



### IS HINKLEY C ON THE SCRAP HEAP?

Now that the dust has settled after the dramas of the end of the Inquiry, these are the latest thoughts on Hinkley C.

The present "moratorium" on nuclear construction still leaves a question mark over the project. The government still says it wants to "preserve the strategic role of nuclear power". This means that Nuclear Electric, the new state-owned company, will do all it can to resurrect Hinkley C when the review of nuclear power is due in about 1994. In a few years' time, a fresh planning application could be presented to the local authorities.

Now that the "small family of PWRs" has been killed off for the time being, Sizewell B, still only about a quarter completed, will have to bear the entire cost of the series. That works out at about £1 million per day more than an equivalent fossil-fuelled station over its lifetime. The building and running costs of Sizewell B will be up to £362 million a year more than a gas-fired alternative. It is now so expensive that it would be cheaper to cancel it.

At Hinkley Point, meanwhile, there are plans to continue operating Hinkley A - along with the other older Magnox stations - for 20 years more than its original design life.

What alternative can we promote, especially given the repeated argument that nuclear power will help combat the greenhouse effect?

Firstly, we must emphasise that nuclear power is irrelevant as a long-term solution to the greenhouse effect. The true facts about global warming need to be understood. Conservation and the renewables are much more saving on carbon dioxide than nuclear power.

The best way to ensure that no new nuclear station is built at Hinkley Point at any time in the future is to encourage a safer energy future through:

- \* More efficient use of energy to limit consumption.
- \* Increased use of energy saving appliances and lighting
- \* Investing in non-polluting sources of generation like wind, water and waste.

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY MARCH 1

UNITY HOUSE, DAMPIET

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ALL MEMBERS WELCOME - CALL SHE OFFICE FOR

ENTERTAINMENT: CEGB VIDEO ON WIND POWER



Stop Hinkley Expansion Newsletter... February 1990

SHE's strategy for 1990 will include:

**\* Promoting the Ideal Energy Exhibition.**

Designed by Bristol Energy Centre and housed in a special caravan/trailer, the exhibition will spread the message that energy conservation measures mean less pollution in the environment and lower household fuel bills. It is designed for use in town centres, at outdoor events and in schools and colleges. An extensive tour is planned to cover both the West Country and the Sizewell area.

**\* Encouraging SHE members to lobby the Area Boards.**

Now that the Area Electricity Boards have a crucial policy-making role under the new privatised electricity industry, we must let them know we intend to take a close interest in their work. This includes finding out what common ground there is on energy efficiency and the renewables - and encouraging every electricity showroom to stock energy efficient light bulbs and other domestic appliances. Write to: The Chairman, SWEB, 800, Park Avenue, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS12 4SE.

**\* Organising an immediate response when the Hinkley C Inquiry Inspector's report is published, probably not before the early summer.**

**\* Supporting the campaign to halt the construction of Sizewell B by linking with groups nationally to create a solid base of opposition.**

**\* Monitoring the proposal to extend the life of Hinkley A (see page 4).**

With the help of all SHE members, Somerset will never be a "soft option" in the future.

**IDEAL ENERGY EXHIBITION**

SHE has received a £300 grant from Avon County Council to help finance the travelling exhibition (see above). It is currently visiting schools in the Forest of Dean area of Gloucestershire. Future plans include visits to several towns in Somerset and a tour of the Sizewell area, but we are still looking for further long-term funding to pay for the cost of transporting it around and having a person inside to answer questions. A glossy leaflet should be ready for distribution with the next newsletter.

**LATEST NEWS FROM FRANCE**

Campaigners at Golfech are still maintaining a 24-hour presence at the camp opposite the power station in South West France. Buses bringing groups of schoolchildren to be shown round the site are now visiting the camp as well. A petition organised by local politicians demanding an information campaign followed by a referendum before the reactor is started up, now has 80 signatures of prominent people. They will present their case to the French Prime Minister with two "Stop Golfech" members as technical advisers.

**STOP**

**GOLFECH**

# // CAMPAIGN NEWS // CAMPAIGN NEWS//

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The SHE Annual General Meeting will be held in Bridgwater on March 11th. Apart from electing officers for the coming year and hearing their reports for 1989, there will be ample time to discuss any ideas you may have for what the campaign should be doing in 1990.

We will also be showing the CEGB video "Power From The Wind", which is an extravagant production set in Barbados, Holland and the Orkneys - and starring SHE sponsor David Bellamy. Although shorter on hard facts than stunning locations, the film still provides an amusing example of how even the nuclear-dominated CEGB has been forced to take the renewables seriously.

We hope to include highlights from the officers' reports, as well as the accounts for 1989, in the next newsletter.

**NEW FACES:** Two of the campaign's longer-standing officers - Membership Secretary Leslie Richold and Treasurer Alison Jarah - have had to retire because of the pressure of other commitments. Leslie's job has been taken over by Lynne Collins, who has been a regular SHE volunteer for some time, whilst Alison has handed over to Joanna Balcombe, who organised the Stop Hinkley Centre during the last few months of the public inquiry.

Thanks very much to both "Le1" and Alison for all their hard work and support through the years. The two new appointments will have to be confirmed at next month's AGM.



**CONSUMERS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY:** Leaflets about the CANE campaign are enclosed with this newsletter. CANE encourages electricity consumers to either withhold that portion of their bill which goes towards nuclear electricity, or at least to pay with a special anti-nuclear cheque - or both. Regional CANE contact is Carolyn Turner, 16, Chilton Road, Bath BA1 6DR.

**KEEP THEM UP!** Whilst most of the CEGB's "Yes To Hinkley C" stickers may have disappeared from the car windows of Hinkley Point workers, this is not the time to take ours down. They are a simple and constant reminder to people in the area that the issue has not gone away, and Hinkley C could rear its ugly head again in the future.

If your ecologically green "Say No To Hinkley C" sticker is falling apart, or you haven't yet got one in your car or house window, now is the time to order. They cost 40p from the campaign address. We also still have yellow Smiling Sun "Hinkley C? Somerset Says No" badges at 30p.

**NEW LEAFLET:** A new SHE membership/recruiting leaflet is in preparation. This will update the situation on Hinkley C, explain the present moratorium on nuclear building, and emphasise the exciting opportunities which this opens up for the renewables and energy conservation. We hope this will be available in the next month or so.

**COLLECTORS' ITEM:** After the dramatic climax to the Hinkley C Inquiry, you can have your own record of the whole event by investing in a full set of all 23 issues of the "Hinkley Inquirer" (October 1988 to December 1989). They cost £12 including postage from the address at the end of the newsletter.

// NUCLEAR NEWS // NUCLEAR NEWS //

LORD MARSHALL, who eventually resigned at the end of last year as head of the CEGB/National Power after much huffing and puffing, has been giving his own version of why nuclear went bust. Apart from evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy (Feb.7th), in which he reiterated his argument that nuclear power could never survive in the "quick profits" context of privatisation, he wrote an interesting article in *The Observer* (Jan.28th). In this he concluded: "I now see no future this century for new nuclear power in the UK..."

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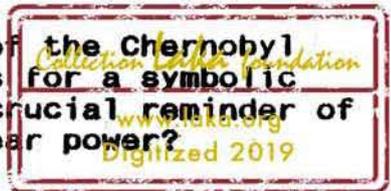
THE NEW NUCLEAR company which will run the ageing fleet of Magnox and AGR reactors - Nuclear Electric - has meanwhile been putting on a brave face. To get the most out of what remains, there is talk of extending the lives of the Magnox stations (like Hinkley A) to 40 years - twice the original design life. In fact, Hinkley A, which "celebrated" 25 years' operation on February 16 with a firework display, has still not completed its 20-year safety review through the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. It was a similar review which led to the closure of Berkeley nuclear station in Gloucestershire in 1989.

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THE "NUCLEAR LEVY" to be paid by all electricity consumers under the privatisation plans has been set at 10%, according to Energy Secretary John Wakeham. This will cover some of the extra costs of producing electricity by nuclear rather than coal power. Wakeham also said that 300 renewable energy projects around the country were competing for the "Non-Fossil Fuel" quota originally designed primarily for schemes like Hinkley C.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- March 7 Highbridge Environment Evening organised by Sedgemoor Natural Health Group: 7.30pm, King Alfred School, Burnham Road, Highbridge. Talk and discussion about the renewables and energy conservation.
- 11 Bridgwater Stop Hinkley Expansion Annual General Meeting: 2.30pm, Unity House, Dampiet Street, Bridgwater. Call SHE office for directions.
- April 26 Fourth Anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. (Any ideas for a symbolic event to mark this crucial reminder of the dangers of nuclear power?)



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