

# STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION



Newsletter

Feb/March 1989

## SHE FLIES IN US NUCLEAR CRITIC

A seasoned campaigner against the United States nuclear industry - Professor Kemp Houck of Kansas University - made a dramatic appearance at the Hinkley C Public Inquiry in mid February. His evidence, on behalf of Stop Hinkley Expansion, about the troubled histories of two American Pressurised Water Reactors which are seen as prototypes for the British design, created a splash of media interest and an immediate reaction from the CEBG.

Professor Houck described repeated problems during the construction and operation of the power stations at Wolf Creek, Kansas, and Callaway, Missouri - two of the last nuclear plants to be built in the US before the programme collapsed. He concluded that "no American utility would now consider buying another reactor like (these)... It is astounding and tragic that the British government is doing so." The CEBG issued a three page press release to counter his claims.

Kemp Houck also spoke (alongside Stewart Boyle of the Association for the Conservation of Energy) at a special public meeting called in Cannington Village Hall to allow local people to hear what it was like to live near an operating PWR. He is staying in this country for a few weeks, and will be visiting the Wylfa and Sizewell PWR sites.

### U.S. nuclear expert paints bleak picture

By Tim Jones

AMERICAN university professor Kemp Houck has painted a bleak picture of the American nuclear industry at the Hinkley C public inquiry. Both - Westinghouse - The CEBG responded quickly to Professor Houck's claims and Mr David Norman of the PWR project -



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• TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE INQUIRY ORDER THE "HINKLEY INQUIRER" - P.3..  
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## INQUIRY PACE SHIFTS INTO TOP GEAR

The pace of the Cannington Public Inquiry has quickened substantially since the last Newsletter. Not only have the hours lengthened - with the hearing sessions starting nearly every day at 9.30 instead of 10am and continuing until well after 5pm - but the whole planned programme has suddenly taken a lurch forwards, disrupting objectors' plans.

In addition, cross-examination of CEBG and government department evidence is being limited, and more participants being asked to summarise their statements. The Inspector is also behaving more sharply and irritably with those who question his decisions.

Many people have detected behind this the heavy hand of a government eager to get a Hinkley decision out of the way. But whatever the reason, the present situation means:

1. Topic 2 (Safety and Health Effects) will end on March 17, with March 3 the last possible date for submitting a statement under that heading.

NEXT SHE MEETING - ENERGY CENTRE, PHILIP STREET BRISTOL - SUNDAY MARCH 12TH, 2.30PM. ALL MEMBERS	WELCOME.
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2. After a break for Easter and a week or so on the economics of coal versus nuclear (left over from Topic 1), Topic 3 (Waste and Decommissioning) is scheduled to start on April 11, and Topic 4 (Emergency planning) at the beginning of May.

Many individual objectors have already given evidence very effectively at the Inquiry. Any SHE supporters who haven't done so yet should seriously consider taking part and having their say. Please call Jill Sutcliffe at the Stop Hinkley Centre (0278 652408) to get further advice and assistance.

LORD MARSHALL: "NO WIN WITHOUT QUOTA"

An excellent Radio 4 Analysis programme "The Next Nuclear Generation" (Feb.9) summed up many of the conflicts facing both the nuclear industry and the government as privatisation approaches. (Call SHE to arrange a copy tape.) Essentially, nobody wants to know about risky, unpopular, uneconomic nuclear power stations unless they're forced to. Lord Marshall produced some of the best quotes of the programme, of which these are two:

1. Interviewer: "What if your shareholders judge nuclear not to be cost effective in terms of the private market?"

Marshall: "Then we won't build any new nuclear power."

2. Interviewer: "So why then do you need the crutch of an artificial quota forcing electricity distributors and consumers to buy a fixed amount of nuclear capacity?"

Marshall: "Well, if I didn't have the quota I couldn't win a planning inquiry."

GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL OPPOSES WYLFA PWR

The CEBG announced recently that it intended to proceed with applications to build two more PWRs at Sizewell (C) and Wylfa (B). This would complete the "family" of four, which has shrunk from the once grandiose expectations of at least 10!

Gwynedd County Council, which covers the area of Wylfa, on the North Wales island of Anglesey, has now voted by 39 to 14 to oppose any further nuclear power stations in the county. This will ensure a public inquiry, as at Hinkley, and a lot more trouble than the CEBG might have expected in a area where the station is a major employer.

The reaction of the Suffolk local authorities round Sizewell is less certain. But formal applications on both sites are expected during March. Watch this space for further details of how to object.

East Anglian Alliance Against Nuclear Power, Home Farm, North Green, Parham, Woodbridge, IP13 9NW (0728 724432); People Against Wylfa B, 10, Tan-y-Bonc, Porthaethwy, Ynis Mon, Gwynedd (0248 70786).



**SAY NO TO HINKLEY 'C'**

*Have your say at the Public Inquiry*

*SPEAKING OUT AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER IS NOT AS DIFFICULT AS YOU MAY THINK.....*



**REMEMBER CHERNOBYL!**

BRISTOL SHE WORKERS Dickon Fell and Jamie Gill have produced a special A5 leaflet (see left) to encourage people in the city to come to the Public Inquiry. They've also organised a series of workshops to discuss how to take part:

- March 6 The Old Coop, Chelsea Road, Easton.
  - March 13 Function Room, University Settlement, Ducie Road, Barton Hill.
  - March 20 Bishopston Community Centre, Gloucester Road, Bishopston.
  - March 22 Friends Meeting House, Hampton Road, Redland.
  - March 29 The Old Coop, Chelsea Road, Easton.
  - April 10 Bishopston Community Centre, as above.
- \* They all start at 7.00pm. Call 0272 771235 or 710680 for further details.

**STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of Stop Hinkley Expansion was held on Sunday, February 5, 1989 at Unity House, Dampiet Street, Bridgwater. 14 members were present. Reports were received from the Treasurer, Supporters Secretary, Coordinators and Press Officer. Officers elected for 1989 were: Coordinators: Danielle Grunberg and Crispin Aubrey; Treasurer: Alison Jarah; Supporters Secretary: Leslie Richold; Press Officer: Crispin Aubrey. Short extracts from the Coordinators and Supporters Secretary's Reports are printed below. Full copies of all reports will be sent to any member on request to the SHE office.

**Coordinators' Report: February 1988 - January 1989.**

The Stop Hinkley Expansion campaign has just completed its most successful year to date. More members have joined the organisation than ever before. A record amount of money has been raised by a variety of fund-raising activities. We have achieved more publicity for the issue of Hinkley C than ever before. And we have seen the number of official objectors to the CEGB's plan rise to a new high of 20,000.

The year has been dominated by the build-up to, preliminary meetings for, and then proper start of, the Hinkley C Public Inquiry. Despite many uncertainties about our ability to cope with such a substantial demand on resources - as well as the new, stronger powers available to the government in running such inquiries - the event has proved a crucial platform for the range of arguments against nuclear power.

The number of organisations and individuals who have taken part in the Inquiry has meant that a steady barrage of arguments and feelings have been presented to the Inspector. Media interest has also proved, at least on a local and regional basis, much more consistent than we had anticipated. The CEGB has regularly come over as embattled, accident-prone and losing the arguments.

Apart from the Public Inquiry, SHE has also been involved in other activities to raise interest in, and opposition to, the Hinkley C plans. (See full Report for details.)

As coordinators, the most common question we are asked is: What are the chances of stopping Hinkley C? The answer we most often give is that we can make no prediction, but the outlook looks a lot better than it did a year ago. More and more voices are now being raised in opposition to Hinkley C, and most recently even from the villages round the power station where jobs are a major issue. At the same time, there are fewer world-weary cries of "It doesn't make any difference, it's all decided by them."

As far as the majority of people are concerned, we have largely won the arguments on economics and safety; all we are left with now is a government clinging to the nuclear industry as a hedge against another disruption in the coal pits. If the soon-to-be privatised industry was given a real free hand, there seems little doubt that Hinkley C would never be built. The next year or so will therefore be crucial in seeing which way the argument flows.

Crispin Aubrey      Danielle Grunberg

**SUPPORTERS' SECRETARY'S REPORT.**

As of the 1st of February there are 803 supporters of S.H.E. Of these, 369 joined as a result of the fund raising letters from David Bellamy and from Danielle and Crispin.

The 803 supporters include 99 organisations who are affiliated to S.H.E.

As well as being supporters' secretary I have also been helping in the S.H.E. office at Hockpitt Farm for the past year. This involves answering queries from both members of S.H.E. and from the general public.

We have a lot of requests from school and college pupils for help with projects. Some people just write to voice their support and/or send in a donation. It's lovely to get such letters and to know of the support that there is for the campaign.

Leslie Richold.

I would like to subscribe to the "HINKLEY INQUIRER". Please rush me a copy every fortnight.  
 Name.....  
 Organisation.....  
 Address.....  
 Postcode.....  
 Subscription Rates: Institutions, Organisations, the Media - £40 for a year's issues. Individuals and Anti-Nuclear groups - £12. Cheques payable to Hinkley Inquirer. Please return form to: Hinkley Inquirer, Stop Hinkley Centre, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA.



# \*\*\*\*\* campaign NEWS

\*\*\*\*\* **SHE GENERAL MEETINGS:** A lengthy discussion at the AGM produced no firm decision on the future pattern of general meetings. However, it was agreed 1. to hold the next Bristol meeting as usual and ask whether a weekday evening should be tried instead, and 2. to hold monthly Officers' Meetings open to all members in addition to general meetings. The first of these is on March 2, 7.30pm at Manor Farmhouse, Wembdon, Bridgwater. Phone 0278 422632 for directions.

**SPIRIT OF CONSERVATION:** "The Spirit of Conservation on the Move" is the grand title for a travelling library vehicle which has been transformed by Michael O'Connell from Glastonbury into a mobile information unit on conservation issues. The aim is to travel round schools and other public places with an attractive display that people can walk in to - and hopefully see such things as a wind generator and low energy light bulbs in action. Currently, Michael is looking for further funding to purchase equipment like a video display screen and computer. To find out more, write to Spirit of Conservation, 8, St. Bride's Close, Glastonbury, Somerset.

**WOMEN'S DAY OUT AT THE INQUIRY:** South West Women Against Hinkley C have organised a day out on International Women's Day - Wednesday March 8th. Women from far and wide will be coming to the Hinkley C Public Inquiry in Cannington. The theme of the day is that women say "No" to increased health risks, higher fuel bills, the risk of another Chernobyl and the legacy of nuclear waste. Make women visible: come and be part of it! Meet from 10.00 at Cannington Village Hall. Creche available. Contacts: Somerset - Elaine (0823 276892); Avon - Nicola (0272 710680/555577); Devon - Lynne (0392 71045); Cornwall - Betty (0326 77447); Wales - Margaret (0656 715185).



<u>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</u>			
March	8	Cannington	<u>Women's Day Out at Hinkley C Public Inquiry</u> , meet 10am Cannington Village Hall, Cannington near Bridgwater. Org. by South West Women against Hinkley C.
	12	Bristol	<u>SHE General Meeting</u> , Energy Centre, Philip Street, Bedminster. 2.30pm.
	20	Cardiff	<u>Public Inquiry sessions</u> , Assembly Room, City Hall. 2.30-4.30, 6.30-9.30pm.
	21	Cardiff	<u>Public Inquiry</u> , as above, 9.30-1, 2-5pm.
	22	Cardiff	<u>Public Inquiry</u> , as above, 9.30-1, 2-5pm.
	23	Cardiff	<u>Public Inquiry</u> , as above, 9.30-1.30pm.
April	9	Bridgwater	<u>SHE General Meeting</u> , Unity House, Dampiet Street. 2.30pm.

# STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION

For information on the Public Inquiry, contact Jill Sutcliffe at

STOP HINKLEY CENTRE,  
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).

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