

SCRAM

ENERGY BULLETIN

ISSN 0140-7340

No.16

February/March 1980

20p



SPECIAL FEATURE ON MULLWHARCHAR AND WASTE DUMPING THIS ISSUE

Region backs stand on
nuclear waste dumping

Scotland 'could be EEC's dustbin'

Loch Doon atomic
dump plan attacked

MP attacks nuclear
waste 'complacency'

Dumfries & Galloway Standard

Playing the inquiry game

Dumping
inquiry
not to be
widened

Nuclear waste secrecy

Marchers protest at
nuclear proposals

UN fear
atomic
waste
danger

Unions plan action
to avert threat
of 'atom dustbin'

Restrictions
on test
bores inquiry
condemned

Border earthquake could affect
nuclear waste storage plans

Test drilling
'thin end
of lethal
wedge'

By JAMES NAUGHTIE.
Our Parliamentary
Correspondent

Collection Laka foundation
www.laka.org
Digitized 2017

66% say no to waste dumping

OPINION POLL-results

Two-thirds of Scottish people are opposed to nuclear dumping in Scotland, and less than one-third believe that nuclear energy is essential. These are some of the results of a System Three poll at the end of the last year for East Lothian Residents Against Torness and 16 other anti-nuclear groups.

86% of those questioned had heard of the plans to build Torness, and only 26% of the sample were in favour of continued development of the site. Three-quarters considered that the public is not well enough informed about nuclear power and the alternatives.

Only 10% of those questioned thought the government should concentrate on nuclear power - 84% said it should concentrate on saving energy and on alternative sources.

Regional variations showed a much greater opposition to Torness in the south than in the north - where opinions were about equally divided. A local newspaper opinion poll in East Lothian last year found 90% 'totally opposed' to Torness (see SCRAM 12).

84% had heard of the plans for waste disposal: 11% were unconcerned about them, 14% thought it should go ahead if the sites are suitable; 66% were opposed to waste dumping outright, and 9% were don't know.

PWR go-ahead

The government endorsed CEBG plans for a programme of American PWRs on December 18th.

The (public) plan is to build one station a year over 10 years, the first to start building in 1982. The Central Electricity Generating Board have confirmed that the most likely site for the first is Sizewell in Suffolk.

The decision was effectively taken at a cabinet meeting on 23rd October, the minutes of which were leaked to the press and anti-nuclear organisations. The minutes show that the government intend to keep a 'low profile' over their nuclear plans: 'the Government might make more rapid progress towards its objective by a 'low profile' approach.' So much for public involvement.

The minutes also outline the government's reasons for the expansion: 'A nuclear programme would have the advantage of removing a substantial proportion of electricity production from the dangers of disruption by industrial action by coal miners or transport workers.'

The first PWR inquiry may well be rigged: 'there was a danger that a broad ranging inquiry would arouse prolonged technical debate between representatives of different facets of scientific opinion. In considering tactics (our emphasis) for inquiries, it would be important to bear in mind that there was also a programme in hand for identifying sites for the disposal of nuclear waste.'

In conclusion, the cabinet 'recognised the great importance of appropriate presentation for achieving the Government's objective, and generally favoured a low profile approach'.

Nuclear no cheaper says CEBG boss

CEBG chair, Glyn England, made an interesting speech to the Institution of Electrical Engineers in London on 3rd October. Part of it deserves wider publicity.

Talking about what he called 'the brighter side' of the 2 reactor Hinkley Point AGR, he said 'the station's unit costs for that year (1978) ... were almost the same as those for modern coal and oil-fired stations, namely 1.3p per unit. These costs are the amounts relating to the financial year which we have had to meet. (sic).'

But this is exactly what SCRAM has always said; that nuclear power is not cheaper than conventional power. Note his 'almost', as well - presumably it was slightly higher.

O.K., so Hinkley Point, which has been going for 3½ years is only producing 80% of its design rating, but nuclear power is still to prove that it is cheaper.

And given that these costs would not include decommissioning the radioactive reactor at the end of its life, research and development (the AEA alone estimate £150 million for this during 1980), and possibly the huge cost of building it, it's hardly surprising that Mr. England added that this figure (1.3p) is 'not appropriate as a basis for making investment decisions.'

[Atom Dec. 1979]

INVISIBLE ACTION

A group calling itself the Invisible Radicators went for a walk round the Heysham nuclear plant construction site with araldite, steel wool and concrete on Dec. 14th.

They used these to fill three surveying stations - white triangular concrete pillars with a brass plate set on top, used for site measurements.

In a communiqué to SCRAM, the group say 'the object was to halt work at least temporarily, and with some luck to make it necessary to re-survey the whole site... With a government which is obviously committed to the expansion of nuclear power, and prepared to play low-profile politics, the time has arrived when it is necessary to hamper the expansion in as many direct ways as possible.'

EDINBURGH ACTION

There was a small picket of the McAlpine construction company in Edinburgh on December 13th. The picket was to protest against the firm's involvement in the building of Torness. Those taking part said that it provided a worthwhile chance to talk to the workers there and to passers-by.

TORNESS - first prosecutions

Nine people are to be summonsed in what is thought to be the first court action in Britain against anti-nuclear protestors. The 'Torness 9' are to be brought to court in Haddington, East Lothian, on February 20th following the action at the Torness gates in October.

The group had erected a scaffolding outside the main gates to the site and then chained themselves to the top of it, staying there all day.

As we go to press, only two of the 9 had received their summons. But the Procurator Fiscal's office at Haddington told SCRAM that the others would be summonsed to appear as well. They have been charged with breach of the peace and disorderly behaviour for refusing to come down when asked.

Three months have gone by since the action, and the group have said they were surprised to be cited after this delay. All previous charges against demonstrators have been dropped, so these cases mark a turning point in the protest at Torness.

A solicitor has told SCRAM that if found guilty they could possibly expect fines of between £30-40 - that is a total of over £300 for the group.

A defence fund is being set up - contact the October Action Defence fund, 18 Bishop Road, Bishopston, Bristol 7.

UNION NEWS

Mr. Moss Evans, Secretary of the TGWU, has urged the TUC to seek improved safety controls in the nuclear industry.

In a letter to Len Murray, TUC general secretary, he has outlined the union's concern about organisational control and safety in the industry, and the transporting of nuclear waste.

His letter expresses concern about safety standards on the handling of radioactive material at naval dockyards and at Aldermaston Research establishment. He also expressed concern about pollution, waste disposal and waste transport.

His letter complains of the 'cloak of secrecy and half explanations surrounding nuclear issues'.

The TGWU has also attacked the Electricity Council for claiming that trade unions in the electricity supply industry overwhelmingly support nuclear power.

[TGWU Record, Jan. 80]

Meantime, Jimmy Milne, general secretary of the STUC has issued a statement voicing 'considerable disquiet' at the proposals for nuclear expansion. He has said he is concerned at the switch to PWR's and the lack of any commitment to build new coal-fired stations.

'It is essential that there is a steady continuing market for power station coal if we are to retain employment, skills and technology essential to assure the future of the mining industry.'

'All previous studies in this country have rejected the PWR as being inherently less sound than the British AGR's, he said.'

[Scotsman 20.12.79]

NEWS ROUND-UP

Sweden:

ASKING THE PEOPLE

March 23rd is the date set for a Swedish referendum on nuclear power. A 'No' vote would mean an immediate halt to any further expansion, and a gradual phasing out of the existing programme.

Opposition to nuclear power runs deep in Sweden - anti-nuclear pressure brought down the government in Autumn 1978. It has been fuelled by revelations in September in the paper 'Ny Dag' that there are construction faults in most Swedish reactors. Apparently construction welders were employed on a piece-rate basis, and had no time to do secure welding.

The Swedish Nuclear Installations Inspectorate have admitted the faults, and said they don't have enough resources to do the work properly.

Denmark is also likely to have a referendum later this year, on whether to go nuclear. At the moment Denmark is non-nuclear.

THE PEOPLE OBJECT!

A public inquiry into the Torness pylon routes is 'inevitable' according to Borders planning officials. More than a dozen landowners have lodged objections to the proposed routes.

[Scotsman 14.12.79]

THE PRESIDENT OBJECTS

Philippine officials have said a \$1.1 billion nuclear power plant being built at Manila is unsafe, and have demanded that Westinghouse, the builder, renegotiate its 'iniquitous and onerous' contract. President Marcos has halted interest payments on loans financing the plant. Westinghouse say the plant 'is as safe as any other of its type'.

[Los Angeles Times 14.11.79]

Grey Panthers

Some 500 demonstrators blocked the entrance to the Department of Energy headquarters in Washington, shutting it down for the afternoon in October. The protest was organised by Mobilisation for Survival, and centred on an elderly people's action group called the Grey Panthers.

As a result, monthly meetings have now been planned between the department and MFS.

RE-USABLE OIL

British Rail scientists have invented a method for recycling lubricant oils of diesel engines. The process yields 90% of waste oil back 'as new', and it is estimated that it could save some 100,000 tons of high quality oil a year in Britain.

Plants will begin operating in London, Manchester and Kent over the next month.

[Times 11.1.80]

PILES AND WIND

Earl Haig, of Bemersyde, near Melrose, is to heat his stately home with a 40 foot high windmill. He reckons it will provide 80% of the heating needed for his 24 rooms, and that the capital investment of £7,000 will pay for itself within 2 years. He believes other stately home owners may follow suit.

[Scotsman 17.1.80]

Spain has started building two huge solar energy plants as part of an International Energy Agency experiment. The two stations will generate 500 KW each. Nine countries (but not Britain) are putting up £20 million for the project, which should take two years to complete.

[Times 19.1.80]

FESTIVE ANTI-NUCLEAR EVENT IN LEEDS



NO NUKES HERE!

A Sydney suburb has formally declared itself a nuclear-free zone, and has said it will bar truckloads of uranium ore from passing through on their way to the docks.

The council of Leichhardt has said the municipality is prepared to erect barriers across the streets to halt shipments.

[Scotsman 20.12.79]



Friends of the Earth Leeds and Leeds Anti-Nuclear Power Group held a joint anti-nuclear event the Saturday before Christmas to coincide with M. Thatcher's announcement about plans for building more nuclear power stations in G.B. [including P.W.R.'s unfortunately]. We handed out leaflets and children were given balloons with anti-nuclear messages on in three busy shopping areas of Leeds centre.

ACCIDENT NEWS

Nuclear experts have admitted that it will take years to plug the leaking radioactive waste silo at Windscale. The leak started in October 1976, and all attempts to stop it have proved ineffective. The location of the leak has not yet been found.

[Press and Journal 11.12.79]

17 'INCIDENTS'

The Health and Safety Executive report that 17 incidents at British nuclear installations were reported to the Energy Secretary during the period July-September '79. Small spillages or releases of radioactive activity were the most frequent type of incident. None of the incidents caused a significant radiological hazard to workers or the public, say the HSE.

11 of the 17 incidents reported happened at Windscale.

[HSE Quarterly Statement 79/3]

Low-level radiation leaked from a lorry carrying radioactive cobalt pellets after it was involved in an accident at Dubois, Pennsylvania. A 15 mile section of the highway had to be closed temporarily.

[Scotsman 15.1.80]

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission have said that the clean-up of the contaminated Three Mile Island plant will take at least until 1983.

[Boston Globe 30.11.79]

CENSORED SAFETY

The CEBG are to release shortened versions of the safety reports covering the AGR's being built at Heysham and Torness. SCRAM and other groups have been calling for the release of the secret reports for several years. But publication of a censored report hardly meets our demands.

[Times 20.12.79]

ENERGY SAVED

Wimpey, Britain's biggest house builder, has launched new house types modified from their existing range so as to require only half the energy their predecessors needed.

The designs are the result of research started in 1977 to look at housing for the 80s. Energy conservation was identified as an important factor, and the general aim was to create a home which would offer 50% energy savings within financial constraints which would not put the new houses beyond the reach of ordinary purchasers.

The new range are outwardly the same as other houses. The energy savings are achieved without double glazing, which could be installed to get an even bigger saving.

Wimpey scientists are now looking at the possibilities of solar panels and heat pumps.

[Building 16.11.79]

WASTE TRANSPORT

Arthur Lewis MP looks at waste & secrecy

If you suspect that the peacetime use of nuclear power is one of the greatest dangers facing the world today - you won't be able to prove it because of official secrecy.

I am not a spokesman for nuclear power, or against nuclear power. I am a spokesman for those seeking the truth. I have a special reason for wanting to know the risks of atomic power. My constituents in the east end of London are worried about the large flasks of spent fuel trundling by their homes two or three times a week, and as their M.P., I have to know what risks they face.

Some facts, we know. Suppose that nuclear energy had been in use during Christ's lifetime, and the operators of the power stations had been storing their wastes in large shielded canisters - as the British Nuclear Fuels people have to do with their waste products from our modern plants - then we would have been guarding this biblical waste for less than ONE PERCENT of the time it would have to be guarded and isolated from the environment.

ALARMING SECRECY

I do not accept reassurances from the authorities lightly. The impact of these horrible statistics has been softened by government assurances that the risks of accidents happening is infinitesimal. The question is, can we afford to take that chance?

sion and a 1/2 hour fire. I know of train collisions happening at 80 mph, and goods yard fires lasting 4 hours. What, I have asked them, would happen to your flask then? I still have not yet received a satisfactory answer.

If such an accident occurred, and the contents of the flask emptied into the atmosphere what would happen? This has been worked out by an independent safety consultant. The result would indicate that six thousand people would die a slow death from cancer over the next thirty years, and that 4 1/2 square miles of the densely populated east end of London would be rendered uninhabitable for up to 125 years. 80,000 people would have to move out. Stations, goods yards, factories and office blocks would remain empty for over a century. Altogether an inconceivable accident.

NUCLEAR BAZOOKAED

Faced with the Official Secrets Act, I can't obtain an official yes or no to the seriousness of the risk. The Act allows evasion. Faced with this lack of information, a local councillor, together with a local resident and a member of the Freedom of Information Campaign, tested the security precautions surrounding the transport of this lethal material by staging a mock

Reprocessing some trust

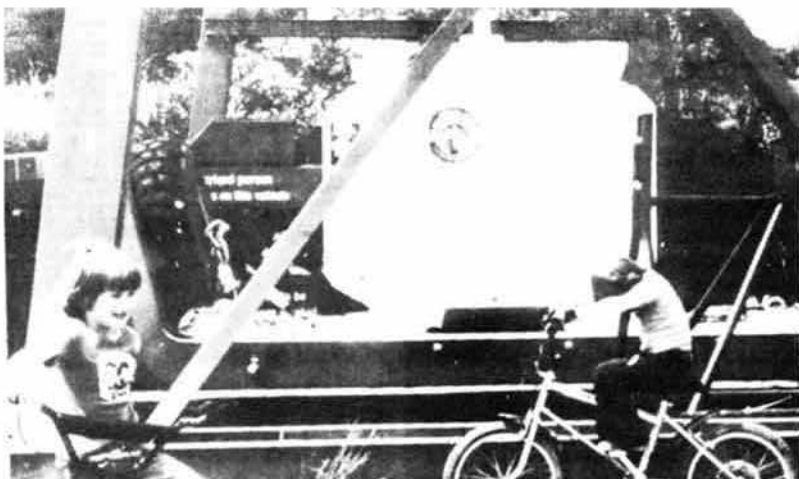
Trust, I have always maintained is a two-way street. We trust government with our health and safety, yet we cannot be trusted in knowing the truth. I have been striving for the past five years to obtain a Freedom of Information Act for Britain so the people will have a legal right to information such as this. You, the people of this country are asking more and more questions about the risks as discussed here. You have a right, and I believe a legal right, to know the answers.

Arthur Lewis is MP of Newham North West, and chair of the All Party Parliamentary Committee for Freedom of Information.

PANDORA'S BOX

Pandora's Box is the new magazine of the group PANDORA - Powys Against Nuclear Dumping On Rural Areas. Its aim is to be a source of information for anyone concerned with nuclear dumping, and the nuclear technology which makes dumping necessary.

The magazine is very useful reading, and can be obtained from PANDORA, Rhiewport Hall, Berriew, Powys, Wales. Annual Subscriptions cost £2, single copies 12p plus postage.



Children playing near unattended nuclear waste container in the rail yard at Southminster. Photo - Kinnersly.

Especially when the truth is often difficult to ascertain.

For instance, one of the most serious accidents at a nuclear power station occurred at Windscale over twenty years ago. The official inquiry into the cause produced a report evaluating the effects of the radioactive materials released. This report is still an official secret. A simplified report was published for the public to read, and was designed not to unnecessarily alarm the public. Of course the secrecy causes more alarm than the truth.

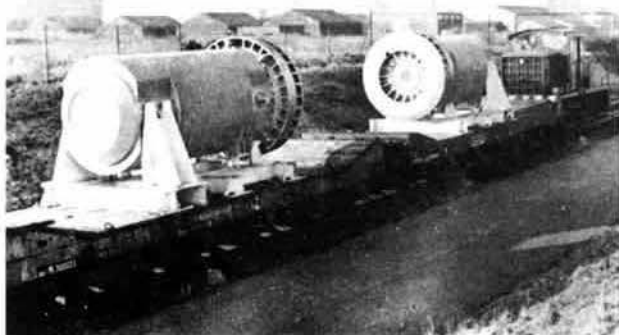
THE DAY WE ALMOST LOST THE EAST END!

When I examined the safety tests done on the railway flasks which shunt through my own constituency, I found that the Central Electricity Generating Board, who are responsible for the flasks, have tested model flasks in various simulated situations - a 30 mph collision

terrorist attack.

They waited at a London passenger station, (Stratford, in the east end,) with a theatrical but realistic bazooka until a nuclear flask rolled by. Stepped up to within two feet of the flask, aimed the bazooka and pressed the trigger. At no time were they challenged or stopped by anyone at the station. After photographs had been taken, they walked off the platform without trying to hide their weapon. British Rail said later that as long as platform tickets had been obtained, they knew of no rule to stop anyone carrying a bazooka onto a platform.

It has been admitted that this type of weapon could have fired a rocket which would have penetrated the flask, and had their intentions been other than peaceful, 6000 people could have contracted cancer and a mass evacuation should have been ordered. This incident has still not convinced the authorities to change the route of these nuclear flasks.



WASTE TRAINS FOR CAPITAL?

Radioactive waste from Torness could be sent to Windscale by rail through Edinburgh. Although SSEB proposals are secret (of course), in a letter to Edinburgh Councillor Paul Ndan, they have said they are likely to ship the waste by rail using the former Innerwick Halt rail siding. The only main line this could link up with is to Edinburgh.

Waste would be taken from the reactor, by lorry, across the main A1 trunk road and then be transferred to rail at Innerwick. From there it would go onto the East Coast Main Line to Edinburgh, where it would probably use the old suburban line through Niddrie, and Grange, Morningside and Slateford.

The SSEB have dismissed dangers saying 'there is no greater hazard taking it through Edinburgh than any other route.' And the AEA say 'any threat to public safety is so minute as to be almost not worth talking about.' Almost. But not quite.

[Sunday Mail 13.1.80]

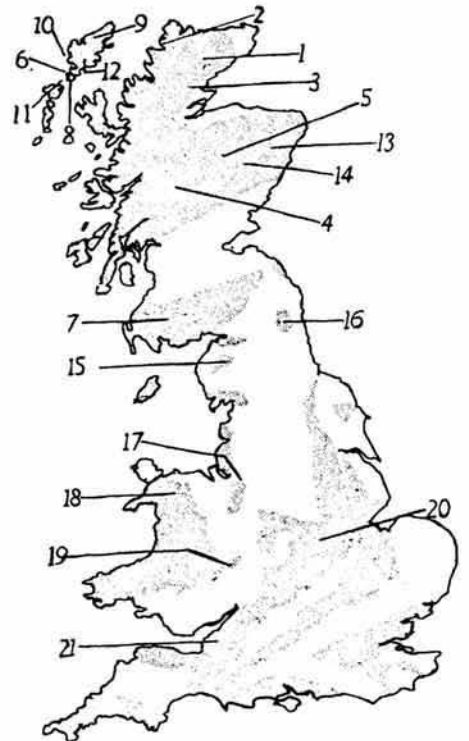
WASTE DUMPING

On Feb. 19th 1980 the first nuclear waste inquiry in Britain opens in Ayr. It is a public inquiry into the decision by Kyle and Carrick District Council to refuse permission for test bores to examine the suitability of rock formations for nuclear waste disposal.

But the inquiry is likely to be a farce. George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, has said that evidence on waste dumping will be ruled out of order. The inquiry will only look at the drilling of non-specific holes, and the siting of 'temporary dwellings' at Mullwharchar. It is another nuclear whitewash — yet again the authorities do not dare to debate their proposals in the open.

Over the following pages, the local groups fighting the dumping proposals comment on the situation.

MAP SHOWING AREAS IN BRITAIN SUGGESTED FOR TEST BORES



1. Altnabreac, Caithness. 2. Scourie, Sutherland.
3. Shin Forest, Sutherland & Easter Ross. 4. Corrour, Lochaber. 5. Tornasheen. 6. Taransay.
7. Mullwharchar. 8. Harris. 9. Lewis. 10. Scarp.
11. Pabbay. 12. Scalpay. 13. Donside, Aberdeenshire.
14. Upper Deeside, Aberdeenshire.
15. Cumbria. 16. Northumberland (2 inquiries pending).
17. Cheshire. 18. Gwynedd-Powys.
19. Hereford-Worcester. 20. Leics. - Notts.
21. Somerset.

Contact SCRAM if you want to know the address of your nearest anti-dumping group (enclosing an s.a.e., please).

WHY OPPOSE TEST BORES?

by Dorothy Paulin, SCRAM S.W.

There are many well-intentioned people around still who do not seem able to realise the implications behind governmental attitudes to inquiries concerned with the nuclear issue. Mrs Thatcher has not concealed the fact that she regards them as legalistic hooey which must, for the sake of appearances be gone through before her declared goal of nuclear proliferation can be attained. Why, therefore, does she favour so many minor inquiries, especially at a time when spending cuts are the order of the day? Is it on the principle of 'divide and rule'? Each local group must be made to dissipate its money, time, talents on what appears at first glance to the outsider to be a minor issue; the protests "a lot of fuss about very little".

What, then are the dangers? Bore-holes in Mullwharchar are not only directed towards the use of an already discredited technology, but are the thin end of the wedge in a highly sophisticated and relentless campaign. The UKAEA, having got a footing (and, make no mistake, they WANT Mullwharchar, so handy for Windscale : and borings in Mullwharchar are not research into granite generically speaking, but only into the granite of Mullwharchar, no two granites being alike), the next cry will be, "Public money has been spent - we must proceed."

MACHINATIONS

But there are people still, apparently, who trust the promises and prophecies of the industry and of government enthusiasts for it, though experience does nothing to suggest that such faith is justified. The legal machinations of Dounreay and Windscale in respect of dead workers and their widows alone is disillusioning to say the least.

The Windscale Inquiry was a fiasco (as 'Vole' put it, a 'Windscale scandal'). Is this how future inquiries are to be conducted? Will the Inspector at Ayr be fully briefed as to his duties? In 'Notes For Guidance For Inspectors' we read -

Para. B.2.3

'The aim of the Report is to give the Secretary of State, in a concise form, all the information necessary for him to understand the issues, and to advise him on the technical implications of the case

so that he can reach a reasoned decision. At the same time the Report should satisfy the parties to the Inquiry that their submissions have been adequately and fairly reported.

Para. B.2.1.9

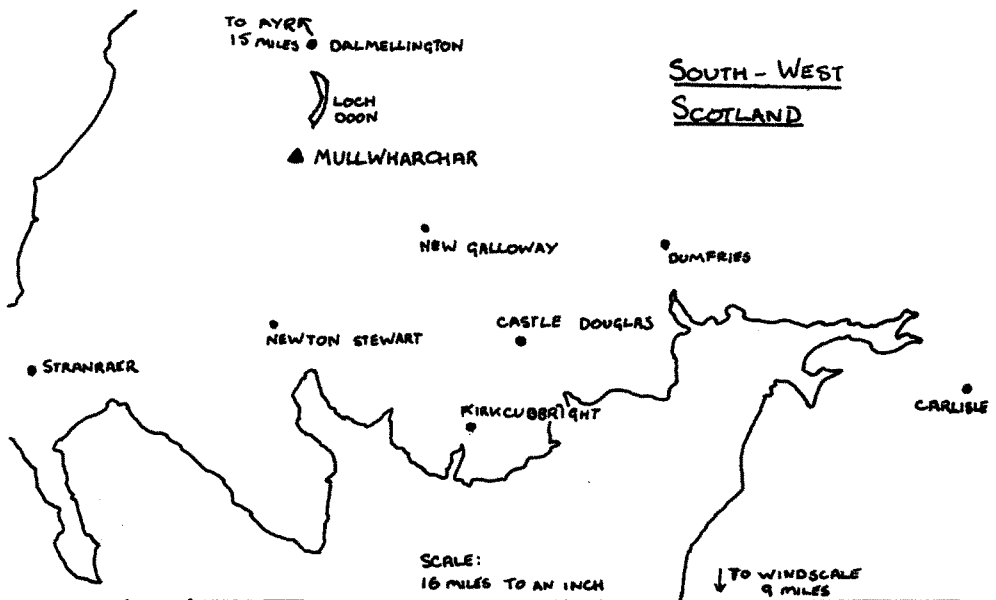
'The Inspector's job is to marshal the arguments in a logical and effective manner, each point being made once only, so that the strongest possible case is made for each party regardless of his own views on the merits of these arguments.'

Anyone who has read Justice Parker's Report will know how this was carried out at Whitehaven. Will it be the same at Ayr? However that may be, do not, we implore you, regard this inquiry as of little account. It is vital in the anti-nuclear campaign. Every day medical evidence piles up about the deadly character of even the lowest level of radioactivity.



Mullwharchar from Loch Doon Castle. Photo K.M. Andrews, Prestwick.

SAVE Mullwharchar!



Nuclear waste is an inseparable by-product of generating electricity by nuclear fission. In the course of a reaction, uranium fuel is transformed into literally hundreds of different sorts of radioactive nuclei. These are breaking up constantly, emitting radioactivity.

The rate of decay is measured by the substance's 'half-life' — the time taken for it to lose half its radioactivity. The same time is then needed again for half the remaining radioactivity to decay, and so on. Half-lives vary from a fraction of a second to that of Iodine-129 whose half-life is 16 million years; although not very radioactive, any decision to create stocks of it cannot be taken lightly.

About once a week the used fuel is taken from reactors in a heavily shielded container and taken to be 'reprocessed' at Windscale in Cumbria. The fuel rods are dissolved in acid, and unused fuel is separated. 99% of the plutonium is also extracted, but the remaining 1% is too expensive to retrieve, and remains.

The waste is then put to cool in storage tanks. The decay makes it extremely hot and volatile, and it can undergo instantaneous combustion. It is thought that this is what happened at Khytym in the USSR when an accident wiped a whole area off the map (literally).

'A 1000 MWe PWR produces at least 25 tonnes of irradiated fuel per year — including well over 2 million curies of strontium-90. Some 300 years hence this will have dwindled to only 2,000 curies: except that 2000 curies of Strontium-90 is not very 'only'. (Walt Patterson, **Nuclear Power**)

With present-day technology and economic restraints, only one 'solution' appears feasible: to keep nuclear waste isolated from living things until it loses its toxicity.

The problem of safely isolating nuclear waste has not been solved. It may be that a satisfactory solution does not exist. Because of the dangers of leaks it is recognised that long-term storage must be in solid form. Research is contributing into turning it into a form of glass (known as the vitrification process). Research was started over 20 years ago.

'If a problem is too difficult to solve, one cannot claim that it is solved by pointing to all the efforts made to solve it.' (Nobel physicist Hannes Alfvén).

A Royal Commission advised the government not to embark on an expanded nuclear programme until a solution to the waste problem had been found. The government has ignored this advice.

The same Commission criticised the nuclear industry for lack of effort on the waste problem.

Professor Iain MacGibbon, former director of the International Atomic Energy Agency has said 'It is totally irresponsible to consider disposing of nuclear waste on the mainland of a reasonably densely populated country such as Scotland'.

The government relies heavily on the Dept. of Energy and the UKAEA for advice on energy matters. This is understandable, but it should be noted that the department has been criticised (by the Flowers Commission and others) for its pro-nuclear bias.

The odds are heavily stacked against independent groups and individuals playing a part in decision-making. The UKAEA has vast resources of public money at its disposal for fighting inquiries. Other groups have none.

The feelings of the public have been manifest. In 1977 SCRAM SW collected 10,000 signatures (a quarter of the adult population of Galloway) for a petition opposing the bores. An SNP petition collected 5,000 signatures in one day. It is the local council's democratic decision-making powers that the UKAEA are trying to overturn.

SAVE THE WILDERNESS

The granite mass of Mullwharchar is the geological centre of the Galloway Hills. Together with the surrounding ridges of Merrick and the Rhinns of Kells it forms the largest wilderness area in Southern Scotland.

Many conservationists believe this area is the most valuable upland site in southern Scotland, particularly as a refuge for birds of prey, which Britain has an international obligation to protect. So much so that some wildlife organisations are afraid to create too much protest; publicity brings people, and too many people would undoubtedly harm the bird life.

The hills form the catchment of a number of salmon and trout rivers, and the smaller burns are important spawning grounds. These fish are already in the decline in this area, and the protection of breeding grounds is essential.

The area is also of outstanding interest to other groups. Hill walkers find here rugged and rough countryside unique outside the Highlands. The Mountain Bothies Association maintains several small bothies here for the use of walkers.

The British Orienteering Association holds competitions here — the area is ideal for this. In addition many local schools and youth clubs use the hills for outdoor recreational and educational events.

Tim Dramford, a member of Dumfries and Galloway Friends of the Earth, examines the role of Southern Scotland's largest remaining wilderness.

A nuclear dump here would wreck this last wilderness, but there is also considerable concern about the impact of the drilling itself.

It is inevitable that when the bores go ahead, the threat (real or imagined) of sabotage will lead to security measures at the site. This will produce a detrimental human presence for several years undermining the wilderness state, and preventing free access by the many individuals and groups who walk there.

The use of heavy machinery on the site will certainly imply the upgrading of existing roads to the peripheral area and the provision of tracks within the wilderness itself. Temporary tracks are notoriously unstable, especially in high rainfall areas. Erosion will cause siltation of surrounding burns. Silt is one of the most important killers of salmonoid fish eggs. Also the upgrading of roads has implications for future access to the area. Present arrangements are ideal, being self-limiting with no need for wardens. Only those people whose motivation is high enough to overcome the considerable physical obstacles to access ever reach the central area, keeping human disturbance at a level which can be accommodated.

The use of heavy machinery and especially helicopters for moving it has very grave implications for the bird life in the vicinity of the drilling sites. The AEA have undertaken to protect the bird life from disturbance, but it simply defies belief that they will do what is really necessary to ensure this: stop all operations from Jan - July inclusive. Cynics will be reassured to know that although it is against the law to disturb certain breeding birds in any way at the nest, it is an adequate defence to argue that such disturbance was an unavoidable by-product of some essential activity.

CONT. NEXT COLUMN

TEST BORES IRRELEVANT

Professor I. Tolstoy, former professor of Geology and Geophysics at Florida State University, and now resident in Ayrshire examines the problem of nuclear waste dumping. He concludes that 'there are no scientifically acceptable ways of assessing the risks involved in high-level waste disposal. Test bores are therefore irrelevant and a waste of the tax-payer's money.'

High-level wastes contain a long list of elements which are extremely radio-toxic and carcinogenic; in many cases, particles weighing less than a microgram, if imbedded in animal tissue, will produce cancer. Some of these substances are very long-lived and will not decay to harmless amounts for hundreds of thousands, or even millions of years.

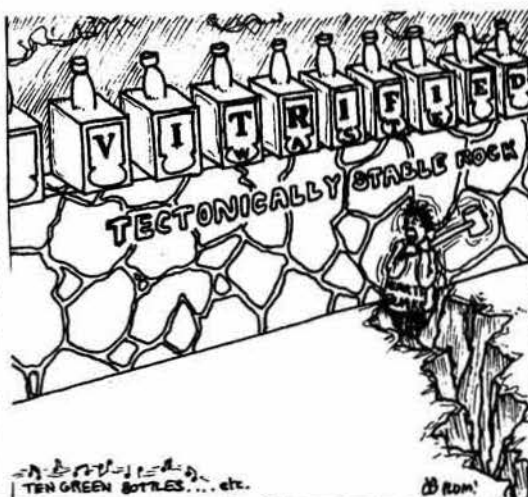
If these wastes are to be buried in rock, then, there must be, over the millennia, no contamination of the air or waters used by communities anywhere. Successful disposal of high-level wastes in geological formations on land requires, therefore, isolation from the biosphere for time spans exceeding, by a huge factor, anything our technology has had experience with.

Air contamination, e.g., by explosive or slow release of gases from an underground disposal site is theoretically possible. There is, unfortunately, no way of reliably estimating this danger - because of uncertainties surrounding the actual methods of burial to be used and lack of knowledge concerning the chemical reactions that may take place. It is a real possibility which will have to be subjected, sooner or later, to detailed scrutiny by geophysicists and geochemists.

Water contamination: the obvious danger is of underground waters coming into contact with the wastes, leaching out radioactive elements, transporting them and contaminating the biosphere and, specifically, the drinking water of local or distant communities. The problem of preventing this has two phases, corresponding to two lines of defense or barriers against leaching:

- 1) A first barrier is to be provided by treatment of the waste. Ideally, it should be encapsulated in a form that makes it impervious to leaching. Current thinking and planning in Britain and Europe revolves around the production of a stable glass in which the waste will be suspended or encapsulated, i.e. around **vitrification**.
- 2) The second barrier will be the rock formation in which this treated, solid waste is to be

buried. The idea is to put it in deep underground chambers or holes, in dry, impervious rock and hope that water never reaches the site. This is the **geological barrier**.



DOUBTS ON VITRIFICATION

As far as the first barrier is concerned, some of the world's foremost materials, scientists and geochemists, notably in America and Australia, have cast doubt upon the vitrification process. Two recent articles in *Nature* (McCarthy et al., May 18, 1978, pp. 216-217) and Ringwood et al., March 15, 1979, pp. 219-223) point out that the glass matrix becomes unstable at temperatures and pressures which could be reached in or near the buried waste. When attacked by steam at 300°C and 300 atm the matrix disintegrates and ceases to act as a barrier. These are, of course, extreme conditions; but, as one of these articles stresses, such pressures and temperatures could be attained under adverse conditions. And, of course, any rational risk assessment scheme must emphasize the worst conceivable case, not the best. It appears, then, that vitrification is suspect. Nevertheless, according to numerous public and written statements, the British and European nuclear industries are committed to it. **The integrity of the geological barrier is therefore a vital issue.**

Integrity of the disposal site requires:

1. A tectonically stable site, with slow ground-water movements and long flow paths to the surface.
2. The ability to predict future behaviour of the repository.
3. An evaluation of the risks to demonstrate that the dangers to the population at large are negligible.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCKWAVES

1) and 2) are, in a sense connected. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee future tectonic stability. The recent earthquake near Carlisle has emphasised the point. For all we know about its cause, it might just as well have occurred under Mullywharchar. There is absolutely no way of guaranteeing that such a

quake, or even a bigger one, might not take place there in the near future. An earthquake of magnitude 5 or greater, occurring under Mullywharchar would have the ability of disrupting the site, introducing new fractures and flow paths for the underground waters. Yet we have no possibility of estimating the chances of such an event.

There is, anyway, no possibility of understanding the hydrology of an area in sufficient detail to guarantee that, even in the absence of earthquakes, water will not penetrate the disposal site. There is no guarantee, even, that the mechanical, chemical and thermal disturbances due to introducing a massive quantity of hot waste will not alter this hydrology in, again, unpredictable ways.

There are, in other words, no scientifically acceptable ways of assessing the risks involved in high-level waste burial. Even the most detailed and painstaking research cannot alter the fact that we can neither guarantee the integrity of a waste depository, nor assess, in any meaningful way, the risks attendant to its failure. Test bores are therefore irrelevant and a waste of taxpayer's money. The whole idea of burying waste near a populated part of the earth's globe is, in fact, grossly irresponsible.

'NAUGHTY CHILDREN'

Maryum Ali, of the Campaign Opposing Nuclear Dumping, here describes the approaches of the AEA.

How did the communities around Loch Doon react to the suggestion that the U.K.A.E.A. might want to establish a Nuclear Waste Disposal Facility in the very heartland of the area which is theirs almost exclusively for recreation? An area upon which so many of us depend for our water supply.

The basic reaction is of course, will it be safe? Can safety be guaranteed?

In January, 1977 the U.K.A.E.A. representatives embarked upon a public relations exercise to tell the peasants of this backwater that the scientists know what they are doing and we the local inhabitants really shouldn't behave like naughty children who don't listen to mummy. Those who spoke out →



"We should not regard such practices as the burial of nuclear waste as acceptable anywhere in Britain". George Younger, before being elevated to Secretary of State for Scotland, at a COND rally in Ayr, 21.1.78. Photo K.M. Andrews

Cont. FROM P.6

The AEA will argue that environmental considerations of this sort cannot be given priority where national interest is at stake. Many of us would agree, were this the case; but here our information suggests that the uncertainties of geological science are so great that these bores can never demonstrate what the AEA is seeking: a site for the safe long-term disposal of high level nuclear waste.

This exposes the test bore programme for what it is; a public relations exercise to demonstrate not only that nanny knows best, but that she has every conceivable gremlin under control.

It is only by substituting 'cheap' for 'safe' that we can understand what the AEA is really up to; searching, with the desperation of the doomed, for a cheap method of high level waste disposal, so that the fiction that nuclear power is the most economical source of electricity can be kept alive for a little longer. Long enough, perhaps, for us to be irreversibly embarked on the present series of AGR and PWR power stations.

That is why the Mullywharchar inquiry is such an irrelevance, and why the objectors must press for a full inquiry into every aspect of Britain's nuclear programme, not just the siting of a few huts and derricks on the side of a granite hill.

in opposition to the proposals were said to have come from other areas and didn't belong to the Doon Valley or surrounding area. It didn't matter if you had lived here for most of your life the fact that you weren't born here meant that in the nuclear industry's democratic system you kept your mouth shut.

NOT REASSURING

We believe that the A.E.A. made a fundamental error when they came into a mining area and proceeded to lecture to miners on the safety of underground repositories and made great claims of being able to prove the safety of a particular site simply by drilling a few boreholes.

You don't tell people that they will have to face the fact that if you do research here it means that the site looks suitable and eventually they will want to create a depository here, and then expect the same people to accept your assurances that you only want to do research.

The attitudes of the A.E.A. and the Scottish Office are very similar in the respect that they have the curious ability of giving with one hand and taking back with the other hand. The U.K.A.E.A. have said right from the very beginning that if public opinion was against the proposals they would not go ahead. How do you assess public opinion? Certainly not by mass demonstration and certainly not by petitions.

AEA-STYLE DEMOCRACY

According to the A.E.A. ordinary people influence the decision making process through elected representatives and in the first instance through local government, provided of course that local government ignores public opinion and follows the nuclear line. In the eyes of the A.E.A. this is true democracy.

If local government functions properly and heeds public opinion then the Scottish Office comes into the picture and magnanimously gives the people a public inquiry making sure of course that this public inquiry follows the nuclear democracy system.

Central Government made a fundamental error when they chose a deprived area such as this because the people here have stopped taking everything that was dished out to them in the way of punishment. This area has nothing to lose in fighting these proposals; it can only gain self respect.

LATEST NEWS

Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council, and Wigtown District have decided not to lodge objections at the Mullwharchar inquiry, and Stewartry District Council are following suit. All 3 had stated their opposition to nuclear dumping and had earmarked funds to state their case. The Wigtown Chairman stated 'it was a matter of very great regret that the Secretary of State for Scotland had seen fit to struc-

PEOPLE'S VOICE

The Scottish Conservation Society are to hold a rival People's Planning Inquiry, in the evenings after the official inquiry. This will examine the question of nuclear waste specifically excluded from the official inquiry.

SCS Secretary, Kathleen Miller, looks at the history behind the decision to apply for the test bores.

The Mullwharchar inquiry should be seen as a curtain-raiser farce which will set the tone of the relentless war of attrition to be launched on the rural areas of Scotland over the next 10 years. It has taken 3 years to come to this - a strait-jacket, blinkered and gagged inquiry into 32 drillings and 6 cabins. It will, with George Younger's blessing, cast the blackest blight over all who live in Ayrshire and Galloway and plan for the future there.

'Granite was chosen as much for political as for geological reasons. The bores will go where they meet least resistance.'

Make no mistake, granite was chosen as much for political as for geological reasons. The bores will go where they meet least resistance. The European '78 Report says, 'These areas were initially selected partly on their geological characteristics but also taking account of non-geological factors such as land ownership. Thus the overall 'suitability' of the areas differs from that in the catalogue prepared for the EEC under a separate contract, where non-geological factors were excluded from consideration. The areas selected fall into three categories, based on a combination of technical and political factors'.

'We intend to win'

We hope that, win or lose, and make no mistake we intend to win, that, at the very least, our efforts will have made all the other areas being looked at aware of the significance of this particular problem in the context of the whole nuclear battle.

ture the forthcoming inquiry as to deny discussion of the subject which forms the very basis of the application for planning permission to carry out test boring'.

The Under Secretary of State had apparently advised all local authorities not to incur expenses for the inquiry. As yet, Strathclyde Region and Kyle and Carrick District Council have not submitted to the pressure, and will still be represented at the inquiry. (28.1.80)

The European Commission report (Venet) to Helsinki last July gives a budget for the European research for '80 - '84 of 81.1m ECU. But no one knows of any budget for separate British sites, e.g. the clay areas shown in maps in New Scientist and Nature this year. Michael Heseltine could not say where these are in answer to a June letter, but they were announced in July. Our observer, at Helsinki, Prof. MacGibbon, focussed national attention on the project for the first time. Questions need to be asked further.

BUREAUCRAT DECISIONS

The question on who decided granite would be studied by Britain was answered by Sir Denys Wilkinson, chairman of the new Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee: 'The decision to select granite for the UK programme was taken after full discussion within the UKAEA, who at that time were responsible for the research programme. The UKAEA took advice from the IGS, the Dept. of Energy and the Dept. of Environment'. No mention of the SDD or Scottish Office, though the SDD spokesman at the pre-inquiry meeting said fiercely 'In THIS office we take our OWN decisions'. It looks as if they weren't asked, or only consulted in the back office.

Non-elected and bureaucratic people and bodies are in charge of this and must be brought to account one by one. There is no mandate for the project. Polls, meetings, protests throughout Scotland and locally show that common sense folk react to it as did the Secretary of State himself before his party won the election and promoted him: 'We should not regard such practices as the burial of nuclear waste as acceptable anywhere in Britain'. He has now stifled the first official forum at which the people could have conveyed this very view to the Scottish Office. He takes his advice from non-elected bodies paid by the government - Forestry Commission, Nature Conservancy Council, UKAEA, IGS - not one of which has spoken a word for the people of the area. Two AEA men, Dr. Feates and Dennis George have been removed to the Dept. of Environment, advisors to the government's waste committee, but out of reach of the Scots who are protected/ruled/sacrificed by the Scottish Office which 'makes its own decisions'.

Notes from the Commons Library reveal that, 'So far Community action has basically consisted of the research and development programmes currently in progress in the Community. These programmes are additional to and to an extent integrate those of the Member States.'

'They represent an initial step which must nevertheless be followed by others, with a suitable back-up, if we wish to meet the deadlines of 1990 - 2000.'

Answers from UKAEA lawyers say, 'Part of the cost of this is met by the Commission and for the period '80 - '82 it is hoped that further funding will be available for this research by the UKAEA. Any discussions with the Commission are confidential and no financial figures can be given.'

'The issue will not end with Mullwharchar'.

The People's Planning Inquiry Commission will give a voice to all who have views and information on this research. The issue will not end with Mullwharchar. The government hope it will set a precedent and are therefore delaying other applications. By showing our understanding as well as our opposition to the whole thing, we can set another precedent: the will of the people can not be insulted, stifled or overcome.



COND rally, 21.1.78 2,000 people march through Ayr.

Cutting Back On Conservation

It is now six months since Energy Paper 35 "CHP & Electricity Generation in the U.K." was published. Commonly called "the Marshall Report" (after its chairman, Walter Marshall of the UKAEA), it recommended that the government should offer financial incentives for the immediate development of one or more Combined Heat & Power (CHP) District Heating (DH) schemes. With increased fuel prices the report said, CHP had become an economic proposition in the medium- and long-term, and could potentially supply 30% (38 GW) of the UK heat load. In the short-term, however, it was not economical, especially when compared with gas.

Gas prices went up by 30% recently. One would have thought that CHP would immediately become an economic proposition, even without the added attraction of conserving energy and reducing fuel bills.

Government response to the Marshall report has been characteristic. Among her proposals for reducing public spending, Mrs Thatcher has chosen to cut spending on its already ineffectual energy conservation programme. CHP schemes have never been mentioned in energy policy statements. The grotesque joke is of course the government's decision to spend £12 billion on generating electricity by nuclear power.

It seems hardly credible, yet it is happening.

Regional centres for giving advice on insulation, surely a crucial step in encouraging people to save energy, will not now be set up. Dr. J.K. Wright, at a conference on 'Whole City Heating' held in November last year stated that the implementation of a CHP/DH policy was not a technological problem, more a political one. The issues of "freedom of choice, consumer acceptability, environmental disturbance and organisation" needed careful consideration before going ahead. Ignoring the subtle irony in this statement when one considers nuclear power, the cutback on advice services clearly shows that this government is not serious about energy conservation.

Neither does it have the good health of the general public at heart. World Health Organisation statistics show that the incidence in Britain of illness and death caused or aggravated by damp living conditions is one of the highest in the world. CHP/DH Schemes combined with home insulation would dramatically reduce the numbers of people relying on expensive appliances for heating, increase house temperatures and prevent the yearly toll of people dying from hypothermia.

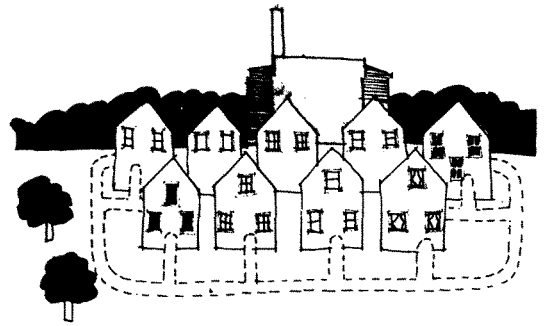
'EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT'

A scheme to aid energy saving in industry will also come under the chopper. Yet the Marshall Report recommended that government should give every encouragement to the setting up of industrial CHP schemes, since further energy savings could be made in this field.

The information staff in the energy conservation section of the DOE are also to be cut back, which will doubtless affect both consumers and pressure groups seeking information.

Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden are all spending more on energy conservation than we are. These are countries which already have more highly-developed conservation schemes, including CHP and DH, than we do. The scope for energy conservation in Britain is obviously enormous.

Why can countries such as Denmark and Sweden take real steps towards conserving energy, while Britain lags further and further behind?



POOR STRUCTURE

One major problem lies in the institutional structure of the energy supply industries in Britain. One utility deals with one form of energy and competes with other monolithic companies for the same domestic market. CHP/DH schemes require cooperation between different bodies such as fuel suppliers, local authorities, DH companies etc. The financial benefits of a CHP scheme are therefore dispersed among them. In this country, the energy supply monopolies would have to be dismantled before CHP is taken up. From a comparison of the success of CHP/DH in the institutional structures of different countries, Dr. N. Lucas of Imperial College has identified two main characteristics leading to implementation of these schemes:-

- 1) no strong monopoly in gas or electricity supply
- 2) strong local authority involvement in energy supply

Neither of these characteristics apply to Britain, though we can report a recent proposal which may herald a more hopeful outlook for CHP here.

LOTHIAN GO-AHEAD?

On December 15 1979, the Edinburgh Evening News reported that Lothian Regional Council were proposing a CHP scheme for Edinburgh. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives local authorities powers to produce heat or electricity or both, to establish generating stations to this end and to sell the product.

We strongly support Lothian Regional Council and Edinburgh District Council in this initiative, and hope that more local authorities consider supplying their area through CHP, thereby conserving energy and

contributing to the well-being of us all. Central government certainly shows no signs of doing it.

Lothian Regional Council have obviously been prompted to think of this scheme through discussions about the need for Torness. The Torness project is no longer within their control. But in an area where the final planning decision about building a nuclear power station is still to be taken, an alternative energy strategy has been published in January this year.

TYNESIDE

Written by Tyneside Environmental Concern, it shows how the £1000 million allocated for the nuclear power station at Druridge Bay could save energy, money (in fuel costs) and create five times as many jobs. TEC compiled an "alternative shopping list" and compared each item on the list with the nuclear power station, in terms of capital cost, number of local jobs created and how soon they would be available, amount of power generated, energy saved and the useful life of the investment. It is clear that the TEC proposals win on every count.

The TEC report says "the point about conservation is that it extends the life of our coal, oil and gas reserves, and thereby gives us time to find the best ways of using the renewable energy resources".

By ignoring the very great potential of CHP, cutting back on energy conservation, keeping Research and Development on alternatives to a minimum and embarking on a massive programme of nuclear power generation, this government is condemning us to economic, ecological and social disaster.

It is up to us all to stop this insanity.

| CEGB Proposal | | DRURIDGE BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION | £1000M | 1000/1500 jobs For 10 Years | In 5/10 Years | 1250 MW | NIL | 25 Years |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | ↑ COST (1979 Prices) | ↑ LOCAL JOBS CREATED How Many | ↑ How Soon | ↑ POWER OUTPUT | ↑ VALUE OF ENERGY SAVED | ↑ USEFUL LIFE |
| TEC Shopping List | | COMBINED HEAT AND POWER FOR TYNESIDE | £500M | 2,100 jobs For 10 Years | In 2/3 Years | 1400MW | £37M a year | Power Station: 25 Heating: 60 |
| | | INSULATE 500,000 HOUSES AND FLATS | £200M | 2,000 jobs For 10 Years | Now | NIL | £24M a year | 60 Years |
| | | INSULATE SCHOOLS, OFFICES, HOSPITALS, etc. | £100M | 310 jobs For 10 Years | Now | NIL | £25M a year | 100 Years |
| | | INSULATE FACTORIES | £100M | 300 jobs For 10 Years | Now | NIL | £33M a year | 30 Years |
| | | START RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT | £100M | 100 jobs For 10 Years | Now | Vast Potential | | |
| Advantages of TEC Shopping List | | Same Cost | 4 to 5 times as many jobs starting now | More Power Generated | Saves Energy Worth £119M a Year | Much Longer Life | | |

ANC

We didn't get a huge response to our editorial on the Anti Nuclear Campaign last issue - but here it is.

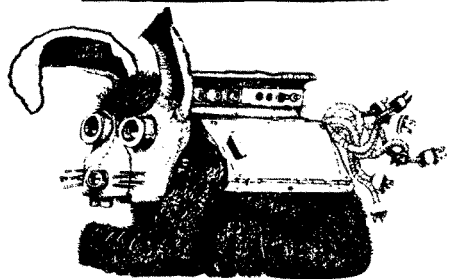
Dear SCRAM,

It's early days yet to draw definite conclusions about the role of the ANC, although the events at the launch conference don't inspire much optimism for the future. There are certain areas of anti-nuclear activity, such as complementing SERA's work with trade unions and the Labour Party, and information gathering and distribution, where a national organisation such as ANC could be highly effective.

However, I think that the last thing an organisation that sees itself as a nationally representative body should do, is base itself in London. ANC appears to be just another centralised London group and, as such, of little relevance to groups in rural areas.

The main danger represented by the ANC to the present anti nuclear movement appears to be through the images presented by the media. ANC may be put over as the 'authentic' voice of the anti-nuclear 'majority' - groups taking separate action could be labelled as 'breakaway' groups, or 'extremists'. Care should be taken to avoid this sort of situation.

Yours,
Colin Thomas, Bethesda, Gwynedd.



Little Black Rabbit

SCRAM's Little Black Rabbit has heard some interesting things from his English cousin about the two reactors at Dungeness B station.

One of the reactors consistently failed to pressurise during its precommissioning trials. The reactor was almost written off, but on the last attempt, it did pressurise. No-one is clear why it did so, nor why it previously failed. The implication being - will it remain pressurised?

According to LBR's cousins the other reactor will find it difficult to get NII (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) approval for starting up. Certificates of inspection for a series of welds have been mislaid. Without these, the NII should not grant an operating licence. If the certificates cannot be found, then the core may have to be stripped down to retest the welds.

Black Rabbit's companions are getting fed up. 15 Years is a long time to put up with workers falling down your holes.

Meanwhile, Little Black Rabbit has been on holiday in the Highlands, burrowing around the test bore holes at Altnabreac. He has discovered that the UK AEA has completed its findings from the test bores there.

But they're not going to tell us what they've found until this summer - which will be after they know whether they can bore at Mullwhar-char. Draw your own conclusions, he says.

Women

There has been a suggestion that there might be a women only action at Torness.

It has been suggested for three reasons: the impact on the male media would be considerable; many arguments are best got across to women by women, and thirdly it's likely that women from the East Lothian area would be more prepared to get involved.

Any women interested please contact Sheila Durie at SCRAM Edinburgh.

Ooops!

HOW ACCURATE IS SCRAM?

We hope the Bulletin, and our other publications, are meeting a need for accurate information. The facts quoted can in general be backed up by references to official studies, press reports, and occasionally original research.

But occasionally, we slip up. The last issue carried a description of PWR operation which was... um .. wrong (page 6, para. 4). In 'thermal' reactors, such as the PWR, a chain reaction will not occur unless free neutrons are slowed down, i.e. 'moderated'. So if the moderator disappears, the reaction stops. (The 'control rods' work the opposite way, because they capture neutrons). Of course this still leaves the radioactive decay heat from the fuel, so even a shut down PWR has to be force-cooled, or the core will melt itself. (More details in 'Nuclear Power', Patterson, Pelican).

Some of our readers pointed out the blunder - we'd appreciate being kept up to scratch in this way.

Contacts

The two contact addresses for the Ecology Party are; nationally, 217 Unthank Rd., Norwich, and for Scotland, 12 Juniper Park Rd., Juniper Green, Mid Lothian EH14 (031-441-4902).

A contacts/activities newsletter for groups and individuals in the Edinburgh area has been started up. It will be coming out monthly - if you'd like to receive it please send 90p to SCRAM towards postage and costs for the next 6 issues.

Denver

The Denver Alliance was formed at Kings Lynn in November. It has been formed to oppose the building of an AGR at Denver, Norfolk. Details from CANE, 15 Chapel Lane, Wimbotsham, nr. Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Dungeness

The Dungeness Action Alliance has been formed to fight the installations at Dungeness - what's left of them, anyway - and specifically against proposals to site a PWR there. Contact is by phone on Hastings 431154.

Teach Yourself

NUCLEAR POWER FOR BEGINNERS
Fortnightly series of teach-yourself sessions on nuclear energy. Films, a visit to your local power station and much MORE!

Sat. Feb. 9th: **Nuclear Waste** - What it is and how they want to dump it.

Sat. Feb. 23rd: **Uranium** - How it's mined and processed.

Sat. March 9th: **The Alternatives to Nuclear Power.**

Sat. March 23rd: **What do we want all this energy for?** - Political and social aspects.

Don't Pay!

The Consumer Campaign is **Direct Action** against Britain's insane nuclear power programme. It involves withholding the nuclear part of your electricity bill.

In Scotland 13½%, in England and Wales 11½% of electricity is nuclear generated.

If the Hunterston nuclear power station was working properly the figure for Scotland would be over 20%. Only Belgium has a larger proportion of nuclear electricity.

Take your pick of the proportion you deduct, rounding it up or down if your arithmetic can't cope!

Then What?

In the next few weeks a trust fund will be set up to which SSEB consumers can pay their nuclear bill. Contact the Campaign for details.

Meantime you can send what you deduct to the Secretary of State for Energy, David Howell, Department of Energy, Millbank, London SW1, asking for it to be invested in safe, sane energy production. Send the reduced bill to Roy Berridge, SSEB chairman, Cathcart House, Glasgow G44, with a letter explaining your action.

How do I prevent disconnection?

When you receive your final warning, pay your arrears and start deducting again from your next bill. You've already made your point and hit them where it hurts - in administration and finances.

Other Ways

People who do not want to withhold money, but want to protest about paying for nuclear blunders can make their protest felt in other ways; send the bill with a letter to Roy Berridge, or organise demonstrations at your local SSEB showroom. The SSEB also seem remarkably worried about their workers reading anti-nuclear literature; send SCRAM leaflets, or a copy of this magazine along with your bill. It worries them that they might lose their monopoly over employees' ideas.

You're not alone!

Over 1,000 people are already doing this in England and Wales; over 1,500 in West Germany and many hundreds in the USA are protesting in this way. Our first target for Scotland is 500, and we think we're nearly there.

If you are interested in taking part in the campaign, and want to know more details, fill in the form below and send it off.

We'd also like to hear how people in other areas are getting on and what they are doing. And we want to hear from anyone who'd like to be a co-ordinator for a campaign in their area. Write to Electricity Consumer Campaign, SCRAM Dalkeith, 35 Muirpark, Eskbank, Dalkeith, Midlothian.

Information from the Consumer Campaign, c/o FoE, 16 Newton Street, Glasgow. G3.

I am interested in knowing more about the consumer campaign/I am about to/have started to withhold a percentage of my bill/I enclose a donation for campaign expenses (delete as necessary)

Name:.....

Address:.....

Please return to Consumer Campaign, 1st floor, 204 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh 3. Tel: 031-667-6488.

Money..

As we warned in the last issue, increased printing charges have forced us to raise the price from 15p to 20p this issue. This is the first increase for a year, and we've held it off for as long as possible.

Subscription rates are also going up. New rates will be £3 for ordinary subscribers, £4 for overseas and £6 for institutions. But we will be keeping the minimum rate of £1 - at this rate we make a loss though, so this is only for those who can't afford more.

..Money

NOW THE GOOD NEWS!

We will be holding subscriptions at the old rate for a month. All subscriptions received by March 1st will be charged at £2 (£3 overseas). So send in the Sub. form RIGHT NOW! If you leave it until tomorrow you might forget and have to pay an extra £1!

Appeals for money are as boring to write as they are to read. Look - we can't fight a multi-million pound nuclear lobby without a reliable regular income, and we still have a large shortfall each month. We've been working from occasional large donations, and our reserves - but these are now running out.

If you think the dangers of nuclear power should be exposed, surely most of you can afford a standing order for just 1% of your monthly income to help us to do it. £2.50 a month from 400 people would give us a guaranteed income of £12,000 a year. And part of your standing order can pay for a subscription to this magazine. Simply fill in the form below and send it back to us. We - and your Bank Manager will do the rest.

Please - this is not just a routine call for extra cash. We are in a very serious position financially, and if we are to continue as we have been we urgently need a bigger income.

Occasional large donations are a godsend, and we're very grateful for them. But we can't rely on them and we need a very large number of people to give a small regular amount. Please, everyone, help us as much as you can. If you want something tangible for your money, subscribe to this magazine. This helps as well.

..Money..

SCRAM is the only general anti-nuclear magazine in Britain. The more people who write for it or send in news, photos or local news clippings, the better it will be. If your group is doing anything please send us news and preferably photos too.

Larger articles on particular topics are also very welcome - it's a good idea to contact us before you write them, though.

And we need practical help with lay-out, mailing copies, folding, etc. Please phone the office if you can help.

Next copydate - March 24th.

..Please!!

MAKE MONEY WITH SCRAM!

Make money selling SCRAM magazine round pubs etc. Buy copies from us at 15p, sell at 20p. Bring unsold copies back for refund. Call into the office at Ainslie Place any day during office hours.

WHO IS SCRAM?

The Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace (SCRAM) was established at a meeting at Tonness Point in East Lothian in November 1975. 'SCRAM' in nuclear jargon means to shut a reactor down in emergency.

Our aims are:

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



SCRAM has no paid-up membership, and everyone who wants to help the campaign is welcome. Decisions are taken at weekly meetings which are open to anyone and are at 2 Ainslie Place, 7.15p.m., every Monday. We try to take decisions by consensus (general agreement) rather than votes.

We are funded solely by donations and scales of literature, so we depend on public approval to survive. We desperately need a regular income to rely on; so we ask supporters to fill in the Banker's Order form. It's painless - the manager does it for you - and allows to plan ahead; £5 a month from 200 people would give us £12,000 a year.

We also appreciate subscriptions to this magazine. To keep the price down we need a large subscription list. Subscribers make sure of getting each issue (before the shops), and get occasional bonuses. Buy one for your favourite politician or nuclear scientist today!

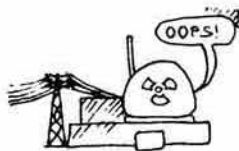
We take adverts - providing they're not sexist, racist or just plain sick.

Published by the **Scottish Campaign to Resist The Atomic Menace (SCRAM)**, 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh 3 (031-225-7752).

Printed by Aberdeen People's Press, 163 King Street, Aberdeen. (0224)-29669.

Typesetting by SCP, 30 Grindlay Street, Edinburgh 3. (031-229-3353).

Distribution: Full Time Distribution, 27 Clerkwell Close, London EC1 (01-251-4976). Edinburgh-Glasgow distribution by S & NBC, 47 Niddry Street, Edinburgh 1. (031-557-0133)



HELP

SCRAM FUNDRAISER WANTED

PART/FULL TIME

Over the last 3 years, the work SCRAM Edinburgh does has grown immensely. It includes publishing material, talks to outside groups, running a full-time information centre, and general campaign activities etc.

We have a growing number of skills, but we urgently need someone with lots of ideas to organise fundraising to raise the money to finance the campaign. Terms negotiable.

If interested, please contact: Mary Scott, SCRAM 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh.

Tel: 031-225-7752.

SUPPORT

SCRAM SUPPORTERS BANKERS ORDER FORM

Please use block capitals and return this form to SCRAM, 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh 3.

To The Manager,

(Bank):

Address:

Account No:

Please pay on (1st payment) to the Royal Bank of Scotland, Princes St. West Branch, 118 Princes St., Edinburgh 2 4BU. (83-38-00), the sum of for credit to the account of SCRAM, no. 265066, and make similar payments (state frequency) up to or until cancelled.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Address:

I would/would not like part of this to pay for my sub to SCRAM

SUBSCRIBE

SCRAM SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I want to subscribe to SCRAM for a year (6 issues), starting with

No:

Name:

Address:

I enclose Bankers Order/cheque/postal order/ International money order for Rates: ordinary sub £3, overseas £4, institutions £6.

Reductions for 2 or more at one address.

FOR A LIMITED PERIOD until March 1st the old rates will still apply - £2 ordinary, £3 overseas. Take advantage of this never to be repeated price.

BOOK REVIEWS

Green planet

Did you know that 90,000 billion tons coal equivalent of solar energy arrives on the earth's surface annually? That the 6% of the human population living in North America consume more than one-third of the world's energy?

This information - and more - comes from the *Little Green Book*, a small handbook of statistics about planet earth produced by Vole magazine.



It has basic facts about earth size, temperatures, etc., and a wealth of information about resources and their depletion - one particular edition of the 'New York Times', for example, used up 77,000 fully-grown trees in newsprint. Occasionally the information becomes so trivial as to be meaningless, but it provides a good selection of inspirational ideas for environmentalist campaigners. Failing all else it makes good bedtime reading.

The 'Little Green Book' is published by Wildwood at 95p and can be obtained from them, bookshops, or from 'Vole'.

'NO NUCLEAR NEWS'

No Nuclear News is a monthly publication produced in Boston, USA, by the No Nuclear News Collective. It provides a comprehensive collection of international news dippings on nuclear stories, arranged in nine categories. It also carries a monthly scoreboard of nuclear accidents over the past month.

Future issues will have special features on Health, the alternatives and accidents. Overseas subscriptions cost \$15.00 (£7.50), from NNN, c/o Boston Clamshell, 595 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA. 02139, USA. Highly recommended.

ANTI-NUKE FILMS

ON SITE - TORNESS

THE FILM OF THE TORNESS GATHERING OCCUPATION IN MAY 1979

30 MINS. COLOUR/SOUND
8MM - £15 HIRE
VIDEO - £10 HIRE

SCRAM

MADE FOR BBC TV 'OPEN DOOR'
URANIUM MINING - TORNESS - WASTE DUMPING

LOCAL PEOPLE SPEAK OUT AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER

30 MINS. COLOUR/SOUND
16 MM. - £15 HIRE

ALSO 'SONGS FROM ON SITE'
20 MIN. CASSETTE OF ANTI-NUCLEAR SONGS
FOR SALE - £1 EACH

AVAILABLE FROM:
MIKE SHARPLES,
SHOESTRIP PRODUCTIONS,
11 ATHOLL TERRACE,
EDINBURGH 11.

ANTI-NUKE FILMS

'Decision Making for Energy Futures'

Most people concerned about nuclear power, or similar projects, are now aware that there is something drastically wrong with the way official decisions are made and implemented. There is a clear link between each 'anti-nuclear' protest and an official decision which has failed to take into account informed public opinion. But while most campaigners know instinctively what is wrong with the separate decision-making structures, few can spare the time to come up with a positive overall alternative. The analysis contained in this book is a step in the right direction, and is long overdue.

'Decision Making' contains much more than its subtitle 'A case study of the Windscale Inquiry' suggests, although it is recommended on this basis alone as a well-referenced and damning critique of the Inquiry Inspector's Report. The book takes a thorough, if rather academic, look at the requirements if a decision procedure is to be 'efficient', in enabling Government policy to be responsive to expressed public wants.

The existing British system is examined - one institution at a time, using the yardsticks of 'democracy' and 'the two rules of natural justice' - and found wanting. A complete overhaul is urgently needed, say the authors, plus a Freedom of Information Act and an unbiased public information scheme.

Unfortunately the authors must be criticised for a few errors of fact and logic - these are glaringly obvious - such as the current "debate between professional elites"; "no anti-nuclear group has tested public reaction to their own views"; and after pointing out that Atomic Energy Authority publicity/schools material is "hardly neutral" the authors question whether it would be right that "the taxpayer should subsidise an opposition (to nuclear) which is not elected."

Nevertheless, the book is recommended reading for any 'strategists' in groups facing a Public Inquiry, for MP's, and for anyone who might still see anti-nuclear and motorway protests as unreasonable. It is a pity that Parliament could not have debated this study instead of the Windscale Inquiry Report.

'Decision Making for Energy Futures - a case study of the Windscale Inquiry', Pearce, Edwards & Beuret, Macmillan Press 1979, price £10. (Commissioned by the Social Science Research Council.)

Jolly Japes

It sometimes seems pretty grim striving to prevent a nuclear future, or lack of future. But who says we can't have fun while doing it? There are those who say the anti-nuclear movement takes itself too seriously.

Well, April this year gives us a chance to really to let our hair down and be utterly foolish. This April Fool's Day, the SSEB will be exactly 25 years old. (Explains a lot, doesn't it?)

Every movement has its clowns, so let's make this a birthday Berridge and Co. will never forget. Let's make April 1st Nuclear Fools Day, and celebrate with Atomic Antics, Powerful Pranks and Nuclear Nonsense.

- * Jam Cathcart House switchboard with congratulatory (or otherwise) phone calls.
- * Contaminate local showrooms with self-raising plutonium.

You can probably think of more jolly japes. Don't forget to let the local press in on the fun.

For your Diary

Feb. 9th Edinburgh Trades Council meeting on nuclear power.

Feb. 18th Ayr - SCRAM SW and COND exhibition opens.

- SNP rally, SCS vigil in Wellington Sq.

Feb. 19th Mullwharchar inquiry starts.

Feb. 20th Torness trial starts, Haddington. See p.2

Mar. 1st Scottish groups meetings - Ayr.

Mar. 26th PANDORA demo, Dolgellau, Wales.

Mar. 29 FoE Remember Harrisburg demo - London. Possible coaches from Edinburgh, contact FoE, 225-6906; train from Lancaster and NW England contact Bentham 61078.

Apr. 26th ANC Day of Action at sites (Hartlepool and others)

May 21st Anti-Dungeness demo

May 24th Dumfries and Galloway FoE Festival at Laurieston. Offers of help and ideas to Sarah, Laurieston Hall, Castle Douglas, Dumfriesshire.

May 31st Glasgow anti-nuclear rally.

August Black Hills Survival Fair: 10 days of activities in the Black Hills of Dakota (remember the song?), threatened with huge uranium mining developments.

Feb. 16th Rallies in Dundee and Aberdeen for Mullwharchar. Contact SCRAM Dundee and SCRAM Aberdeen.

INTERNATIONAL

Nuclear power is a threat locally, nationally and internationally, and has to be opposed at all these levels. If properly co-ordinated, worldwide action against nuclear power will be extremely effective, and will prove to be essential in stopping what is a multinational business.

It was therefore decided by the organisers of the successful 'No Nukes' strategy conference last year to suggest a meeting of campaigners from all over the world.

On the whole, the idea has been well received. The earliest feasible date for the conference looks like September 1980, to be held in a European venue and lasting about a week. A planning meeting of convenors from each country is to be held in Amsterdam on March 15/16th. The aims and format of the conference remain open until then.

The convenors are therefore asking for input from as many people before that date. We need to know what you think about the idea, whether the money necessary to hold it could be better spent, who should attend (i.e. everyone or delegates), what such a conference should achieve and how to tackle the issue of international co-ordination.

The people to contact with your views are:-

Hugh Norman, 23 Bisley Road, Stroud.

Ian Fairlie, 9 Poland St. London W1.

Claire Kirby, 43 Everton Rd, Sheffield, S. Yorks.

Sheila Durie, SCRAM Edinburgh, 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh.

Whatever you do folks, remember the sun symbol and SMILE!

Although the SSEB are boring, a UKAEA librarian is showing signs of latent wit. A recent order to SCRAM for the cartoon book 'Nuclear power - anyone interested?' comments 'We are'. Glad to hear it.