

Nicola Pilkington ref 20026728

OPEN FLOOR HEARING 10 August 24th AIR POLLUTION

I am Nicola Pilkington. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on issues that I had hoped to pose as questions at Wednesdays Hearing. I will endeavour to speak as quickly and fluently as possible.

For seven years I have been lucky enough to be part of a European Respiratory Society Patient Group advising on new treatment approaches for a rare Lung disease. I have been invited to international conferences and sent all the most recent research updates on everything Lung related including the latest research on the health impacts of air pollution. The experience has meant that I have become much better informed about health impacts of air pollution- namely particulate matter than many people locally. The British Heart Foundation have additionally used my experience as a lung patient in a recent DEFRA Consultation on PM10s PM2.5s coming from home fires.

From the start of EDF's Consultation process I have been asking questions on how and whom are going to measure air quality during construction and I am still none the wiser. I still don't understand how EDF and East Suffolk Council have been able to come to acceptable figures for Nitrogen Oxide and PM10's PM2.5's unless they have been based on existing Data collected in East Suffolk from the roadside and used that Data to make adjustments to amounts of proposed vehicles allowed on roads during construction. East Suffolk Council monitor Nitrogen Oxide in a few specialist areas but are not measuring PM10's PM2.5's. This means that no-one knows apart from Citizen Scientist Lawrence Moss, whom is speaking tomorrow, what the current levels of particulate matter are in towns and villages and along roadsides locally. He is the only person to have baseline Data that many would think as reasonably reliable or an indicator of a need to come to the area and use more expensive monitoring equipment.

Experience at HinkleyPointC (HPC) demonstrates the need for this baseline monitoring information as Sedgemoor District Council has expressed concern about high incidence of particulate matter in 2018/19 with PM10's being exceeded 16 times on the Quantock Rd while at the Bristol Rd limits were exceeded 15 times. Sedgemoor District Council were only able to get this situation rectified because they had been measuring pollution levels in the area and not relying on information coming from HPC. see

Hinkley Point C brings London level traffic to small.....Guardian
Headline

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/aug/14/hinkley-point-c-london-traffic>

I ask the Examining Authority to make sure that East Suffolk Council starts to measure Nitrogen Oxide more widely along roadsides and PM10's PM2.5's before construction starts. Additionally, any final decision on permitted amounts of traffic during the phases of construction need to be made after a period of baseline measuring has been carried out of PM10's PM2.5s and any plans for adaptations if limits are likely to be exceeded need to be presented for scrutiny.

Additionally, if it lies within your remit you might be well advised to encourage East Suffolk Council to welcome information coming from the likes of Lawrence Moss and see his and other locally collected Data as a useful dimension to any baseline collecting ESC might engage in. Please also note in European Countries pollution research is becoming more innovative with Citizen focused participatory research into air quality being favoured. Two examples of this approach occur in Antwerp where monitors were placed and tracked on free bicycles and in Eastern European Sofia monitors were placed on local Taxis- ref(1) The Scientists involved treated this not quite as accurate Data coming from cheaper monitors as useful indicators leading them to new areas where they could position their more accurate expensive equipment.

Finally, research on fine particulate matter and its health impacts is now so numerous that Data is being updated daily. There is now no doubt that air pollution can damage all the major organs in the body, have genetic and epigenetic impacts, affect unborn babies, be an influence on recovery time and on who gets COVID etc. I am sure all parties will be aware of the research I am referring to so there is no need to reference.

Reference

1. Health Effects Institute- <https://www.healtheffects.org>

Virtual Workshop on Air Pollution and Health in Eastern Europe.
June 8th/9th 2021

Sponsored by HEI, International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and the European Respiratory Society.

The Workshop is part of a larger HEI project funded by The Clean Air Fund.

Footnote: I watched ISH8 Session 4 and although there was some agreement that East Suffolk Council would measure PM2.5s there was no decision about when they would start as I believe they were not going to purchase the monitors themselves. This means no Baseline testing before construction begins and no acknowledgement of the benefits of participatory Data collecting.