

Hinkley INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

Wind Is Cheaper, Admits CEBG

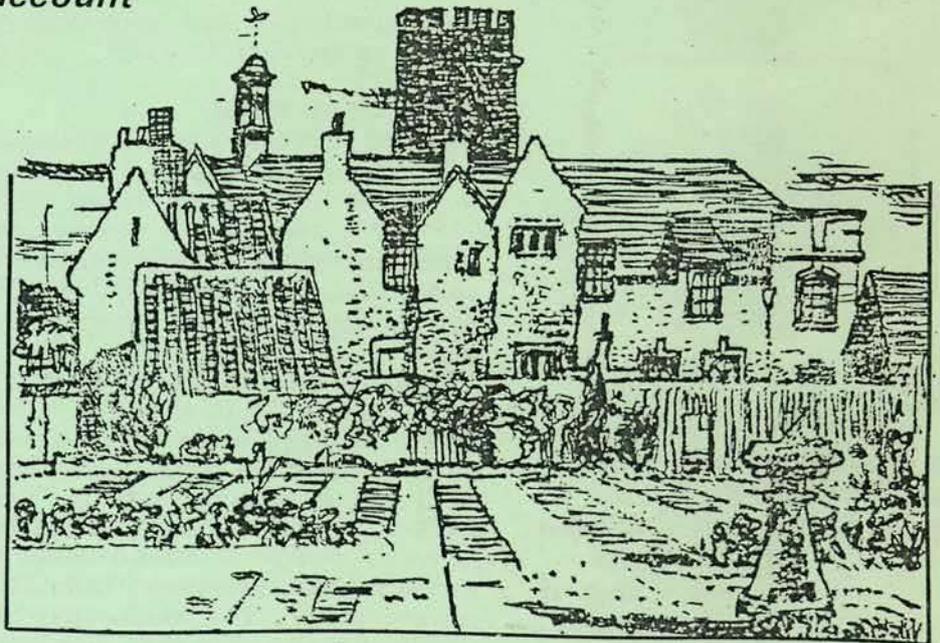
Wind energy could be cheaper than nuclear power the CEBG admitted last week

On Day 10, George Pritchard questioned the CEBG witness Dr. Phillip Surman on the comparative costs of wind and nuclear.

"So, you would accept then... that wind power can be as cheap as Hinkley Point, if not cheaper?"

"That must be so on the windiest sites," replied Surman.

See full interview with Pritchard inside.



Carry On Cannington

Jumping The Gun

Only twelve days into the Public Inquiry, the CEBG announced that they have spent £17 million on materials for the planned PWR. The Board has already ordered the huge reactor pressure vessel for Hinkley C.

Objectors reacted angrily to the announcement. Crispin Aubrey of *Stop Hinkley Expansion* said that "the Board is putting pressure on the Inquiry to give the impression that the decision on Hinkley C has already been taken."

IN THIS ISSUE

CEBG admits wind is cheaper. Board spends £17 million on PWR. The nun's story. CEBG evidence in weeks three and four. Objectors interviewed. Witnesses questioned. Bugging?

The Hinkley Point C Inquiry is not the first such event to take place at Cannington Court, which was originally a priory.

In 1138, during the reign of King Stephen, Robert de Courcy, chief butler to the Empress Maud, founded the priory at Cannington, dedicating it to the Blessed Virgin. Later in the century, the Rev. Mother Templett and three nuns took up their abode there.

In 1351, however, trouble started. Johanna Trimelet, one of the Sisters, was found guilty of 'misdemeanour'. She had taken the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and became a nun at Cannington. Her vows, however, did not deter her from carrying on with the servants and the chaplains at the convent, and she soon

became pregnant. One of the other nuns was also getting a reputation with the men. Added to this, the Prioress of the convent was living a life of luxury outside, on money she had fiddled from the convent. She never attended services and had a reputation for violence - she had been known to chase people around the convent with a cleaver.

Things came to such a pass at Cannington Court that the Bishop of Bath and Wells ordered an inquiry. The report of this Inquiry, written in Latin, is still in existence. What were its conclusions? The Prioress was called to order. The two nuns were severely disciplined. And Johanna Trimelet was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, with bread and water only - in the words of the Inquiry report, to 'cool her blood'.

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Concerned that people might be put off from appearing at the Inquiry by this news, he asked the Inspector to make a statement on this move by the Board.

"They are jumping the gun," said Aubrey, "and implying, by ordering the materials, that the decision will finally go their way." He also criticised the Board's justification that ordering the materials is a matter of urgency in order to complete construction of a PWR by their target

date. This is in itself a contentious point at the Inquiry.

"It is by no means agreed that they need to build Hinkley C by 1998," he said, "and a lot of objectors will be disputing this point. The delay faced by the Board is an inevitable consequence of the democratic process."

The Inspector made a statement to the Inquiry that his eventual decision would not be influenced by the Board's early spending.

Building The PWR

At the end of week three, Brian George, the man responsible for the design and construction of Sizewell B, gave his evidence on the planned PWR at Hinkley - and any other future PWRs.

Building time for a Hinkley station should be shorter than for Sizewell B, he said (it is a replicate design). The Sizewell target was 66 months from pouring of the first concrete to loading the fuel into the reactor. This has since been shortened by three months - but there is a further six months from loading fuel to commercial operation.

The target for a Hinkley C station would be 60 months, plus a 12 month contingency to allow "economic appraisal".

In costing, too, Hinkley C would be based on the Sizewell experience. The present estimated cost of Sizewell B is £1,640 million, excluding nuclear fuel (£87 million).

Rising costs

Yet at the Inquiry for Sizewell B, the cost estimate submitted by the CEGB was £1,147 million (before nuclear fuel). So why did the costs go up by some £500 million? George blamed rising costs during the 1980s, delays caused by the length of the Sizewell Public Inquiry, and other "setting up" costs.

He said that the Hinkley project should be cheaper, due to placing a repeat order with the contractors - hence avoiding first-of-a-kind design costs. "Hinkley Point C should cost at least £250 million less than Sizewell B," said George, "which had to bear the costs of launching the PWR in the UK."

George gave a "very conservative cost estimate of £1,470 million" for Hinkley C, which would have an expected design life of 40 years. The expected electrical output is 1188 MW, with "a central estimate of Average Annual Availability of about 75%, with a Winter Peak Availability of about 90%".

"We have not in the past been very good at explaining the problems of nuclear power."

D. A. Davies, CEGB

CEGB On Renewables



Sam Goddard, corporate director of the CEGB's system planning department, gave his evidence to the Inquiry at the beginning of the third week. He set out to give the Board's view of the non-fossil fuel options.

Wind energy, he said, is the most promising of the renewable sources. If the right sites could be found - with wind speeds of 8.4 metres a second or above - "wind power could have generation costs comparable with Hinkley Point C."

However, Goddard said, areas where wind speeds are good also tend to be areas of outstanding natural beauty, national parks and hills.

Yet the CEGB, together with the Department of Energy, are now building three wind parks to assess the potential of this kind of energy. The costs of these parks now include the extra expense of monitoring facilities and equipment which would not be needed on a fully commercial wind park.

In the future, Goddard hoped that installation costs would be £800 per kilowatt (as low as any in Europe). "Costs could fall as low as £600 per kilowatt," according to some manufacturers, said Goddard. The best wind generator designs in the USA give "machine availability" of 95%

and operational and maintenance costs "as low as 0.4p/kWh".

Target for wind

Goddard said that a practical target would be to build 300 wind machines a year in this country from 1995 onwards - after two or three years' experience with the experimental wind parks. On this basis wind would provide some 1000MW by the year 2000.

Goddard then gave a rundown on the prospects for tidal power. "The Severn Estuary is one of the best tidal barrage sites in the world," he said. Yet a scheme there is "not economic in comparison to Hinkley Point C," and he doubted whether it would attract investment from the private sector. The environmental effects of the barrage may also be a problem.

Even on optimistic forecasts, said Goddard, the barrage wouldn't be built before 2002 - so that it couldn't contribute to the non-fossil fuelled proportion of energy by 2000 as required by government policy. Similarly, any Merseyside scheme wouldn't be ready until after the turn of the century.

As for generating electricity from waste, hydro-electric schemes or other renewables (like solar, wave or geothermal energy), Goddard argued these could not compete with the potential of the planned PWR.

All in all, Goddard argued, the renewable sources could only produce about half the electricity of a PWR at Hinkley. Imports from non-fossil sources "cannot be assumed" and more experience is needed of the existing link with France before deciding on another one.

He concluded that a PWR is the quickest way to provide the bulk of the non-fossil fuel requirement - and that it is cheaper than any other non-fossil alternatives.

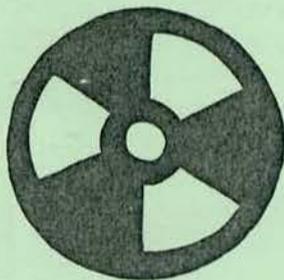
Putting The Wind Up

George Pritchard is a major individual objector at the Inquiry. Previously a *Greenpeace* campaigner, he now works as an energy and environmental consultant. Part of his work is with the Cornwall Energy Project, which aims, he says, "to make Cornwall the first place in Britain to be self-sufficient in energy from renewable sources."

He will be giving his own evidence on renewables - and calling MP Frank Cook as a witness - later in the year. But in the third week of the Inquiry he came to Cannington to put questions to three key CEGB witnesses.

First, Eric Eunson had given the CEGB's case on "security of supplies and the grid network".

Pritchard took this approach: "If you can prove that the resources are there - such as wind, waste, hydro, standby generators in the National Health Service - you can then prove that the system would be more secure if connected to these sources, rather than putting all the eggs in one basket."



Pritchard believes he won this important admission from Eunson: "that a more diverse system would be more secure."

Next, he took Sam Goddard to task. Pritchard is an old campaigner on the issue of power in the South West since his part in opposition to a planned nuclear power station in Cornwall in 1980.

"Since the 1960s," he says, "all of their arguments have been about strengthening power supplies to the South West." Yet at this Inquiry the CEGB have changed their tune to claim the PWR meets a national need for non-fossil electricity. Pritchard believes he challenged this claim successfully.

Nice ideas

He also put it to Goddard that if

existing NHS generators were turned into Combined Heat and Power units, they had the potential to put 1.4 GWs into the national grid - more than the planned PWR. The cost would be £300 million, and Pritchard suggested the CEGB should do this and give the difference to the NHS: "Sam thought it was a nice idea," he says, "but that it was a matter for the NHS."

But the crux of Pritchard's arguments came as he challenged the CEGB's costings of wind power with actual figures from a commercial wind farm in Cornwall. "On my figures, the cost of wind power is 1.7p/kWh. This makes wind power cheaper than the Hinkley PWR. Dr. Surman (for the CEGB) accepted on my costings that wind power would be cheaper than nuclear."

At the end of week three, Brian George had given his evidence for the CEGB on the building and costing of the nuclear plant, and Pritchard set out to show that "their quality control has been sadly lacking". He cited the mistakes made with the strength of steel rods at Heysham and Hartlepool stations, and quizzed George on the news of a boiler tube leak at Heysham - which coincided with day 12 of the Inquiry.

Pritchard believes that he has won some important admissions this week: "They have admitted that supply would be more secure in the South West if there were a lot of small generating plants nearer to the customer."

"They have admitted that wind power is cheaper than Hinkley Point. And we have shown that their record in building nuclear power stations is sadly lacking."

Pritchard is planning to come back to question each CEGB witness as the Inquiry goes on.

Accommodation

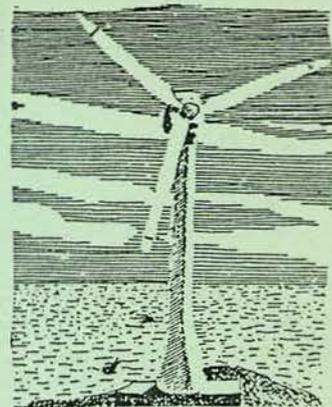
SHE will be compiling a list of locals willing to put people up. If you need somewhere to stay, contact Jill Sutcliffe at the SHE office. Please remember to give plenty of notice before you arrive.

For B&B accommodation, a list is available from the Secretariat.

"In the last few years we have sought to devote significantly more time and energy than we have in the past to an open deployment of factual information."

D. A. Davies, CEGB

Reckoning On Renewables



Wind, wave and other renewable energy sources were the main issue of the Inquiry's third week, as the Board's witnesses were challenged again and again by a variety of objectors.

Kitty Little is a broadly "pro-nuclear" objector who wants to see fast breeders developed rather than a PWR. Yet her questions to the Board's Sam Goddard brought some interesting responses on the renewables. Goddard told her that the maximum power expected from wind generators - on CEGB figures - was about 2% of their current generating capacity. The Severn Barrage would provide about the same.

Could raised sea levels caused by the greenhouse effect cause problems at Hinkley, Little wanted to know. Mr. K. Gammon (a supporting witness to Goddard) assured her that "the greenhouse effect is not going to cause any flooding to Hinkley Point."

On renewables again, Little asked whether more research money would help them to be more productive. Goddard answered her that "throwing money at projects of this kind is (not) a way to improve resource availability."

Crispin Aubrey for *Stop Hinkley Expansion* was also concerned about the tiny amount spent on renewables compared to nuclear. Spending on research into nuclear energy is 15 times that of spending on renewables. "Is this not an appalling record?" Aubrey asked - especially for a Board and a government which seem so concerned to have a diversity policy away from coal.

Recent figures show government spending of around £13 million a year on renewables, compared to

some £200 million on nuclear research.

Goddard responded that the lower figures spent on renewables reflected lower expectations. He instanced the period 1979 to 1982, when £3 to £4 million a year was spent on wave power, but "the results of that were not particularly helpful... for electricity or energy production."

Small change

Aubrey pursued the point that this government's investment in renewables is "very small" by comparison with other countries. He produced a chart showing that other countries - such as Sweden, Norway, and the US - spend far more proportionally. The UK is at the bottom of a league table drawn up by the International Energy Agency.

Only 2% of the CEGB's own research spending goes to the renewables, while 74% goes to nuclear, as a question from Gerard Ryan of COLA (Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities) later established. But Goddard said he thought the spending level on renewables was "adequate".

Aubrey also criticised the fact that much of the government funding on renewables went to a body - the Energy Technology Support Unit - which is part of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. "It doesn't look very good," suggested Aubrey. "This is an example of the government not taking the renewables seriously enough." Goddard said he had never detected any "restriction or restraint" because of this.

Asked by Aubrey about the enthusiastic plans in Demark for 2000 MW of wind by the year 2000, and in Holland for 1000 MW by the same year, Goddard and his associates said they didn't think on current form either country would make it by the deadline.

Wave power scuppered

Aubrey also questioned Goddard about the way in which the government's wave power research programme had been scuppered by pro-nuclear people. Goddard said he didn't know about it, but he had been to Islay in Scotland to see the latest wave power experimental device in action.

Aubrey pressed Goddard on public opinion being massively against nuclear power, a point which Goddard seemed unable to accept. Presented with a quote from a TV programme in which Goddard said that they would go ahead with Hinkley even if there was massive opposition, Goddard

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Diary

Andrew Moncur

MAKE what you will of this. George Pritchard, veteran of nuclear power station battles, thought he would catch the CEGB with a real beamer when he cross-examined an important witness at the Hinkley C inquiry. He reckoned without the extraordinary prescience of the generating board. Mr Pritchard, an independent energy consultant, had confided his intentions only to his wife, by telephone, the evening before the event. He made that call from Somerset, where he was staying at the home of one of the local organisers of the campaign against Hinkley's expansion. Ring, ring. Could Sandra

Pritchard, at home in Cornwall, please check a reference in a recent CEGB publication which confirmed that at Sizewell an order for the nuclear pressure vessel had been placed a full year before the public inquiry even started, let alone arrived at its conclusion. Mr Pritchard explained, in some excitement, how he was convinced that the CEGB must have already done the same in the case of Hinkley - a matter not previously disclosed. "I think we've got them," he told his wife. Next morning he arrived at the inquiry, all eager to strike. And what happened? Counsel for the generating board rose to announce that the previous day it had given the go-ahead for ordering forgings for the pressure vessel. "I was speechless," said Mr P, voice - if not complete faith in telepathy - now restored.

replied that it was up to elections to decide these things. "The platform of public opinion is the will of a democratically elected government".

Gerard Ryan's cross-examination (for COLA) showed up the fundamental disagreements between the CEGB and COLA cases on the potential available from the renewables within the next 10 or so years. Wind again featured at the leading edge of renewable technologies.

Disagreements

Ryan, for example, put to Goddard that the CEGB's own expectation from offshore wind generation was up to 230 TWh/y (Terrawatt hours per year), or about the same as present total generation of electricity from all sources. Goddard said the problem was whether exploiting this potential proved "technically possible and economically worthwhile". (The first major offshore wind turbine could be running off the Norfolk coast by 1990, Goddard's assistant said.)

Although Dr. Philip Surman, the wind expert, referred to how much windier the West of the country was, there was disagreement about how many adequately windy sites there were nationally on which to build wind turbines. The CEGB says a total land area of about 7,500 square kilometres is suitable, COLA says there's more likely to be 20,000 square

kilometres. The reason for the discrepancy seemed to be interpretation of weather data.

There is also disagreement about how densely you can place wind generators in the countryside, and how cheaply they can be built.

Eggs In One Basket

Towards the end of week three the Inspector put some good questions of his own to the CEGB. "What reliance can be put on your wind land area estimates if there's a 15% potential for error in the computer model?" he wanted to know. Supporting witness Phillip Surman told him "not a lot, it's a broad brush method."

George Pritchard later quoted a Minister on the AGR programme saying (in advance of their being built) "We've hit the jackpot this time". Brian George (CEGB) retorted: "He was wrong. I don't rely on Ministers of State..."

George was further questioned by Mr. Milner for COLA, on the world-wide record of PWRs. He suggested

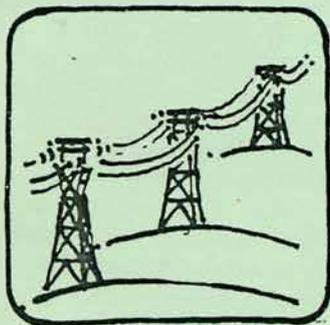
that the CEBG's claim of 75% availability of Hinkley C (to produce electricity) must be based on very selective figures from other operating PWRs. His supporting witness Mr. Norman said "75% is not based on a specific operating experience but on a general survey in the UK and abroad."

Milner also suggested that the comparisons with other operating PWRs around the world were not necessarily with the same Westinghouse design, but with "Westinghouse derivatives", i.e. adaptations.

John Blake of the Town and Country Planning Association questioned the Board's Francis Jenkin, who returned to the Inquiry on day 11. He wanted to know more about the Board's "diversity policy", suggesting that it was a contradiction in terms to "diversify" into one kind of power. Rather, he argued, the Board were putting all their eggs in the nuclear basket.

He pressed Jenkin on how far the Board really could claim the endorsement of government statements for their policy. Blake argued that these did not express any desire to increase the part played by nuclear power.

Department Of Energy Case



In week four, Christopher Wilcock gave his evidence for the Department of Energy where he is an Under Secretary responsible for policy on non-fossil-fuel.

He discussed the need for new generating capacity and secure supplies, the potential contribution from renewable sources of energy, and the need for new nuclear plant.

Many existing power stations - including nuclear - will be closed by the end of the century. This will cause a decrease of about 7 GWs, and about 3 GWs of this loss will be from nuclear sources.

He said it takes about 10 years to build a nuclear power station so the CEBG needs to plan new stations now to meet future demand after privatisation.

A variety of sources of electricity is seen as important for making sure "the lights don't go out". Oil prices are uncertain, said Wilcock, while fossil-fuels cause pollution.

After privatisation, electricity distribution companies will be placed under an obligation to buy a proportion of non-fossil generated electricity, to protect government policy on diversity of fuel supplies.

On renewable sources, he said that hydro power has limited scope. "Potentially the most important renewable technologies are wind power, tidal energy and geothermal hot dry rock technology... Some of these might begin to make a useful economic contribution from the late 1990s... up to 70 TWh/y". This would be about a quarter of UK electricity, said Wilcock.

However, renewables were still an unknown quantity and their contribution by the year 2000 will be small. Hence, argued Wilcock, nuclear plant is needed to meet the "non-fossil obligation" - in the form of the proposed PWR.

Stiff Upper Lip

During week four, the Inspector asked some questions of Brian George. Why couldn't the British build a PWR as fast as the Japanese apparently could? George blamed industrial relations - yet the recently completed Drax coal-fired station was built on time and within target cost, he admitted.

Then as the Department of Energy's witness, Wilcock, entered the fray, the Inspector told those who wanted to question him that they should not expect him to answer questions on the merits of government policy. Questions on the history and details of policy were okay - but not whether that policy was any good. This was in the Inquiry rules and there was nothing the Inspector could do about it.

After he had given his evidence, Dr. Little asked Wilcock about the greenhouse effect. "Have you considered the fact that Bangladesh may be totally flooded?" Wilcock said "Yes, I would say we are aware of the implications."

During questions by Ryan of COLA, Wilcock maintained the predictable stiff upper lip of the civil servant not allowed to stretch beyond his brief. He was supported by three additional witnesses on different aspects of his statement, and by two legal people and other helpers. It was as if the government had swept in the heavy mob, and was not prepared for any trouble.

Public opinion

Wilcock said about public opinion: "It is recognised that some people disapprove of nuclear power." Apart from that his answers were unrevealing and brief. Yet he did say that cheap Scottish nuclear electricity could be exported to England.

He also disagreed with Ryan that there wasn't much sense of urgency in the Department's renewable targets and that the research spending was "miserly".

He added that the insurance position on nuclear power wouldn't change after privatisation.

Then Mary Barker from Taunton Labour Party questioned Wilcock. She commented that we should not be wanton in our use of nuclear fuels, that people didn't want nuclear power - and asked why there was no mention of conservation measures in the evidence?

Wilcock said he couldn't cover everything and had concentrated on the plans for Hinkley C.

Asking further about the renewables, Barker got the answer that it took 10 years to commission a nuclear power station as opposed to one year to get a wind generator into working order.

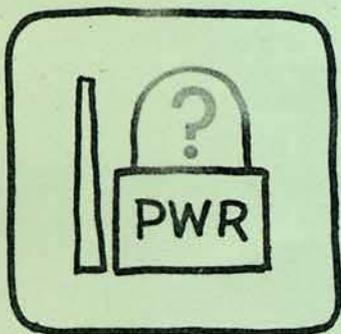
On his second and third days of cross-examination, Wilcock was questioned particularly effectively by Trevor Houghton of the Bristol Energy Centre. Unusually, the Inspector said afterwards: "Thank you very much. Professor Ulph and I found many of your questions very helpful."

In response to a series of press cuttings from *The Times*, *The Finan-*

cial Times and other national newspapers, all critical of the government's privatisation plans, presented by Crispin Aubrey (*Stop Hinkley Expansion*), Wilcock said: "They reflect the sort of gossip and chit chat that goes on."

Wilcock was also questioned by Brian Parkin of the *National Union of Mineworkers* and individual objector George Pritchard. The Department of Energy lawyer tried to stop Pritchard referring to "leaked" Cabinet minutes showing that the government had a secret policy to build 15 Gigawatts of nuclear power plant, and that one impetus behind this was to defeat the miners. Pritchard eventually showed that the minutes had been printed publicly in a book.

Working Out The Inquiry



- The Secretariat is producing Summaries of Transcripts and an Index to each week's evidence. With the new list of acronyms, these are invaluable aids to decoding the Inquiry.
- As for last-minute evidence and addenda - of the kind the CEGB sprung on the Inquiry in week two - the Inspector has said he wants all new evidence "as soon as possible".
- *Stop Hinkley Expansion* expressed concern about the fairness of the Inquiry, where some objectors

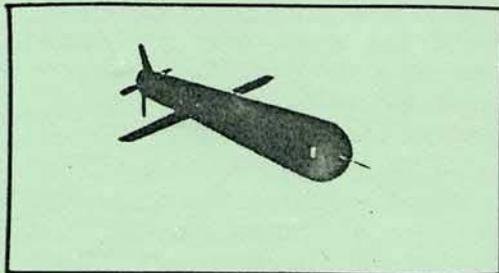
have felt under great pressure from the Inspector. The Inspector stated that he is as "concerned as anybody", but that he is also concerned that the programme is adhered to.

"If I sometimes move people along or suggest how they put their point it does not mean to say I am not taking notice of what they say, I am just trying to help them get over their point in the crispest possible way," he said.

Yet he has repeatedly interrupted certain objectors to speed them up, and people planning to speak at the Inquiry should be aware that he won't allow repetition. It is also essential to let Keith Parker, the Programme Officer, know when and for how long you expect to speak. It also seems prudent to ask for plenty of time in putting points to the Inquiry.

- Two extra days when the Inquiry will be held in Cardiff were announced. These are Tuesday March 21st and Wednesday March 22nd 1989, at the Assembly Rooms at the City Hall.
- COLA will be allowed to give their evidence on coal *after* the CEGB. The Inspector agreed to a request from the Consortium that their witness should be allowed to come back to the Inquiry at some stage after the CEGB has given their evidence on the comparative economics of coal and nuclear, probably in the New Year.
- *The Severn Tidal Power Group's* report on the Severn Barrage has been delayed until July 1989. The Inspector was asked to invite a representative of the Group to give information about the plans for a Barrage towards the end of this year - in case the Inquiry should come to an end before July. The Inspector said he would decide in due course.

- The Inspector deals with procedural points each Tuesday morning. Yet if urgent matters of procedure should come up during the usual business of cross-examination, the Inspector wants people to raise these first with the Inquiry Secretary, Mr. Collett, or the Programme Officer, Mr. Parker.



Weapons Link?

At the age of 14, Steven Seldon is the youngest objector so far to speak at the Inquiry.

He came along during week three to ask the Board's witness Brian George how this proposed PWR differed from the nuclear plants at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island.

He thought it wrong for the Board to have already committed £17 million on material for the PWR. "They shouldn't spend public money unless they get the go ahead," he said.

Steven, a member of CND, says he is "concerned that there is a link between nuclear weapons and the plutonium produced in power stations. I've had information that they take out the fuel rods every 18 months - although they only need to do so every three years - in order to extract plutonium."

So what did he think of the Inquiry? "It's quite a nice hall," says Steven. "I felt quite comfortable there - although it was a bit intimidating. All those suits! I think the Inspector treated me okay."

Steven is coming back as an individual objector to give evidence on safety, costs and different PWR sites.

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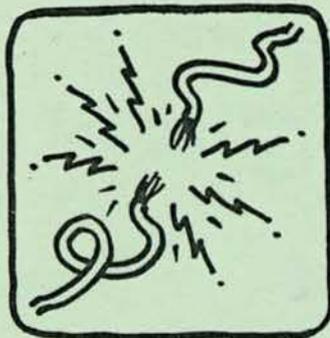
Organisation

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Short Circuit



We revealed in issue 2 that the CEGB has 58 staff at the Inquiry. Just to show how even-handed we are, here are the figures for the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities. The COLA secretariat has 9½ permanent staff on site, tucked away in an attic. A three legal counsel and 31 witnesses, bringing the total to 43½.

By contrast, the Stop Hinkley Centre employs a total of four.

★ ★ ★

Another rumour from the Friendly Spirit pub in Cannington has it that the newly-appointed manager of a (yet unbuilt) power station at Hinkley Point made his exit from the said hostelry with the following line: "Let's hope the silly buggers don't do anything daft with that AGR before the Inquiry is over."

★ ★ ★

On day 6 of the proceedings, a temperature of 24 degrees centigrade was recorded in the Inquiry hall. A matter of Combined Heat and Power, perhaps?

★ ★ ★

Fascinating Facts No. 94: On day 12, the Inquiry was told that there were roughly 100,000 metres of pipes and tubes in a Pressurised Water Reactor. Is this a record?

★ ★ ★

How has it come to pass that the numerous and mighty echelons of the

The Nuclear Energy Information Group has taken advertisements in all the national papers in the last few weeks. Is it just chance that this coincides with the opening of the Hinkley Inquiry? Meanwhile, one objector, Terry Mulvihill, has come up with his own advert ▶

CEGB are installed in Portakabins at Cannington, while the Stop Hinkley Centre resides in the pleasant, wisteria-clad buildings of Clifford Hall itself? We're making no objections.

★ ★ ★

Whatever some objectors may feel about the lack of insurance cover against a serious accident at a nuclear power station, they should have no worries about the Inquiry Inspector.

Concerned that Barnes might suffer a serious accident in the middle of his deliberations, Somerset County Council has already taken out an insurance policy on his behalf.

Total premiums payable on the policy run to £13,000 over two years, with a liability of over £1 million. Which may sound a lot of money until you consider that if the In-

spector did fall foul of some unfortunate illness half way through, the whole thing would have to be run again...

Contributions

The Inquirer invites your contributions to its pages. Much of our readership consists of objectors and objecting groups who we will contact as the Inquiry proceeds to submit their views and versions of events. But if you have a burning idea, please don't wait to be asked. Contact the Editor, Hinkley Inquirer, c/o SHE office, Cannington Court, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA.

The Inquirer invites all readers to submit letters to: The Editor, Hinkley Inquirer, c/o SHE office, Cannington Court, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA.

"Why should I worry about nuclear waste? I won't be around."

But I will.

NUCLEAR ELECTRICITY
Waste of the future

Stop Press

Plans for a large coal-fired power station at Fawley in Hampshire have been shelved by the CEBG.

This dramatic announcement was made by the Department of Energy witness on day 15. He said that there would not now be a Public Inquiry.

The CEBG's reason for holding back at Fawley was given as its failure to get a commitment from the Area Distribution Boards that they would buy the eventual electricity produced under a privatised industry. Objectors at the Hinkley Inquiry immediately asked for the same test to be applied to Hinkley C. They are expected to ask for an adjournment of the proceedings until the CEBG can give an assurance that somebody will buy the Hinkley C electricity after privatisation.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

Stop Hinkley Centre

As the first month of the Inquiry draws to a close, the number of people contacting the Stop Hinkley Centre has increased. Objectors putting questions to the CEBG and Department of Energy witnesses have used the Centre as a base for their work.

Visitors have come largely from the South West and Wales - plus an occasional Londoner. And during the half-term holiday, people have come to see the Inquiry at work and to prepare for their own participation later in the proceedings.

Current thinking estimates that Topic One will last until Christmas.

Another 3,000 objections have been received, which pushes the total objections against the PWR to over 16,000.

DIARY

This provisional programme is subject to change. Be sure to contact Keith Parker, Programme Officer (0278) 444005 for confirmation.

Weeks Five and Six

Much of weeks five and six will be taken up by evidence from the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities.

November 1

Procedural matters. Cross-examination of Wilcock (Department of Energy) continues by Mr. Hicks (Council for Protection of Rural England), Mr. Sweet (Friends of Earth).

November 2

Evidence and cross-examination from Mr. G. Greenhalgh of A Power for Good Ltd. COLA begins its evidence with Prof. C. Robinson on security of energy supply, government policy and the planned PWR (COLA 3). All COLA witnesses to be cross-examined by Lord Silsoe for CEBG. COLA 4, Load casting - future demand.

November 3

COLA 5, Least cost integrating planning; COLA 8, Coal Prices in the UK; COLA 9, Operating performance of proposed PWR.

November 4

COLA 10, Satisfying demand from imports and renewable sources; COLA 11, Wind power.

Week Six

November 8

Procedural matters. COLA evidence continues with COLA 12, generation from waste; COLA 13, economics of plant selection.

November 9

R. Cottrell, MEP, gives his evidence and cross-examination. Followed by COLA 14, Transmission; COLA 15, Investment incentives in the ESI - state and private.

November 10

COLA 16, Analysis of cost of capital and risk premiums; COLA 17, The US nuclear scene.

November 11

Dr. Kitty Little evidence and cross-examination. Followed by Dr. R. Vaughan, evidence and cross-examination.

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.

Jill Sutcliffe

The last word...

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

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Transport

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

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
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.	

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