

Hinkley INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

One Hundred Days

The Hinkley C Inquiry has reached its centenary - in days - an event which occasioned much production of vital statistics.

By Day 100 (April 19), the Hinkley hearings had already beaten the 1986 Dounreay Inquiry (95 days) and equalled the length of the 1977 Windscale Inquiry. But they still have some way to go to reach the front runner, Sizewell, with 340 days.

also churned out a mammoth amount of paper - enough to make a pile 2,418 feet high, or, laid end to end, to stretch for 1,100 miles. However, these are CEGB-produced statistics, so they may be unreliable.

The CEGB also celebrated the event by holding a party in the evening at the Hinkley Point Social Club near Bridgwater, to which

regular Inquiry attenders and staff were invited.

The local TV news quoted the Board as saying their case remained undented, objectors as saying they had scored major victories. One channel also suggested that the Inquiry might last another 100 days. We shall have to wait and see.

"Misled" Remark: Sparks Fly

Sparks flew at the end of Day 100 when the barrister for the *Department of the Environment* suggested that she had been "misled" by the Programme Officer, Keith Parker. The allegation prompted one of the most heated exchanges between the Inspector and any Inquiry participants so far.

The row started when DoE barrister Miss Rogers announced that her witness, Under Secretary Brian Ponsford, had "a very important meeting" with the Secretary of State the next morning. She had understood from the Programme Officer that Ponsford's appearance at the Inquiry would be engineered so that this was still possible - if necessary by the session going on until after 6 pm.

The twin suggestions that his official had "misled" the DoE, and that the hearings could be rearranged for their convenience, clearly riled the Inspector. He immediately launched into a heated grilling of Miss Rogers, even adjourning the

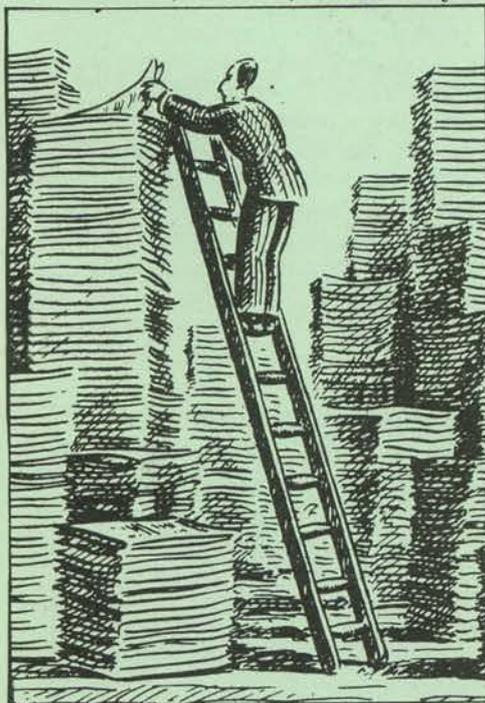
session for five minutes to try and establish what had happened behind the scenes.

Whatever was the truth, the exchanges went on for a good 20 minutes with Ponsford even adding his own opinion that it was "exceedingly inconvenient" for him to miss his meeting, and the Inspector saying that his Inquiry was important as well.

Hostilities were resumed the following morning (Day 101), when the Inspector, now armed with more information, asked why the Secretary of State, presumably Nicholas Ridley, hadn't been warned earlier. The Inspector's anger steadily increased, and he demanded to know if Miss Rogers was "proposing to withdraw the complaint" about his administration.

Eventually, after two more adjournments, Miss Rogers said she was sticking to her complaint, and the Inspector said he would consider "how I shall deal with it."

The irony of this incident is that the Inspector's irritation has been levelled at a pro-nuclear Government witness as opposed to an objector



Hinkley C is ahead on other counts, though. Over four million words have already been spoken (and transcribed), a much faster rate of production than at Dounreay, which only managed 3½ million in total.

The Inquiry's photocopiers have

IN THIS ISSUE

Topic 3 (nuclear waste) gets underway: DoE, NII, and CEGB witnesses give evidence and face questions.

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Other objectors have also noticed a greater flexibility in the time given to their cross-examination during the past two weeks.

Whether this signals a less harsh regime remains to be seen. One thing is certain - Brian Ponsford failed to make his "very important" appointment.

Jill Departs

Jill Sutcliffe, counting down to her much-lamented departure from the Stop Hinkley Centre, where she has supported and inspired objectors since Day 1, made a valedictory speech to the Inquiry on Day 95.

Jill resigned from running the Centre before Easter, when she told the Inspector that the level of pressure being exerted on objectors was making her job untenable.

Pig?

On this occasion she related an anecdote from Sir Peter Scott, the naturalist. Scott had courteously pulled over on a single-track road to let an oncoming car pass, when the occupant shouted "Pig" through the window, and sped past. Sir Peter carried on, feeling "shattered" by this behaviour - until he came upon a pig in the middle of the road.

An issue of lack of communication, Sutcliffe suggested, and most relevant to this "Public" Inquiry where it is up to the Inspector to make sure that the "public can take part in decision-making processes and (where) it is vital that what is seen to be done is just and fair."

Valedictory

"The fact that the office has been essential is borne out by the large number of appreciative comments and letters from everyone taking part" said Sutcliffe. "I am delighted to say that the facility will be continuing."

She also expressed her warmest thanks to all at Cannington who had been generous with their help and advice, including stewards, caretakers, college staff, Brian Rome, Ron the Runner Preddy, Sergeant Monroe, Claire Bainbridge and her team in the documents room, Keith Parker and the CEGB.

(She will be sorely missed and all at the Inquirer and Stop Hinkley Centre send their love and best wishes. Ed.)

Undermining CEGB Case

In the wake of Arthur Scargill and Tony Benn on Day 94, speakers from the Mineworkers' Union continued to argue that Hinkley C can't be justified on grounds of economics or "need" (Topic 1a).

Dave Feickert, the NUM's Head of Research, reminded the Inquiry that the CEGB admit the PWR is more expensive than other options: "Now," said Feickert, "the CEGB is saying that the hazards and the extra costs involved in nuclear power are justified by one thing alone - increased security of supply."

But Feickert challenged the CEGB's Frank Jenkin's argument that the risks of a miners' strike, or a sudden rise in coal prices, or the "greenhouse effect" were all reasons to plump for nuclear rather than coal.

The environment could be protected and many jobs created if "action is taken now to invest in highly flexible, advanced coal technologies" together with renewable energy sources and conservation. The true costs of closing mines and sterilising coal reserves had not been taken into account by the CEGB, said Feickert.

Big and inflexible

Walter Patterson, the energy and environment analyst and writer, argued that Hinkley C "might actively undermine" security of supply (NUM 8).

"A nuclear power station is the least flexible of all," said Patterson. Hydro or gas turbines can generate

full power within five minutes - compared to over 24 hours for nuclear." A number of smaller plants would not bring with them the potential instabilities of a single big plant," said Patterson.

"Within Britain the small-scale option currently attracting most attention is the so-called 'gas-fired combined cycle plant'." Patterson also described the attractions of advanced coal-use technologies, such as fluidised bed combustion (FBC) and coal gasification.

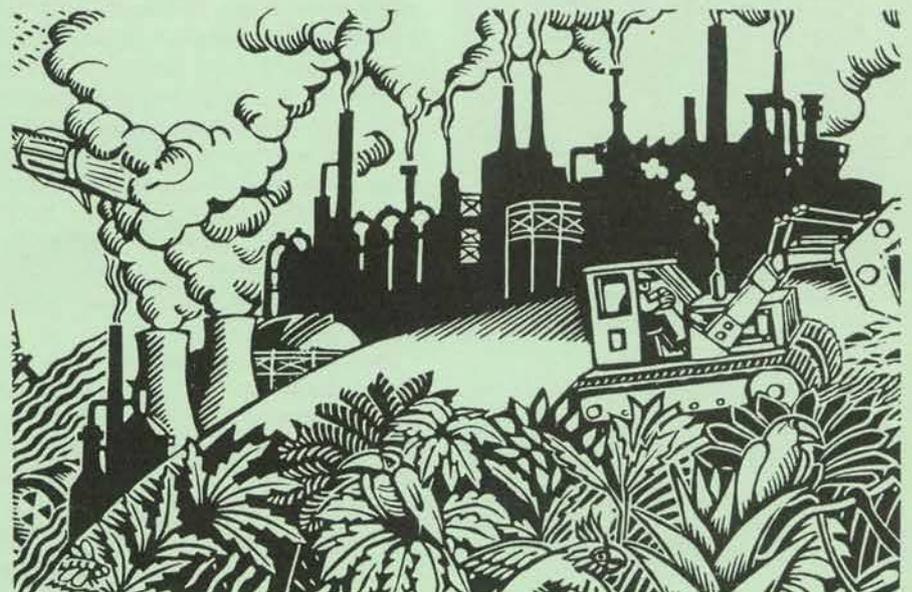
Attractive options

"Surely the time has come," Patterson concluded, "for Britain to begin looking forward to versatile, efficient and environmentally attractive technologies like FBC (and others), rather than a rigid, obsolescent and trouble-prone technology like Hinkley C."

The energy consultant Colin Sweet (NUM 5) gave his proof on "Diversity and Investment Strategy", which analyses the CEGB's investment strategy.

Sweet argued that the Board's policy of investing in nuclear excludes other worthwhile options, that the true costs of nuclear were not made clear by the CEGB, and that creating excess capacity in the electricity system was very costly. He also believed that flexibility in planning was being sacrificed.

Instead, he urged an investment strategy which "gives a better use of resources, (and) which is more appropriate to the economic and social environment".



WWF

Laying Waste To Topic 3

With the economics, "need" and safety arguments swiftly dealt with, the Inquiry has now moved on to the issue of nuclear waste - which is "Topic 3". The Inquirer asked *Lorraine Mann*, Convenor of *Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping* and a major participant both at the Dounreay and the current Inquiry, to give her perspective on the Topic 3 arguments:

"You could sum it up," suggests Lorraine, "in the words of the late Willie McRae, prominent anti-nuclear campaigner and nationalist politician: 'Ye dinnae keep pigs until ye ken where tae pit the shit.'"

"The nuclear industry has gone full tilt ahead without stopping to think - until fairly recently. The first serious thoughts on the waste problem didn't come until 1976, when the Flowers Report expressed horror at the lack of planning for waste. This report suggested it would be preferable to get rid of waste permanently."

"But I would argue that it can't be done. Whether you bury it shallow or bury it deep, radionuclides will seep out and come back to the environment."



"NIREX don't deny this, but they say it will take millions of years. We say - you just don't know for sure. NIREX are using computer prediction, but they can't even predict tomorrow's weather on computers..."

"In the late 70s exploration for high level waste disposal sites began. But this was abandoned in 1981 after two public inquiries. The Government gave the reason that there was no need to dispose of it quickly."

"Then there was the issue of sea dumping for intermediate level waste. That was stopped in 1983 after public pressure and campaigns from groups like Greenpeace."

"They had found a dry site (a mine) at Billingham for waste disposal - but they gave that up too in 1985. They also had four English sites

earmarked. But these were abandoned as well - six weeks before the General Election of 1987.

"In Scotland we could see as soon as they were dropped that we were for it. They wanted somewhere politically expendable and selected Sellafield and Dounreay as possibles."

"Meanwhile the anti-nuclear groups seemed to agree that each reactor site should keep its own waste above ground where it can be constantly monitored. This stuff is too dangerous to just chuck down holes."

"At this Inquiry the CEBG are claiming the issue was dealt with at Sizewell. But the waste situation at the Hinkley Inquiry is radically different from that at Sizewell."

"At Sizewell they wanted to dispose of intermediate level waste at sea or in deep sites. But since then sea dumping has stopped, and the criteria used then to find deep sites no longer apply. In those days they were looking for sites in hills. Now they've realised that they've got to allow for the flow of water underground and they're looking for flat sites. At Sizewell low level waste was to go to the English sites. Now that plan is also down the plughole."

"The CEBG have not addressed the question of 'what if?' What if no one will have it? They only have plans for storage of waste at Hinkley for about 10 years. After that they will need more planning permission for more buildings. Local authorities will be forced to acquiesce and future planning inquiries will be pre-empted."

"Nuclear waste is with us. The question is, how to handle it sensibly, and safely. Yet the NIREX policy is out of sight out of mind - and get it out of sight as cheaply as you can. They want to 'dispose' of waste, not to manage it."

"It's not just an anti-nuclear issue. There are many pro-nuclear people who are also anti-dumping. At Dounreay many nuclear power workers are anti-dumping. Along with us they believe that this stuff must be dealt with responsibly."

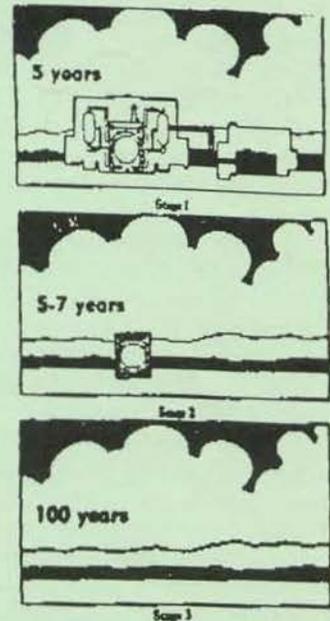
Note:
High-level waste includes contaminated material which generates heat of its own accord. After about 50 years this degenerates to intermediate level waste, which also includes material like metal cladding from power stations. Low-level waste includes contaminated "trash" material like rubber gloves, clothing and so on.

No Problem Say CEBG

The issue of nuclear waste (Topic 3) was broached by the CEBG's Fred Passant during a special evening session (CEGB 11, Day 85a).

Passant is responsible for the formulation of CEBG radioactive waste management policy, and he represents the CEBG on the Board of NIREX, the industry's Radioactive Waste Executive.

He set out to show that radioactive wastes from Hinkley C could be safely managed on site and that the station could be safely decommissioned.



Now you see it, now you don't! The three stages of decommissioning - according to the CEBG.

Decommissioning

Passant's evidence describes the regulations governing waste management, the current practices of waste management at Hinkley A and B, and the management of PWR radioactive wastes.

He summarised the process of decommissioning a PWR, which could take place over a period of 100 years, in three stages of five to seven years each. "PWR decommissioning and decommissioning waste management are together estimated to cost about £200 million," Passant concluded.

Emergency

Objectors should remember that the deadline for getting proofs of evidence on Topic 4 - Emergency Planning - to the Programme Officer, Keith Parker, is May 5.

Watchdog On Waste

James Hannaford gave his evidence (HSE/NII 3) on the safety of radioactive waste management on Day 99. Hannaford is Deputy Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations for the *Health and Safety Executive*.

The *CEGB's* plans for Hinkley C are the same as for Sizewell B, he explained. The *CEGB* are working towards disposal of waste in a deep repository, but this won't be available until the next century.

Uncertainties

"Only those wastes for which a disposal route is not available will be accumulated and stored on site," said Hannaford. "Uncertainties in the availability of disposal to Drigg means that contingency arrangements to store low level waste of the kind currently sent there will be made on site."

The *CEGB's* proposals for plant include filters, delay tanks, means of diluting and dispersing gaseous and liquid effluents and facilities for encapsulating solid wastes. Low level waste may be burned and the ash included with other waste.

Some new treatment processes may be needed and further research is required into some of these. However, Hannaford said the *NII* expected no major difficulties with these.

Designer waste

Hannaford also described the *NII's* involvement and requirements in the decommissioning process. The *CEGB* must satisfy the *NII* that decommissioning is technically feasible, that risks have been minimised and that these issues have been properly considered at the design stage. He also described various design changes affecting safety which have been made since Sizewell B was licensed.

"The *NII* will continue to monitor the progress made by the *CEGB*," said Hannaford, until the ultimate objective of "returning the site to unrestricted use" is reached.

"It is very unlikely that the *CEGB* would do or not do something which was completely contrary to public pressure and political pressure." Fred Passant (*CEGB* 11) Day 97

Greenhouse Effect: Government View

David Fisk, the *Department of Energy's* Chief Scientist with responsibility for waste disposal, gave evidence on the "greenhouse effect" (*DoE* 3) during Day 95.

Fisk said there was general agreement in the scientific community that the "greenhouse gases" - including carbon dioxide (CO_2) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) - are steadily increasing, with dramatic implications for the earth's climate.

Yet it's not so easy to calculate how much the climate will change. Estimates of temperature increases range from 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Centigrade, said Fisk. He also estimated that by about the middle of the next century, greenhouse gases will have reached double what they were before the industrial revolution.

Sea change

As the temperature goes up, so will the sea level. Estimates range from a rise of 20cm to 1.4 metres. (The Thames Barrier was designed assuming a rise of 30cm each century.) At the upper end of this range, said Fisk, the effects would be "severe... even for developed countries, and some low-lying coastal lands and islands would be inundated."

Fisk went on to give a detailed analysis of how the burning of fossil-fuels contributes to the greenhouse effect, and of the national and international action needed to counter this. He estimated that carbon dioxide will contribute 64% of global warming, compared to 13% for CFCs.

"Nuclear power alone will not provide the solution to the greenhouse problem," he concluded, "but the continuation of a nuclear contribution... will provide a diversity of fuel sources which will play a part, together with energy efficiency and renewable resources."



Source: Amato Francisco

Greenhouse Queries

In his cross-examination of David Fisk (*DoE* 3) on Day 96, Gerard Ryan (*COLA*) began by clarifying the distinction between the greenhouse effect and the "hole" in the ozone layer.

He quoted from a memorandum by the Electricity Council, submitted to the House of Commons Energy Committee, which describes the greenhouse effect: "Carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) build up in the atmosphere, creating a blanket which prevents the escape of infrared rays, and this could lead to an increase in the earth's temperature. Ozone depletion is a different problem. CFCs and some other gases (excluding CO_2), when they escape into the atmosphere, can make holes in the ozone layer which could lead to an increase in harmful ultra-violet rays."

Citing Genady Goluber, Deputy Director of the United Nations Energy Programme (UNEP), who stated that "advocating patience is like an

invitation to be a spectator at our own destruction", Gerard Ryan asked if Fisk agreed.

Evolving knowledge

"Our knowledge of greenhouse gases is not a thing that moves from black to white," he replied. "It is an evolving knowledge over the next five to ten years. The international community is considering its actions and what it might decide to do well ahead of the final decade of certainty."

On the issue of carbon dioxide and fossil-fuels, Ryan referred to a memorandum from *Friends of the Earth*. This says that there are no known economically viable techniques for the removal of CO_2 from flue gases, and that "any policy aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions is essentially a policy to reduce fossil-fuel consumption." According to *FoE* there are two possible solutions:

- the reduction of CO_2 emissions by reducing energy demand, or
- reducing carbon dioxide emissions by the reduction of the proportion of energy demand met by fossil-fuels.

Greenhouse politics

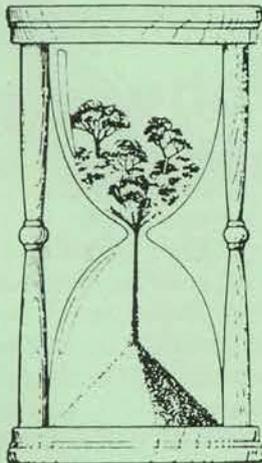
Did Fisk think there was a genuine attempt on behalf of the Government to create an informed debate, Parkin of the *NUM* asked on Day 95. Fisk replied that he was only an advisor to ministers. He was not "an expert witness on political motives".

On energy efficiency Parkin made the point that: "In the USA, the world's largest producer of CO₂, each dollar invested in electric efficiency displaces nearly seven times as much CO₂ as the dollar invested in nuclear power. Would energy efficiency therefore not be a far more effective strategy than diversification into nuclear power?" Fisk agreed that if energy efficiency was economically viable, it should be undertaken.

As for the oceans' contribution to the greenhouse effect, was it not the case, Parkin asked, "that the largest global heat reservoir we have is the Pacific Ocean?"

Fisk agreed that "the key to the whole issue of climate change lies with the oceans. Their reaction to global climate warming is probably the major determinant, particularly for areas like the United Kingdom."

Parkin also invited Fisk to comment on the *CEGB* assertion of a possible 31% tax on coal because of its contribution to the greenhouse effect. A suggestion had been made at the Toronto conference (to the world community) for a world levy on carbon as a basis for a climate fund, Fisk replied.



"Ten months after the Toronto conference," Stewart Boyle of *Friends of the Earth* asked Fisk, "what has the *Department of the Environment* actually done in terms of taking the whole debate further?"

"One of our major activities has been to launch the largest international ministerial conference on CFCs to improve the wide ratification of that Protocol," Fisk replied.

Somerset sea levels

On Day 96, Mike Birkin of *Severnside Friends of the Earth* asked Fisk if the government had a strategy on the Severn Lowlands and the Somerset Levels. How would it deal with the problem of sea level rise and the low-lying nature of the land?

"The large implication for the Somerset Levels would actually be through the increase in pumping cost of drainage. It is a resource implication rather than a land use implication," was Fisk's answer.

Birkin also wanted to know about the future of the site at Hinkley Point. Looking at a time-scale of 150 years from the possible building of Hinkley C to the final stages of decommissioning, said Birkin, "we are likely to see a sea level rise along the Somerset coast, perhaps an increasing frequency of storm events, perhaps some removal of sediment that is already in the estuary and protects the coastline, increased erosion of the coast, perhaps a raising of the water table and maybe increasing salinity of the ground water. Does any of this cast any doubt in your mind as to the advisability of building a reactor at Hinkley Point and having to secure the site for 150 years from now?"

Fisk could only offer the comment that a rise in sea level was not expected to happen suddenly. If there was a risk from abandoned buildings and difficult nuclides, strategies would be reviewed.

Waste Expert Disposed Of

The nuclear industry has "not been very good at its job" of gaining public confidence in the safe disposal of nuclear waste, Fred Passant, the *CEGB*'s expert on waste and decommissioning, told the Inquiry on Day 97.

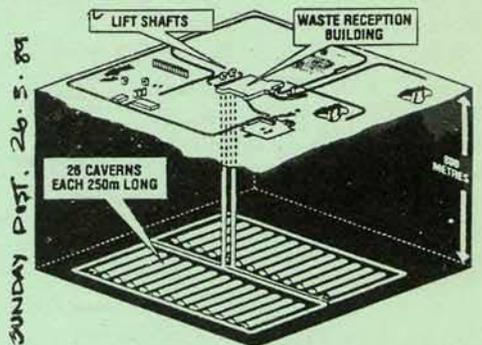
He was responding to a lengthy cross-examination from Lorraine Mann for *Stop Hinkley Expansion*, in which she underlined the industry's repeated failure to find a site for long-term waste disposal.

Setbacks

She listed a series of setbacks for waste dumping plans, from the abandonment of sea dumping in 1983 through to more recent dropping of land-based dumps. Passant said these failures had been a matter of "public perception". He denied, however, that the withdrawal from four sites in Conservative constituencies in 1987

had been because of the impending General Election.

Asked about current plans by NIREX (the nuclear industry's waste management company) for an underground "repository" for low- and intermediate-level waste, Passant, a NIREX Board member, said he could not give the Inquiry an assurance that it would ever be available. One problem might be, he agreed, that "a suitable hydrogeological environment for radioactive waste may never be found."



■ A graphic impression of how Britain's low-level nuclear waste would be stored deep underground at Dounreay.

The cost of such a repository (at either Sellafield or Dounreay) was now thought to be about £2.25 billion, Passant revealed, with transport costs on top. If it wasn't built, he said, the wastes would have to be stored in a new building at Hinkley Point. He agreed that there were no details of such a store in the current application.

Demise of Drigg

Earlier, on Day 96, Passant had been asked by Jonathan Milner (*Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities*) about the life expectancy of the Drigg waste dump near Sellafield, which is the only disposal site at present for low-level waste.

Passant said the site had been much improved recently - by covering over existing waste trenches and packaging new waste in steel containers. This had increased the cost of sending waste to Drigg from £30 per cubic metre a few years ago to over £1,000 now, however.

Together with extra space available, he was confident that Drigg would continue to receive waste until at least 2015.

Concrete solutions

Pursuing the question of decommissioning on Day 97, Roger Kayes (*Friends of the Earth*) asked Passant whether the final stage might be delayed for over 100 years. "I can think of situations arising in 100 years' time," he replied, "where we have two concrete blocks on the site of the A station which everybody

agrees are causing no danger to anyone. If the cost of surveillance is reasonably low, and the local public and politicians all agree... then I can see an agreement might be reached that it is left for another 50 or 100 years."

Passant said later that the cost of surveillance of a shut down Hinkley C would be £500,000 per year. He also revealed that a vast amount of non-radioactive material from the power station buildings would be left underground when the site was cleared, and soil simply replaced on top so that farming could resume.

Ann Lee (*South Wales Women's Support Groups*), pointing out that trade unions were forced to ballot their members on important actions, asked "what steps have the CEBG taken to ascertain the views of consumers on the production of nuclear waste?" Passant replied: "None directly."

Contamination

Using the list of 32 incidents at Hinkley Point between 1978 and 1988 (produced by *Stop Hinkley Expansion*), Tim Deere-Jones of the *Irish Sea Project* questioned Passant on Day 98. Deere-Jones was particularly interested in the contaminated debris which had been found outside the "control area" at the site.

Passant said there had been an enormous amount of building work going on and that was the source of the contaminated debris. The fact that such material was passed out of the control area indicated a serious "breach in the monitoring arrangements". Passant agreed that the stuff had sat around for 10 years or so before detection, and that the contaminated debris would during that time have been rained on, further dispersing the radioactivity it contained.

Leaky vessel

He informed Deere-Jones that despite the chaos and increased workload resulting from the rebuilding work, the site health physics' department was not augmented to cope with

the increased workload and that this was dealt with by double shift work and overtime.

Discussing a leak of contaminated CO₂ in 1985, Passant admitted that there would also have been Suphur 35, Tritium, Particulates and Cobalt 60 activation products present in that gas.



Rocket man?

Objector *Francis Stoner* asked about a reported scheme to shoot nuclear waste into outer space aboard a rocket. Passant replied that "the failure rate of launches is far too high at the moment for us to consider that a practical proposition."

In response to Ian White, the prospective Labour candidate for Bristol and Bath in the European elections, Passant admitted that there was no high-level waste repository working anywhere in the world. One problem with high-level waste was that it would have to be kept safely "over timescales during which there will certainly be ice ages in this country," he said.

Brian Rome (*Bristol Conservation Society*) took Passant to task for his earlier allegation that *Greenpeace* and *Friends of the Earth* had "whipped up" public opposition and were pushing for on-site waste storage because they wanted the public to be constantly reminded of the problem.

Passant completed his cross-examination by mentioning, "en passant", that NIREX had produced a follow-up to their report *The Way Forward* - called *Going Forward*.

Questions To DoE

Brian Ponsford of the Department of Energy returned to the Inquiry on Day 100 to answer questions on those parts of his evidence that dealt with waste and decommissioning.

Tim Deere-Jones of the *Irish Sea Project* queried the arrangements at the Drigg waste site. Ponsford agreed that the early disposal systems at Drigg were substandard, saying "we would not allow BNFL to construct trenches in that way now (although they) represented landfill technology at the time".

Ponsford was referred by Jonathan Milner (*COLA*) to the Government policy that "waste management problems" should be "dealt with before any large nuclear programme is undertaken". He replied that the size of programme envisaged when that policy was written had never in fact taken place.

Failures

Crispin Aubrey (*Stop Hinkley Expansion*) pressed Ponsford on the failures of NIREX to find a suitable dump site, as anticipated by the Government. Ponsford said he was "satisfied with the way NIREX are now approaching the problem", but accepted that "Government proposals for radioactive waste do tend to give rise to strong feelings."

Combwich Traffic

Details were given by the CEBG on Day 98 of the potential traffic through the village of Combwich during the decommissioning of one of the existing Hinkley Point reactors.

During Stage 2 of decommission-

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ing (in about 10 years' time) there could be two loads of radioactive waste per week for five years, each load being a 45-60 ton container about the size of a supermarket delivery truck.

During Stage 3, which might be delayed 100 years, there would be more loads - about seven each week for a five-year period. There could be a further four loads per week if the dismantled large boilers from the reactor were taken through the village.

The CEGB might also have to store waste at Combwich wharf to wait for the next suitable tide.

The Inspector assured Maureen Randall (*Combwich Residents' Environmental Concern*) on Day 99 that he would be visiting the village to see the route along which the CEGB wants to purchase land compulsorily.

"It is our belief that disposal deep underground of these wastes is the right way forward. Unfortunately in this country, we have been prevented so far from moving ahead... largely because of misinformed or uninformed public opinion." Fred Passant (CEGB 11) Day 97

Working Out The Inquiry

- The Inspector has written to the CEGB for further information on worker doses and their calculation (S.3482), and regarding queries raised by Dr. Barnham of CND (S.3481).
- On Day 97, during questioning of Fred Passant (CEGB 11) by Dr. Keith Barnham for the *Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*, the Inspector said he would consider asking the CEGB to produce an expert who knew about plutonium and nuclear reactors. CND is keen to probe the link between civil and military use of plutonium, including the checks made on plutonium stocks.
- The Inquiry is taking French leave! A trip has been arranged to the Framatome factory near Dijon, where the pressure vessel for Hinkley C would be made, and to a PWR at Penly near Dieppe. The dates are May 22 and 23. Any Inquiry participant who wants to

go should contact the Programme Officer for further details.

- A further session at Cardiff has been announced for Monday and Tuesday, June 19 and 20, at the Angel Hotel. On the Monday the proceedings start at 2.00 pm and there will be an evening session. The CEGB's Mr. Passant and Mr. Western have been asked to attend to answer questions.
- A letter from the Inspector to the CEGB asking for further information on the possible strengthening of the Anglo-Scottish transmission link has become Inquiry document S.3294, together with the CEGB's reply.

Short Circuits

On Day 95, regular (and irregular) participant Francis Stoner asked the Inspector to adjourn the Inquiry for a number of reasons including giving Lord Silsoe the chance to make his Maiden Speech in the House of Lords on the following Friday when there was a debate on Radioactive Waste Management and Nuclear Research and Development. Silsoe opposed the suggestion - "unless of course, Mr. Stoner would be good enough to write it for me!" Francis immediately obliged with: "I'm sure I could knock up a draft between now and Friday, Lord Silsoe!" Alas, the lost opportunities of these Inquiries...

* * *

Among the throng collecting the autograph of miners' leader Arthur Scargill on Day 94 was reported to be none other than Fred Passant, the CEGB's main witness on nuclear waste and decommissioning.

* * *

Reference was made by COLA barrister Jonathan Milner on Day 100 to the "several tons of Rowntree's chocolate manufactured with milk contaminated at the time of the 1957 Windscale fire" which had been deposited at the Drigg waste dump in Cumbria. Is this why the Drigg site is now said to be choc a bloc?

* * *

Local Bridgwater Tory MP Tom King was the latest celebrity to visit the Inquiry - and the Stop Hinkley Centre - last week. Could this first time appearance at a major local event be connected with his half-hour session recently with members of Stop Hinkley Expansion?

News From Stop Hinkley Centre

A markedly more relaxed routine has set in after Easter. People wanting to cross-examine witnesses from the CEGB were still generally getting the time they asked for halved. Nonetheless, the Inquiry gives the impression that the fear that Topic 2 would go on longer than Topic 1 - meant to be the longest Topic under consideration - has been put aside.

On Friday April 14, *Brian Rome* - who asked for two hours for cross-examination of Fred Passant (CEGB 11) was given one hour. As time went on, Brian could only appear for 45 minutes before the end of proceedings at 3.30 pm. He was then, as he could not return on Tuesday morning, offered an hour at the end of Tuesday, i.e. from 4.30 pm. This is unprecedented. The Inspector must see the end in sight.

Current thinking divides between finishing this side of the summer break or, alternatively, evidence stopping this side by August 5, and closing speeches being held from September. The CEGB get the last word.

Representatives from *Combwich Residents' Environmental Concern* took their first chance to ask Passant questions on the likelihood of Combwich Wharf being used both for decommissioning and for construction. Passant left the door open.

Hot water

Passant also got into hot water over his remarks about public opinion. In response to questioning from Lorraine Mann of the *Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping* group who came down to represent *Stop Hinkley Expansion*, Passant made allegations about the motives of *Greenpeace* and *Friends of the Earth*. He implied that they wanted radioactive waste stored on site so people would object to the use of nuclear power. His own definition of disposal left a little to be desired. It amounts to long-term storage in another place.

Waste of time?

Speaking of which, the Select Committee for Energy have published their report (12/4/89) on BNFL, which makes strident criticisms of the company. The Inspector refused a request by the *Irish Sea Project* to bring BNFL to give evidence and

Passant, although a director of NIREX, has been a little uncertain in representing them. It is rather unsatisfactory that the whole issue of nuclear waste has been left in the unsure hands of Mr. Passant.

At Sizewell, it was clear that Sir Frank Layfield thought that the issues of nuclear waste, decommissioning and reprocessing should be considered at any subsequent Inquiry.

★ ★ ★

The CEGB has applied for planning permission for a nuclear station at Wylfa. Gwynedd County Council have already passed a general resolution against any further increase of nuclear capacity. It is also said that Peter Walker, Minister of State for Wales, has the final say on whether there will be an Inquiry. He will also decide whether an Inquiry would be held in Welsh with simultaneous translation facilities.

★ ★ ★

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their very kind wishes as I move out from running the Stop Hinkley Centre. Those came not only from individual objectors and object-

ing groups but, virtually unanimously, from everyone working at Cannington. All were most gratefully received. We are very lucky to have the services of Stuart Purves, who will carry on the usual friendly service to objectors in the office.

Jill Sutcliffe

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

Facilities For Objectors

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.

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.

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

DIARY

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

Weeks 27, 28 and 29

N.B. Starting time 9.30 am unless otherwise stated, finish about 5 pm. Fridays, starts 9 am and finishes 3.30 pm. After the Bank Holidays the starting time is 1.30 pm, i.e. May 2 and May 30. Note: the Inquiry will not sit on Tuesday, May 23.

Tuesday April 25

Procedural matters.

John Large (COLA 43) will be giving evidence on PWR decommissioning. Followed by Friends of the Earth: Mr. Kayes (FoE 7) on decommissioning of Hinkley C, followed by Mr. Richardson and Mr. Roberts (FoE 8) on nuclear waste man-

agement and geological disposal.

Wednesday April 26

Evidence from Stop Hinkley Expansion given by Lorraine Mann, followed by Dr. Lowry for CND, Ian White, Mr. Frisby, Sue Kelland, Mrs. Barker (Taunton Labour Party), Steve Seldon, Harry Horrobin of Roadwater and District Peace Group and Olga Farooqui.

Thursday April 27

Evidence from Hugh Scott, Brian Rome, May Morris, Dicken Fell, Mrs. Selley for the Presteigne Green and Peace Group and Tim Deere-Jones for the Irish Sea Project.

Friday April 28

Evidence from Celia Hadow, Anna Morgan, Mr. Thomas, Alan Debenham for West Somerset CND and Mr. Vowles for the Bristol Green Party.

Tuesday May 2

Procedural matters.

Opening of Topic 4 on Emergency Planning. Mr. Western (CEGB 12), evidence and cross-examination.

Wednesday May 3

Mr. Western cross-examination continued.

Thursday May 4

Mr. Western cross-examination continued.

Friday May 5

End of cross-examination of Mr. Western followed by Mr. Turner for the Health and Safety Executive (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) giving evidence and cross-examination.

Tuesday May 9

Mr. Turner cross-examination continued; if completed, followed by Mr. Webb for the National Radiological Protection Board, evidence and cross-examination.

Wednesday May 10

Mr. Webb cross-examination continued.

Thursday May 11

Mr. Webb cross-examination continued; if completed, followed by Mr. Ponsford for the Department of the Environment, evidence and cross-examination.

Friday May 12

Mr. Ponsford cross-examination continued.

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Contributors to this issue:
Crispin Aubrey, Joanna Balcombe,
Danielle Grunberg, Brigid McConville

GREENPEACE

Elaine Mendoza, Susie Needham
Ron Preddy, Jill Sutcliffe

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