwater | SHE General Meeting, 2.30pm, Unity House, Dampiet Street. Call SHE for directions. |
| | 13 | Bristol | Public Meeting organised by Bristol & Severnside Friends of the Earth with speakers from BNFL and SHE. 8pm, YHA, Prince St |
| | 16 | Bristol | Ideal Energy Exhibition to be launched. Call Danielle for details. |

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