

STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION

Newsletter

May/June 1990

HINKLEY C REPORT FINISHED

The "Barnes Report" is apparently complete. According to the Department of Energy, the Inspectors's report on the Hinkley C Inquiry was finally delivered to its offices on Monday June 4th, somewhat later than we had earlier been led to understand.

The question now is how long it will take the Energy Secretary, John Wakeham (and his advisers) to consider the conclusions and decide whether he likes them or not. If he goes for a quick turnaround, then the report could be published before parliament breaks for the summer at the end of July. Or he could leave it to the autumn. SHE intends to respond with some sort of reaction/press conference, and we will try to keep as many members informed as possible. Please phone for the latest news.

Whether the Barnes Report really matters any more depends partly on the ebb and flow of nuclear fortunes, now at an all time low - and the fortunes of the alternatives. Below are four recent developments.

1. MORE TROUBLE FOR SIZEWELL: A report by the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy on why nuclear economics went out of control last year, resulting in the Hinkley C debacle, is said to criticise both the government and the industry for failing to see the warning signs. It is also likely to add to pressure to cancel Sizewell B before its costs escalate further. Publication is expected in the next few weeks.

2. NUCLEAR JOBS CUT: Nuclear Electric is cutting 2,500 jobs (out of 14,000) over the next few years in response to the nuclear moratorium. The UK Atomic Energy Authority is also planning to lose about 2,000 jobs. The research reactor at Winfrith in Dorset is among the casualties.

3. WAVE POWER CHEAPER: The government's advisers on renewable energy have finally conceded that they got it wrong about the costs of wave power (according to The Guardian 1.6.90). After cutting a £3 million budget for research in the mid-1980s because it looked commercially unpromising, they now accept that electricity generated by the waves could cost 5.2p per unit, cheaper than Britain's currently operating nuclear stations. They are said to be adapting all literature issued on the subject to take account of their "mistake". The shift is a vindication for Professor Stephen Salter, whose offshore bobbing "duck" device was one of the main beneficiaries of the government funding. He has always alleged that it was the pro-nuclear bias of the funding advisers which sunk his project.

4. BAD NEWS FOR RENEWABLES: The recent European Commission ruling that the "nuclear protection" clause in Britain's electricity privatisation law can only last for 8 years won't only hurt nuclear power. Because the clause covered all "non-fossil fuel" sources, it had encouraged over 300 renewable energy projects (from small wind farms to the Mersey Barrage) to submit proposals to the Dept. of Energy. They would have benefited from a guaranteed price, just like

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the nuclear stations. Unfortunately, the limit of 8 years makes some of the promoters' projections look much less attractive, especially remembering these are all companies starting from scratch. It's now not clear how many of the 300 will survive. An excellent though gloomy analysis of the situation appeared in The Guardian (8.6.90).

ANTI NUCLEAR CAMPAIGN ALIVE AND KICKING

Representatives from all PWR sites in Britain including national Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace met at the Bristol Energy Centre in May to share information. The meeting clearly established that groups were extremely active in a number of areas.

Friends of the Earth are campaigning on the Nuclear Tax. (See page 3)

The Druridge Bay Campaign, following a major re-organisation, are setting up action groups and planning to establish a Centre, along the lines of Bristol Energy Centre.

PAWB, People Against Wylfa B, are asking their local Area Board, MANWEB, to disassociate themselves from nuclear power and concentrate on energy conservation.

WANA, Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance, have started a Consumer Campaign based on a Green Charter and are collecting data on wave energy.

At Sizewell the campaign to close Sizewell B continues apace. The SHE Ideal Energy Exhibition will be touring the area, (see below) and a national demonstration is being planned for the autumn.



MAYOR OF IPSWICH TO OPEN IDEAL ENERGY EXHIBITION

The exhibition will be touring the Sizewell area from June 15 until July 12. Funded by Ipswich Borough Council it will spend one week in the town before moving on to other areas, including Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Lowestoft, Norwich, Stowmarket and Bury St. Edmunds. The caravan will then appear from July 13 - 19 at Southend, on the sea front, alongside a UK AEA exhibition. - In August and September the exhibition will be touring Avon and Somerset.

Thanks partly to Greenpeace support we have now bought a Land-rover to tow the caravan.

Many inquiries were received as a result of our advert for an organiser. Allan Palmer has now taken on the job of exhibition Co-ordinator. - We also now have an exhibition administrator, Claire Dorling. Claire has been working for SHE for some time already on the fundraising side.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK THE EXHIBITION PLEASE PHONE CLAIRE DORLING ON 0454 418596.



HOW MUCH EXTRA ARE YOU PAYING FOR NUCLEAR POWER ?

SEND BACK YOUR BILL AND FIND OUT! YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW!

As a result of electricity privatisation, you are being forced to use nuclear power. Making electricity from nuclear power is unsafe, unnecessary and expensive. The extra costs of nuclear power will be passed on to you through a special tax called the Nuclear Tax*. This will cost every household on average, £ 150 over the next eight years.

You can help stop this wastage and at the same time help the environment. The next time your electricity bill arrives.

SEND IT BACK, before paying, asking that your Area Board identifies separately on all bills how much money is being wasted on nuclear power as a result of the Nuclear Tax.

DECLARE that you want all the money used to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy systems instead.

DEMAND that your Area Board opposes the continued construction of Sizewell B, the new nuclear power station under construction, which will increase the level of the Nuclear Tax.

* The Nuclear Tax is used to support both nuclear power and renewable energy schemes. However over 90% of the tax results from using nuclear power.

SHE FUNDRAISING £££ SHE FUNDRAISING £££ SHE FUNDRAISING £££ SHE FUNDRAISING

Mary Newton, a long-standing SHE supporter, has now been appointed fundraiser.

The response to the SHE April mailshot brought in £ 3,165 and £ 43 p. month in standing orders a response rate of over 10 %. - Our grateful thanks to Claire Dorling who organised this virtually single-handed.

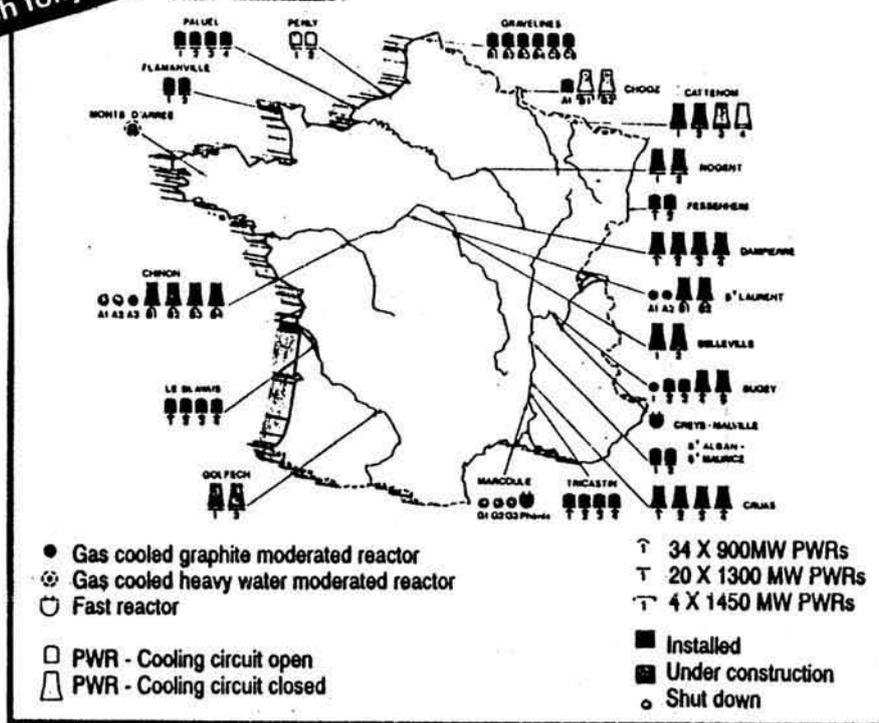
We need your continued support for the campaign, so do keep up those standing orders!

SHE GENERAL MEETINGS

The SHE general meeting in May unfortunately didn't happen as no-one turned up. We are happy to report however, that this lack of attendance at meetings clearly bears no relationship to the support we are continuing to receive from all our supporters.

We have therefore decided to organise a special SHE meeting on a theme -Your Area Board and Energy Conservation what you can do, -with a speaker from national Friends of the Earth. This will take place late September, at Bridgwater Arts Centre on a weekday evening. (See September newsletter for full details.)

French folly



GOLFECH LATEST

According to a recent report from Golfech the new reactor which went critical on 23 April appears to be "stangling itself" There has been three official Scram's and the reactor has now been shut down for two weeks following an explosion in a transformer. The reactor is due to go on stream in June but this depends on adequate supplies of cooling water from the dried out river Garonne. In addition to this a dam in the Garonne was blown up three weeks ago. It appears that no-one knows who did the deed. But the local group reports "no hassles from the police or the authorities". . .does someone, somewhere know something?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE	15-JULY 19	Ideal Energy Exhibition tours Suffolk and Essex.
JULY	7/8	Sixth Intenational Conference on Radiation and Health, University College of North Wales, Bangor. Details from Deilwen Evans (076 687 408).
JULY	28/29	Ideal Energy Exhibition at Bristol Community Festival.
AUGUST	4/5	Ideal Energy Exhibition at Bristol Regatta.
AUGUST	17	Dunster Show.
AUGUST	18	Avonmouth Festival.

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

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