

# SCRAM ENERGY BULLETIN



THE SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN TO RESIST THE ATOMIC MENACE, 2 AINSLIE PLACE, EDINBURGH. 031-225 7752

## TORNESS MESS

THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ELECTRICITY BOARD'S PLANS FOR A NUCLEAR STATION AT TORNESS, EAST LOTHIAN, MAY HAVE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF RENEWED PUBLIC SCRUTINY - FOLLOWING REVELATIONS MADE IN A LETTER TO SCRAM FROM THE SCOTTISH ECONOMIC PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

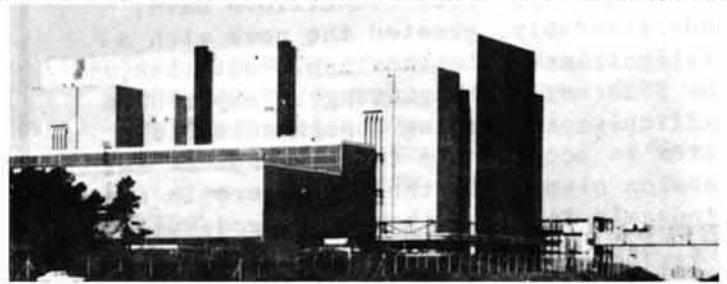
IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT, CONTRARY TO WHAT WAS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD, THE SSEB DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO BUILD THE TYPE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO DECIDE UPON FOR THEIR NEXT NUCLEAR PROGRAMME.

At the time of the original inquiry into Torness in June 1974, the SGHWR (Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor) was the government's favourite. Since then, however, the nuclear programme has been put under review and the National Nuclear Corporation was asked to report on the pros and cons of 3 types of reactor - the SGHWR, the AGR (Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor) and the PWR (Pressurised Water Reactor). In their conclusions, published by the Department of Energy earlier this year, they say :

"We have concluded that in all the circumstances of today, which are different from those in 1974, there is no case for the adoption of SGHWR... It is clear that it is the most costly of the three systems."

Thus, it is more or less certain that the government will formally abandon the SGHWR in its final decision - expected in the near future. This means that the SSEB are likely to want to build either an AGR, as at Hunterston, or a PWR, the controversial American design. They do not at the moment have permission for either at Torness. In a letter to SCRAM, the Scottish Economic Planning Department say :

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Sizewell nuclear station. Will Torness be next? (Photo courtesy of the UKAEA)

"The consent granted by the Secretary of State on 5 February 1975 related specifically to the construction of a nuclear power station of the SGHWR type. That being so, SSEB do not have authority to proceed with the construction of a station at Torness incorporating any other type of reactor."

What would then happen, according to the SEP, is that :

"It would be the responsibility of the Secretary of State to decide, in the light of all relevant circumstances obtaining at the time of the Board's revised proposals being made known, what additional processes, if any, should be put in hand to assist him to decide whether a new...consent should be issued."

In other words, the Secretary of State could merely rewrite the planning permission, or he could decide to call another public inquiry. How he decides, will, to an important extent, depend on public opinion. The public has good reason to demand a new inquiry.

Much has happened on the nuclear scene since the original consent for Torness was given. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report on Nuclear Power, the Windscale Inquiry and the much encouraged research into various aspects of possible non-nuclear energy strategies have all contributed towards a growing scepticism of the need for, and wisdom of, further nuclear expansion.

(over)

Bearing this in mind - as well as the altered reactor type - SCRAM believes that the proper course would be to hold another public inquiry. And we believe that when the public comes to know the facts, local and national demand for the re-examination of Torness will be overwhelming.

In the SSEB's future, of course, Torness would be just the start. It was also revealed recently that they have earmarked one nature reserve and two beauty spots in Fife as 'possible' sites for future power stations. These are Tentsmuir, a famous forest reserve near St. Andrews, Crail and Largo Bay. Fife councillors have, understandably, greeted the news with a distinct lack of enthusiasm. But then, the SSEB must be beginning to experience difficulty in finding enough suitable sites to accommodate their grandiose expansion plans. In their evidence to the Windscale Inquiry, they envisaged building "one, rising towards two" nuclear reactors each year from about 1980. Another dozen or so reactors by the end of the century. Anyone for the nuclear future?

#### WHO WE ARE

THE SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN TO RESIST THE ATOMIC MENACE (SCRAM) is a national organisation established in November 1975. Its objectives are :

1. To inform the public of the present and proposed nuclear developments and their social, political and environmental implications.
2. To oppose the further development of nuclear power in Scotland and elsewhere.
3. To press for a long-term strategy based on conservation and on the use of renewable resources.

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SCRAM has organised several nuclear site occupations and other national protests, has held many public meetings and has established links with all sectors of the community. There are local groups throughout Scotland who associate with SCRAM and campaign on nuclear issues. SCRAM is strictly non party-political. We are always anxious to hear from anyone who has time, expertise or (of course) money to offer.

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'SCRAM', in nuclear jargon, means to 'shut down' a reactor.

#### ANTI-NUKE

##### STICKERS

available at  
2p each or  
15p for sheet  
of 12 from :  
SCRAM, 2a Ainslie  
Place, Edinburgh



Please send large stamped addressed envelope.

##### POSTERS

"NUCLEAR POWER? NO THANKS" (yellow with red sun) large posters now available from Half Life, 15 Lowther Ave., Morecambe, Lancashire, at 30p each including postage. They also have a leaflet on nuclear waste processing at 10p.

"I'm glad I'm not a young man and I'm sorry for my grandchildren"  
David Lilienthal, First Chairman of the US Atomic Energy Authority

THE SCRAM BOOK OF QUOTATIONS - what has been said on many aspects of the energy question - has been prepared by SCRAM S.W. and is available from Mrs. D. Paulin, "Drumrash", Parton, Castle Douglas. Please include a sae and a donation to cover costs would be most welcome.

#### ENERGY RESOURCES

An education package on this subject is now available from EGIS Environmental Information Service, North Lodge, Elswick Road Cemetery, Newcastle NE4 8DL. This package details our need for energy, the current sources and possible supplies for the future. It includes a booklet on Renewable Energy (also available separately at 0.50p). Energy Resources: £1.75. Prices include postage.

## FEEDBACK

"Congratulations on the first issue of SCRAM! A splendid enterprise."

Sir Kelvin Spencer  
(former Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Power)

"Just to thank you for sending me the Bulletin which I read carefully."

Tony Benn  
(Secretary of State for Energy)

# INSULATE IN 78

David Green has been closely associated with FoE's work on insulation since the inception of the Durham project. He is now Secretary of the National Fuel Poverty Forum (under the auspices of the National Council of Social Service) and is a part-time consultant to the National Consumer Council. Here he outlines the achievements and implications of the Durham Insulation Project.

Since 1974, when Friends of the Earth and Age Concern branches organised a 'House Warming' weekend to insulate old people's lofts, FoE has been actively concerned with the achievement of higher standards of insulation and with keeping the elderly warm. In 1975 these objectives were reactivated with the initiation by Durham FoE of a project to insulate the lofts of elderly and disabled people in the area.

Since then, nearly 1000 old age pensioners' homes have been insulated, creating jobs for up to 15 people. FoE's work indicated to the Department of Energy a positive way forward in the nation's battle to save energy and in August 1976 the Department wrote to all local authorities in the UK, encouraging them to establish Job Creation Insulation Projects. This was backed up by a range of FoE (Durham) publications, designed to stimulate effective action by local authorities and other groups.

The work on the project and its associated campaign also brought FoE into close contact with the National Right to Fuel Campaign, which seeks to establish the right to a "warm well-lit home for everyone" - through the abolition of the right of the gas and electric boards to disconnect consumers from supply, coupled with a fairer system of domestic fuel pricing and a major insulation programme designed to bring down fuel costs for the low-paid in the long term.

Hence, the establishment of a local project to take direct, practical action to keep the elderly warm, whilst also demonstrating the ease with which households can help achieve the nation's energy conservation objectives, enables a number of implications to be drawn for future government action :

- (i) that the long-term solution to the problem faced by low-income families through the rising cost of energy is inextricably bound up with the development of an alternative energy policy for the UK;
- (ii) that a number of socially beneficial jobs can be developed through the deployment of alternative energy strategies.

Support the campaign to Insulate in '78 and help create a more rational, socially acceptable energy policy!



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- FACT: There are 7 million uninsulated lofts in the UK.
- FACT: In Scandinavia, 17" of loft insulation is a recommended minimum.
- FACT: One million pensioners cannot afford to heat their homes without extra financial help from the government.
- FACT: A major insulation programme could create in the region of 10,000 jobs over 20 years.
- FACT: A major insulation programme could achieve a 10% saving in primary energy demand. This would crucially reduce the so-called "energy gap", thereby reducing the need for a large nuclear programme.
- FACT: In the record of his Presidency on the EEC Energy Commission, Tony Benn suggested that the UK should embark on a labour-intensive insulation programme as an alternative to the fast breeder reactor.

# WINDSCALE

Dr. Michael Flood is an energy consultant with Friends of the Earth Ltd and helped prepare FoE's case at the Windscale Inquiry. He is co-author of "Nuclear Prospects - a comment on the Individual, the State and Nuclear Power", published last year by FoE, Council for the Protection of Rural England and the National Council for Civil Liberties. Here he reviews the progress of the Windscale Inquiry which started on June 14th this year.

The battle-lines are drawn across the green felt-covered tables of Whitehaven Civic Hall. The contestants, British Nuclear Fuels Limited and the 'Objectors' together with representatives from local and county councils, sit behind barricades of paper eyeing each other as they plot their strategy.

At the front, Mr. Justice Parker and his aides, Sir Frederick Warner and Sir Edward Pochin, preside over the assembly. At the back, rows of seats are reserved for the general public; few of those who attend seem to grasp the importance of this gathering on their doorstep.

Each morning a procession of able-bodied porters carry in the documents and transcripts; each evening they carry them out. The transcripts alone are already one metre thick and still growing; by mid-September they contained over 2 million words spoken by more than 50 'experts'. Very few of these experts have left their mark on the proceedings.

BNFL have invested well in Lord Silsoe, their counsel, as have Friends of the Earth in Ray Kidwell who has admirably matched the noble Lord's measured volleys. But rarely does the gentlemanly mouth-to-mouth fighting of the professionals betray what is at stake.

The Windscale Inquiry is not merely an inquiry into an application to build a new oxide fuel reprocessing plant, but an inquiry into the future of the nuclear industry in Britain. Up until now the industry has had a momentum of its own; it has gone largely unchallenged.

# INQUIRY



**WINDSCALE:  
IT WILL COST THE EARTH  
THERE ARE SAFE ALTERNATIVES  
TO NUCLEAR POWER**

## THE MAIN ISSUES

The burning issues at the Inquiry have surprised many observers. The Inspector is clearly not impressed by arguments about the dangers of low-level releases of radioactivity - much to the chagrin of the Isle of Man Government (one of the objectors) - although he has been critical of past monitoring practices and particularly of those of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. (And as one witness suggested, it might have been better if their laboratory had been sited on the Irish Sea rather than at Lowestoft on the North Sea.)

The Inspector has been quick to allay public anxiety about releases; he sent scientists scurrying to sample the source of Manchester's water for possible tritium contamination and ordered tests on plutonium levels in airborne dust at Ravensglass (an estuary where radioactive sediments are accumulating). One local official, Councillor Dixon, was whisked off for a whole body count after he had expressed fears about being contaminated from eating locally-caught fish. However, where results have become available, they have indicated that levels of radioactivity are still well within permitted limits.

Justice Parker has expressed great interest in the economics of reprocessing and the ability of stainless steel clad oxide fuel (from our Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors) to withstand storage in cooling ponds. (Magneox fuel from the current generation of reactors corrodes badly during prolonged storage under water.)

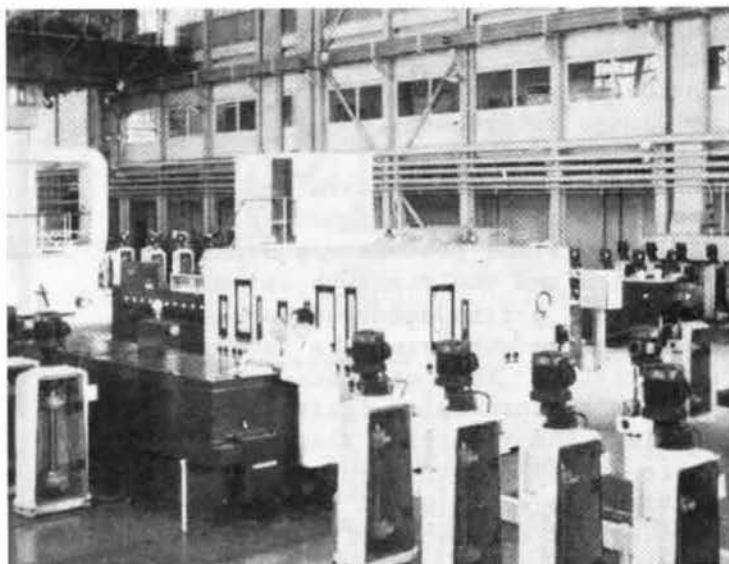
On proliferation, FoE have argued that supplying nuclear bomb material to non-weapon states brings them within hours of a bomb. A country can develop and test the conventional parts of a bomb and insert the core later.

BNFL counter by saying that the expansion will not prevent a determined nation from getting the bomb - no-one has ever argued more succinctly the case for a total moratorium on nuclear developments!

BNFL have argued that Britain needs oxide fuel reprocessing to sustain its nuclear programme. FoE believes that, although delay would mean sacrificing a lucrative Japanese contract, delay would also allow time for the full implications of reprocessing to be investigated and time for possible alternatives to be developed.

Giving the green light to reprocessing and plutonium recycle will serve to undermine President Carter's recent initiatives on proliferation and legitimise the use of plutonium as fuel.

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**The reprocessing plant at Windscale**  
(photo courtesy of the UKAEA)

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SCRAM gave evidence to the Windscale Inquiry in September. Professor Tolstoy, appearing on behalf of the Windscale Appeal and SCRAM, argued that BNFL had no right to expand when they are nowhere near a proper solution to the problem of nuclear waste disposal. Mrs. Dorothy Paulin, Chairman of SCRAM SW, outlined the broad grounds of our objection. Further details of the progress of the Inquiry, including some of the important highlights, are available on request from SCRAM.

# Accidents will happen

Stanley J. Thompson, a Chartered Civil Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, worked for the Nuclear Industry in its early days. He is now a member of the SCRAM Executive Committee. Here he recalls an accident at the Capenhurst plant, near Liverpool.

As one who has worked in both the Atomic Energy Industry and the Explosive Industry, I feel confident to comment on the safety assurances given by the various officials who represent these bodies when any new project is being given consideration by the public.

They always say that the chances of an accident are a million to one - this could be said of the pools, but someone always wins every week - but accidents in these industries are all too frequent. Many, however, are never publicised as, fortunately, there have been no deaths or damage to property.

For example, some 25 years ago when the second phase of the Capenhurst Gaseous Diffusion Plant process was under construction and the first phase was in operation, a fire occurred beneath a cable bridge supplying the factory with electricity. This was caused by the painter's store being ignited by a coke brazier, the resulting flames destroying entirely the electric supply cables and putting the whole plant in jeopardy due to the lack of electricity. Fortunately, supply from another source was available and with the assistance of contractors and others the plant's supply was restored within 24 hours. If this repair work had not been completed so quickly the whole of the plant could have been lost and it would have been necessary to dismantle it with the consequent risk to personnel.

Thus the pronouncements of the leaders of the various industries that nothing can happen are not worth the breath they use when uttering them. What is more, where Atomic Energy is concerned, the effects would not be confined within the factory but would cause a hazard which might extend for several miles and could last in its after effects for many generations.

# Alternatives

The Department of Political Economy at the University of Aberdeen, under Professor Pearce, is researching alternative energy strategies for the Department of Energy.

The government's discussion document, "Energy Research and Development in the UK", published in 1976 came under fire for its poor treatment of non-nuclear strategies. The Aberdeen researchers will be producing series of non-nuclear scenarios to help the government avoid such mistakes in the future. SCRAM has been in touch with those involved and fully supports the invaluable work they are doing.

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## SOFT ENERGY PATHS

'SOFT ENERGY PATHS - TOWARDS A DURABLE PEACE' by Amory B. Lovins, energy consultant with Friends of the Earth, has recently been published by Pelican. It is essential reading for all those concerned with non-nuclear energy futures.

Mr. Lovins carefully compares the social and economic cost of what he calls 'hard' and 'soft' energy paths. The hard path, which includes solar space satellites and all large power stations, is fragile, expensive and imposes unwelcome forms of social change. The soft path is robust, cheap and allows for the maximum diversity of individual and social expression. The theme is examined from every angle in Mr. Lovin's precise, if rather heavy, style.

The concluding chapters on the relationship between civil nuclear power and nuclear weapons are particularly interesting. The conclusion is driven home remorselessly - the proliferation of nuclear power is the crucial factor in the proliferation of nuclear warheads. And if we phase out nuclear power, we are taking a vital step towards removing nuclear weapons from the world and hence achieving a 'durable peace'.

It is a remarkable claim and one that no-one can afford to dismiss.

# Events

## Action

ENERGY 2000 is planning a mass lobby of Parliament on 16 November to convince the government that there is a strong body of opinion in this count totally opposed to the expansion of nuclear power - and in favour of the urgent development of alternatives. SCRAM intends to convey support for the lobby in writing to every Scottish MP - and any individual who feels so inspired is urged to do likewise.

### WASTE DUMPING

Since our last issue, when Dorothy Paulin wrote of the almost universal opposition of local people to the UKAEA's plans to test-drill in the Galloway hills - with a view to disposing of nuclear waste there - it has been revealed that the AEA is expected to apply for planning permission soon. Can we thus repeat our suggestion that everyone who objects to waste-dumping in Galloway should write, stating their objection, to the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Kyle & Carrick District Council, Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr.

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### Another nuke meeting....

Tayside and Fife Branch of the British Association are organising a symposium on "Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Energy" on Saturday 29 October 1977 at the University Tower Building, Nethergate, Dundee. Speakers include Professor Mitchison (of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution), Mr. Blumfield (Director of Dounreay), and someone from the Open University Energy Research Group. Registration fee is £1.00 (students 50p). Details from Secretary, Tayside and Fife Branch of the British Association, Dept. of Extra-Mural Education, Dundee University DD1 4HN.



Some of the 1000 demonstrators on the CND rally at the Holy Loch, on September 10th.



### CONFERENCES

Scottish Council for Civil Liberties  
"Civil Liberties and a Bill of Rights in Scotland"  
Saturday 22 October, 1977; 10 am - 5 pm  
David Hume Tower, University of Edinburgh  
Fee: £2

University of Glasgow Extra Mural Dept.  
57/61 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow G12

15 October 2 - 5 pm 75p  
"Nuclear Hazards" - a talk on Walt Patterson's book Nuclear Power.

Town and Country Planning Association  
"Nuclear Energy and Waste" - a one-day conference with speakers from Dounreay, the SSEB, Environmental Safety Group Harwell and the London School of Economics

Friday 21 October - Mercury Motor Inn, Inverness - £14 non-members £12 members

Information from J.F. Miller, Secretary,  
68 Bonhill Road, Dumbarton (0389 62754)

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This Bulletin has been produced by the following :

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Comments and contributions are always welcomed : news, articles, opinions...we would hope that this Bulletin will act as a medium for information and exchange between anti-nuclear groups and individuals throughout Scotland.

All correspondence should be addressed to :

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2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh 3  
(031-225 7752 office hours)

# SUPPORT SCRAM!



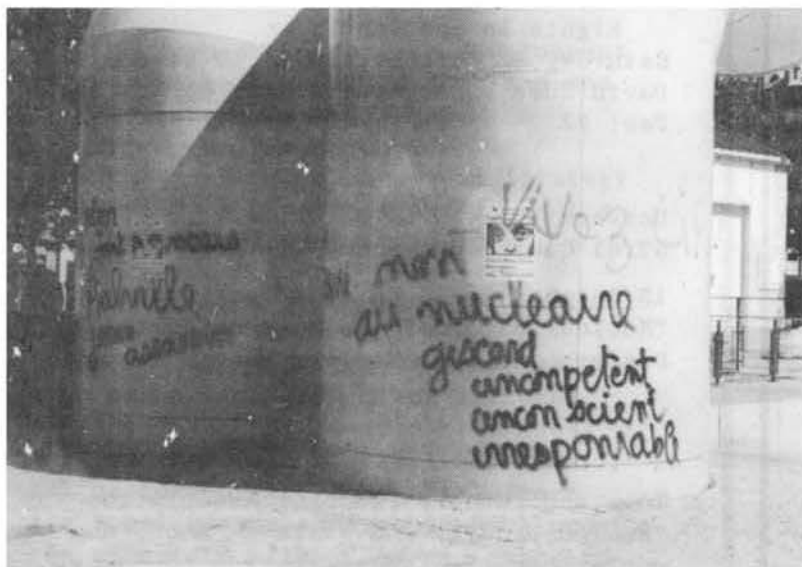
## Another leak...

A secret paper on the "activities of pressure groups", delivered to a conference in Edinburgh of the International Union of the Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy, was leaked to SCRAM.

The leak caused the industry some embarrassment and did not exactly aid one of the major aims of the conference which was to help improve the image of nuclear power. The paper gives a run-down on how the industry thinks groups like SCRAM work. It comments on the public relations efforts of anti-nuclear groups :

"Many of their activities in the field of communication excel by far the imagination of professional public relations people"

A pat on the back from a rather unexpected quarter! Copies of the secret paper are available from SCRAM for 35p



"INCOMPETENT

UNCARING

IRRESPONSIBLE"

Graffiti on the Pompidou Arts Centre in Paris (Photo by Gloria)