

# STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION

Newsletter

January 1989



OBJECTORS' TOTAL REACHES RECORD 20,000

The number of people who have officially objected to the building of Hinkley C has now reached the record figure of 20,000. This is many more than objected to the last nuclear power station plan in Suffolk, and reflects the rising tide of opposition within Somerset and in the rest of the country.

To celebrate the new total, Stop Hinkley Expansion was due to open a bottle of champagne at the Stop Hinkley Centre in Cannington on January 26. Also invited to this media event were Jane Wildblood from Greenpeace, which has given vital support to SHE over the past year, and campaigners from the two sites earmarked by the CEBG for further PWRs - Wylfa in North Wales and Sizewell in Suffolk.



## HINKLEY LEUKAEMIA CLUSTER DISCOVERED

A report by Somerset Health Authority, published just before Christmas, has revealed for the first time a substantially higher incidence of childhood leukaemia in the area round Hinkley Point.

During the whole study period (1959-86), there were 22 cases of leukaemia (and the associated illness non-Hodgkin's lymphoma) within a 12.5 kilometre radius from Hinkley Point. Only 11 would have been expected on national trends.

More crucially, in the ten years 1964-73 there were 14 (mostly fatal) young leukaemia cases where only 4 would have expected. Hinkley "A" nuclear power station started operation in 1965.

The report's authors - Cameron Bowie, Director of Community Medicine, and statistician Paul Ewings - used exactly the same methodology which had revealed leukaemia clusters round the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria and the Dounreay experimental site in Scotland.

Commenting on their findings, Dr. Bowie said: "There does seem to be a link between young leukaemia and nuclear power stations. But if it was radiation, it would have had to have been, for Hinkley Point, an enormous leak."

The CEBG seized on this remark to immediately deny that any such leak had occurred. Dr. Richard Taylor, the Board's Head of Health and Safety Strategy, said at the Public Inquiry that there was no logical connection between the higher incidence of leukaemia found at various nuclear sites and the widely varying but low levels of radioactive discharges. ▶

Daily Mirror 20-12-88

**N-PLANT  
CANCER  
WARNING**

BIG increases in leukaemia cases have been discovered near a giant power station, a

**Atom plant  
blamed for  
leukaemia**

A LEAK at a nuclear power station 20 years ago has been blamed for a leukaemia epidemic running at five times the national average. Since the leak at Hinkley Point, Somer-

Daily Express 20-12-88

**Leukaemia  
near atom  
site almost  
twice norm**

Daily Telegraph 20-12-88  
By Paul Stokes  
ALMOST

Guardian 20-12-88  
**Report backs  
cancer fears**

The discovery of double the number of expected cases of childhood cancer in the population living closest to the Hinkley Point nuclear power station site was unlikely to be a chance finding, a medical report concluded yesterday.

by Dr  
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But of course this assumes 1. that the CEGB's figures on discharges have always been accurate, and 2. that their predicted relationship between low level radiation and health is correct. Meanwhile, the Health Authority says it will be looking further into the individual leukaemia cases, and possibly studying other cancers in the area.

The report also showed a 24% higher rate of adult leukaemia throughout the Authority's catchment area, confirming earlier findings. No clear explanation has been found for this either.

\* "Leukaemia Incidence in Somerset" (Dec. 1988) is available from Somerset Health Authority, County Hall, Taunton, at 33 libraries in the county and is also Inquiry document S1889.

## INQUIRY NEWS

**EVIDENCE UPDATE:** Now in its fifteenth week (end of January), the Inquiry has started on Topic 2 (Safety and health effects), with evidence from the CEGB, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the National Radiological Protection Board. After that, it will be the turn of objectors. The current programme shows Topic 2 lasting until March 17.

There will then be four days of hearings in Cardiff (March 20-23), a week's break for Easter, and then, starting April 4, the CEGB will present its new evidence on the relative economics of coal and nuclear power.

The next witness to appear for SHE will be Kemp Houck, an American who is coming to the Inquiry specially to describe the (mostly bad) record of two US PWRs - at Callaway, Missouri and Wolf Creek, Kansas - which are forerunners of the Hinkley C design.

Houck is scheduled to appear on February 21, but check first with the Programme Officer, Keith Parker (0278 444005) if you're thinking of coming. All objectors can ask to be sent the regular advance programmes.

## Crush At Cannington

Over 200 people packed the Inquiry hall to overflowing for the Cannington evening meeting on January 18. Extra seating had to be arranged.

It was amazing how carefully and effectively people expressed their views, breaking through the stilted and formal nature of the proceedings. Their strength of feeling leapt from every page of their statements.

### Local polls

Both David Hatherley and Sian Pumfrey gave details of a survey of Cannington residents which showed 355 people against Hinkley C and 238 in favour. This was a "remarkable finding" in a village where 120 people worked at Hinkley Point, Hatherley said.

Sian Pumfrey asked the CEGB's representative Sam Goddard what he thought of the poll. "We are

concerned. We will always wish to listen," he said. On the existing two mile evacuation zone round Hinkley Point, he said: "It is always extendable. It's a matter of prudence and judgement."

"I assume you don't live near a nuclear power station," Pumfrey responded. "I live near a motorway," Goddard offered.

### Strong opposition

James Murphy, representing Stogursey Parish Council (the nearest village to Hinkley Point), said the parish opposed the C station under all five topics. "The strength of opposition in the village to Hinkley C is very considerable," he said.

### Massive intrusion

Penny Cross quizzed Sam Goddard on the increased traffic (up to 4,500 extra vehicle movements per day for about 2½ years) which Hinkley C would generate, and the inadequacy of existing roads. She announced she had given up smoking for her own health, and hoped the CEGB would give up Hinkley C for everybody's health.

Mr. Brookfield (Cannington resident for 36 years) won repeated applause when he said that many people were cynical that, despite the evidence of opposition, the dice had already been cast in favour of the plan.

### Handful of dust

Jenny Pidcock rounded off her statement with a quote from *Sarcophagus*, the play by Vladimir Gubaryev, the Science Editor of *PRAVDA* and the first Russian journalist on the scene at Chernobyl:

"Just imagine: no one will be here, none of us, not even our great, great grandchildren. All our cities will have gone... Even the Pyramids of Egypt will be just a handful of dust, yet the sarcophagus around this reactor of yours will still be standing.

"The pyramids of the Pharaohs have been there for a mere 5,000 years. But, to contain the radiation, your nuclear pyramid must remain for at least a hundred thousand years.

"That's some monument to leave to our descendants, isn't it?"

From the "Hinkley Inquirer" No.7

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**campaign**  
**NEWS**

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Details of the Annual General Meeting of Stop Hinkley Expansion next month can be found on a separate sheet enclosed with this newsletter. Please try to attend if you can.

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**NALGO DONATION:** NALGO, the trade union covering local government workers, has made a substantial donation to SHE funds. A cheque for £2,000 arrived towards the end of last year. This is the only national union to have supported SHE in this way. We also recently received a cheque from Wiltshire NALGO. Many thanks for both donations, and apologies for not mentioning it before.

As you will see from the enclosed accounts, the main source of external SHE funding continues to be Greenpeace. We are hopeful that this will continue at a similar level in 1989.

**BRISTOL CONTACTS:** Jamie Gill and Dickon Fell are now working two days a week from the Avon Friends of the Earth office in Bristol to provide information on how to get involved in the Public Inquiry. Phone (0272) 771235 or write to SHE c/o Avon FoE, Arnos Castle Estate, Junction Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3JP.

**Hinkley row over forced sale of village's land**

Guardian 23.1.89

Roger Milne

**T**HE Central Electricity Generating Board has stirred up fresh opposition to its Hinkley C plans by issuing compulsory purchase orders for land and gardens in the village of Combwich, on Bridgwater Bay, a few miles from the site earmarked for the £1.5 billion nuclear power station project.

The board wants to use Combwich Wharf to bring in heavy plant and equipment for the pressurised water reactor scheme.

Some of the loads will be abnormally wide and the board insists it needs to remove garden walls, fences and trees along one road in the village to make enough space for them.

Around 80 shipments are planned over a four-year period, with 28 particularly wide.

Last summer the 33 householders affected were offered a one off payment of £1,500 and a promise that gardens and walls would be reinstated after all the

loads have been delivered. Many villagers object to the village being used for this heavy construction traffic.

Concern mounted when it was learnt that the board might later also use the wharf to remove decommissioning waste from the nuclear site.

Now the board has provoked an outcry by using the provisions of the 1981 Electricity Act to issue compulsory purchase orders (CPOs) for the land it needs.

Around half the households affected are already objecting to the orders.

Mr John Randall, spokesman for the recently established protest group Combwich Residents Environmental Concern, said: "Villagers are very angry. People here never used to be anti-nuclear, but now the board is fast losing support."

Many of the residents work at the board's nuclear site at Hinkley Point.

Mr Randall complained of "heavy handed tactics" by the board which published the CPOs just before Christmas. "It was a very unwelcome pre-

sent," he said. Last week the board exacerbated the row by sending a letter to all Hinkley staff living in the village.

The two-page letter, signed by station manager G. H. C. Jenkins, says: "There has been a great deal of discussion in the village, some of it not informed, and I feel that anything we, as CEGB employees, can do to defuse the situation will be much appreciated by those undertaking the delicate negotiations."

Mr Randall said the letter had been widely interpreted as an attempt by the board to "lean on" its workers.

The environmental pressure group Greenpeace has offered to help the villagers.

Its anti-nuclear power campaigner, Jane Wildblood, said last night: "We are outraged at the way the villagers are being treated. The board is pre-empting the decision of the public inquiry by pushing ahead with these plans for Combwich."

The Department of Energy will now have to hold a public inquiry into the CPOs. Greenpeace has promised expert witnesses to aid the villagers.

**SHE GENERAL MEETINGS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Attendance at recent SHE general meetings has been poor. At present we hold them monthly, except August, alternating between Bridgwater (Unity House) and Bristol (Energy Centre, Bedminster), on the second Sunday of the month, starting at 2.30pm. Here are some suggested alterations to this pattern; please tell us what you think.

In future, SHE should

- \*Hold the meetings on a weekday evening.
- \*Hold all meetings in Bridgwater or Cannington.
- \*Hold meetings every two months, leaving all decision-making in between to the officers.
- \*Hold general meetings every quarter.
- \*Other suggestions (please write on separate sheet).

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**CAMPAIGN MATERIALS:** We now have copies of "The Heat Trap", Friends of the Earth's report on the greenhouse effect. They cost £10 each, or you can write direct to FoE, 26, Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ for a summary at £1.50.

Also still available is the range of Hinkley C materials, including white elephant badges (see right), 30p, green "Say No To Hinkley C" car or window stickers, 40p, sets of six SHE posters (three different designs in A4 and A3 sizes), 50p. We also have a few copies of "Renewable Energy" by Jan Goldsmith - an educational guide for teachers and students, £2.50. Plus the free SHE green recruiting leaflet "What Does Hinkley C Stand For?", the eight page "Advice to all Objectors" leaflet about the Public Inquiry, and (a very few) grey "The Facts Behind Hinkley C" leaflet on the arguments. We hope to update this soon. All from the SHE campaign address.



**DANCE PROCEEDS:** The dance at Wiveliscombe just before Christmas in aid of SHE raised almost £100. Thanks to all those who helped organise the evening.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

February 5	Bridgwater	<u>SHE Annual General Meeting</u> , Unity House, Dampiet Street, Bridgwater, 2.30pm.
21	Cannington	SHE witness Kemp Houck at Public Inquiry (see newsletter).
March 12	Bristol	<u>SHE General Meeting</u> , Energy Centre, Philip Street, Bedminster, Bristol, 2.30pm (unless altered at AGM).
March 20-23	Cardiff	<u>Public Inquiry Welsh Sessions</u> , Assembly Room, City Hall, Cardiff. Session times from Inquiry Secretariat (0278 444005); transport and other details from WANA/SHE (0443 690094).

For information on the Public Inquiry, contact Jill Sutcliffe at

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

For information on the general campaign, write to SHE, Hockpitt Farm, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater TA5 1EX or phone Crispin Aubrey (0278 732921) or Danielle Grunberg (0278 422632).

# STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION

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