

STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION



Newsletter

May 1989

INQUIRY LASTS 100 DAYS - BUT HOW MUCH LONGER?

The Hinkley C Public Inquiry has entered the record books. On April 19th it reached 100 days of sittings, beating the 1986 Dounreay nuclear inquiry by five days and equalling the 1977 Windscale Inquiry. This still leaves it trailing behind the marathon Sizewell Inquiry of 1983-5.

A more urgent question is: when will it end? On current form it could be over before it's scheduled to break for the summer at the end of July. However, there *could* be a spillover of hearings into September. This would give objectors more time to prepare their closing speeches. It would also push the final decision on Hinkley C closer to the point at which the new privatised electricity companies are starting up - and trying to persuade their new shareholders that nuclear is "trouble-free".

This means that anybody who hasn't yet had their say at the Inquiry should seriously consider coming along to speak under the last topic area, which is **Local and Environmental Issues**. This covers the effect of Hinkley C (during building, operation and dismantling) on agriculture and fisheries, the local economy, water supply and disposal, transport, coast and sea defences, housing and public services, and local amenities, including landscape and wildlife. The deadline for submitting a copy of what you would like to say to the Inquiry under this topic (Topic 5) is currently about the beginning of June, but check with the Stop Hinkley Centre (see back of newsletter).

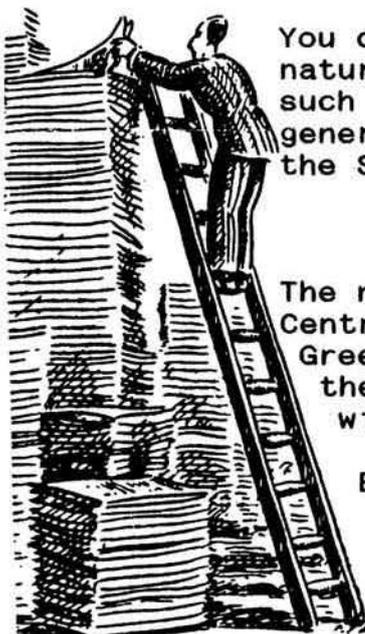
There are also special sessions under Topic 5 to consider objections to the Combrich wharf issue (June 13-14), and the new roads planned round Cannington and Bridgwater (June 27-28).

You could also consider making a statement of an "overall nature" towards the end of the Inquiry. We understand such statements are expected to be presented in some general moral or philosophical context. Again; check with the Stop Hinkley Centre.

NEW STOP HINKLEY CENTRE WORKERS

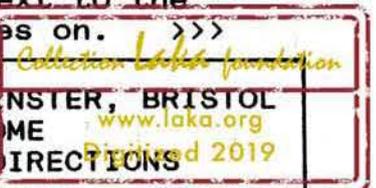
The new face (and voice on the phone) at the Stop Hinkley Centre in Cannington is **Stuart Purves**, who has moved from Greenpeace head office in London to fill the gap left by the sad departure of **Jill Sutcliffe** in mid-April. He will be assisted three days a week by **Joanna Balcombe**.

Both Stuart and Joanna will also continue to be supported by the regular team of volunteers, including the most consistent Inquiry attender, **Ron Preddy**, who travels every day from Bristol. Why not pop into the Centre - right next to the Public Inquiry - and see what goes on. >>>



Sorting Inquiry transcripts

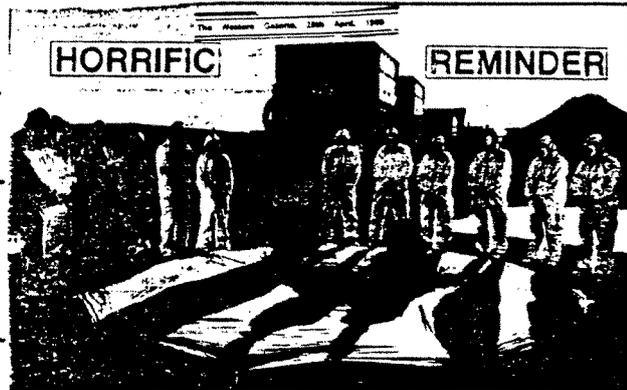
NEXT SHE MEETING - ENERGY CENTRE, PHILIP STREET, BEDMINSTER, BRISTOL
SUNDAY MAY 14TH, 2.30PM - ALL MEMBERS WELCOME
CALL THE SHE OFFICE (SEE BACK OF NEWSLETTER) FOR DIRECTIONS



>>> Many thanks to Jill for the fantastic contribution she made to the Stop Hinkley campaign during her time at the Centre. Also to Greenpeace for allowing Stuart to shift desks.

GREENPEACE MARKS CHERNOBYL AT HINKLEY

Greenpeace marked the third anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster (April 26) with a dramatic event at Hinkley Point. A symbolic grave was dug right in the middle of the proposed C station site, and a headstone erected reading "Remember Chernobyl". Behind it, overshadowed by the two existing stations, was a giant radiation hazard sign.



Entirely peaceful, the event attracted little media attention on a day in which it seemed the government had deliberately hijacked attention for Mrs. Thatcher's "green crusade" against the greenhouse effect, with nuclear power as the vanguard.

THE third anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl was remembered on Wednesday, when members of Greenpeace held a silent protest at the site of the proposed Hinkley Point C station. The members arrived at dawn wearing radiation equipment and dug a symbolic grave in the shadow of the A station Magnox reactor, while security staff kept a close watch. Greenpeace nuclear campaigner Jane Wildblood said: "Since the accident at Chernobyl, public opinion across the world is saying no to nuclear power, and the people of Somerset are no exception to this trend. Hinkley C must never be built. We at Greenpeace hope we never have to one day come back to this site and erect a memorial to the dead of the Hinkley Point accident." Picture: Clive Davies

SHE handed in a letter to the Hinkley Point Station Manager pointing out that mounting public opposition in the Soviet Union was now producing a Chernobyl backlash in the form of cancelled and abandoned power station plans. There were also regional Chernobyl events in Exeter and Bristol, where a special edition of the "Daily Dose" newspaper was printed and handed out in the street.

WYLVA B APPLICATION GOES IN

The CEBG formally applied on April 18 for permission to build a third (after Hinkley and Sizewell) Pressurised Water Reactor at Wylfa on the Isle of Anglesey. There is already an old Magnox reactor on the site - Wylfa A - expected to close in about 10 years.

There will now be a three month consultation period, during which, if either the local Ynys Mon Council or Gwynedd County Council object, there will be a public inquiry. SHE members are strongly urged to write now to the following address saying something along the lines of 1. A PWR would be dangerous and unnecessary, 2. There should be a full public inquiry, 3. On such a major project, there should be more consultation time than three months.

Leon Gibson, Chief Executive, Ynys Mon Borough Council, Llangefni, Ynys Mon, Gwynedd.

campaign
NEWS

TOM KING VISIT: SHE Coordinators Crispin Aubrey and Danielle Grunberg and Cannington member Dave Hatherley spent about half an hour with Bridgwater MP Tom King at his surgery in Minehead last month. Despite King's defence of government pro-nuclear policy, he was given a clear account of the strength of opposition to Hinkley C. He also made his first visit to the Inquiry about two weeks later.

Democrats Energy spokesman Malcolm Bruce also made a flying visit to the area in the run-up to the County Council elections. He met the SHE Coordinators, visited Bristol Energy Centre and talked to people in Combwich about their concerns over the wharf traffic.

NEW SHE VIDEO: A new video entitled "Nuclear Family" has been produced specially for Stop Hinkley Expansion by Exeter and Devon Arts Centre. This dramatic 25-minute presentation approaches the nuclear issue through a fictional story of the conflict within a household where the father is committed to the nuclear industry, and the daughter increasingly sceptical. Professional actors play the parts, and SHE member Terry Mulverhill has produced many of the stunning images. The video (originally made as a tape-slide show) is aimed primarily at those uncertain of where they stand on the issue, for example school classes, women's institutes, farmers groups. Anybody with specific suggestions on suitable venues, please get in touch with the SHE office (see end of newsletter).

All SHE supporters are cordially invited to come and see "Nuclear Family" at a special showing in Bridgwater Arts Centre, Castle Street, Bridgwater on Thursday May 25th, 7.30pm. Call the SHE office for further details.

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER: Quite a few SHE supporters have still not renewed their annual subscription, despite the third reminder letter enclosed with this newsletter. Please remember that, even if you've contributed to other SHE appeals, the charge for SHE membership barely covers production of this newsletter, let alone other activities. So it's a real bargain! Also please tell us if you've moved, or the "computer" hasn't picked up your renewal yet.

**INQUIRY
NEWS**

BRISTOL INQUIRY WORKSHOPS: Two further workshops are planned in Bristol for anybody who wants to learn more about how to speak at the Inquiry:

Mon. 22nd May Cheltenham Road Library (near the Arches). 7.30pm.

Thurs. 8th June St.Werburgh's City Farm, Watercress Road, St.Werburgh's. 7.00pm.

Further details from Jamie or Dicken (0272) 771235 or 710680.

SHE EVIDENCE: SHE witness Lorraine Mann from the Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping organisation made a good splash during the Inquiry sessions on nuclear waste (see article right from the County Gazette 28.4.89). She was particularly effective during cross-examination of the CEGB, justifying the Guardian's comment that objectors "have largely been able to force the Board on the defensive".

Further SHE evidence is in preparation for the topic just starting - Emergency Plans. Please call the Stop Hinkley Centre to check - or subscribe to the "Inquirer" below.

Solve waste problem first ...

Government plans, which pinpoint Sellafield in Cumbria and Dounreay in North Scotland as possible sites, would come to anything.

THE proposed Hinkley C station should be abandoned until the problems of dealing with its nuclear waste have been solved, the inquiry into the scheme was told this week.

She had personal experience of opposition at Dounreay, and she added that finding a suitable waste site was the biggest challenge facing the nuclear industry.

Lorraine Mann was speaking on behalf of the "umbrella" protest group, Stop Hinkley Expansion.

"For the CEGB to rely on Government policy is foolish," she said. "That doesn't mean it is going to happen.

Mrs Mann, of Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping, told the inquiry of the repeated failures by Government to find acceptable places to dump the waste.

"Even if the public did accept a dump site there is not enough scientific certainty at present to ensure the waste can be contained safely underground for hundreds of years without its radioactivity damaging the environment."

And she said there was no guarantee that current

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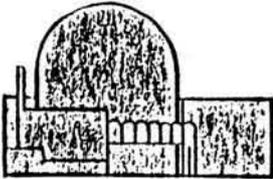
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Subscription Rates: Institutions, Organisations, the Media - £40 for a year's issues. Individuals and Anti-Nuclear groups - £12. Reduced rate for new subscribers - £6 (not including back issues). Cheques payable to Hinkley Inquirer. Please return form to: Hinkley Inquirer, Stop Hinkley Centre, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA.



NUCLEAR NUGGETS: THE LATEST Gallup Opinion Poll on nuclear power (March 1989) shows 70% of those questioned against further nuclear power, either "at present" or ever, much the same as in previous surveys. In a choice between more nuclear power and a mixture of conservation and the renewables as an energy policy, 87% chose the second...

CURRENT GOVERNMENT TIMETABLE for privatisation of the electricity industry (always in the background of the Hinkley C debate) is that the Bill will be passed by parliament this summer. This will be followed by the offer of shares (flotation) in the Area Electricity Boards next spring, and then flotation of the generation companies (National Power and Power Generation) in late 1990/early 1991. So far, there's not much public interest in buying into any of these companies. Nonetheless, the CEGB's nuclear arm - already operating under the National Power emblem - is hoping to have a deal sewn up this year for the Area Boards to buy the electricity from Hinkley C. That's their hope, anyway...

AFTER THE INQUIRY: Various ideas have been discussed at recent SHE committee and general meetings for activities in the aftermath of the Inquiry - both during the months whilst we are waiting for the decision to be made, and in the longer term. We are aware that the end of the Inquiry will leave an inevitable vacuum: hopefully the next newsletter will contain some concrete ideas on how to fill it. If you have thoughts on the future of SHE after the Inquiry, voice them at the next general meeting (see below).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May	6	Taunton	Public Inquiry Workshop, Albermarle Centre, Albermarle Road, Taunton. 10-4pm.
	9	Shepton Mallet	"Movement Action Plan Workshop" on how campaigns succeed, org. by Mid-Somerset CND, Community Building, Commercial Car Park, Shepton, 6.45pm. Details 0749 830741
	14	Bristol	SHE General Meeting, Energy Centre, Philip Street, Bedminster, Bristol, 2.30pm.
	22	Bristol	Public Inquiry Workshop (see newsletter)
	25	Bridgwater	SHE Video - Members Screening, Arts Centre, Castle Street, Bridgwater, 7.30pm. See newsletter for details.
June	8	Bristol	Public Inquiry Workshop (see newsletter)
	19-	Cardiff	Hinkley C Inquiry Sessions, from 2pm
	20		Monday, 9.30am Tuesday.
July	1-	Norwich	5th Annual Conference on Low Level Radiation and Health, University of East Anglia, Programme and reg. form: Davida Higgen, Greenhouse, 48, Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR
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STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION

For information on the Public Inquiry, contact Stuart Purves at:
STOP HINKLEY CENTRE,
CANNINGTON COURT, CHURCH STREET,
CANNINGTON, BRIDGWATER TA5 2HA.
Tel:(0278) 652408 Fax:(0278) 652459

For information on the general campaign, write to:
SHE, HOCKPITT FARM, NETHER STOWEY, BRIDGWATER, TA5 1EX.
or phone
Crispin Aubrey (0278) 732921
Danielle Grunberg (0278) 422632

