



PINS RECEIVED
20 MAY 2020

9th. April 2020

Dear Sir,

I am writing once again on the subject of the potential building of a nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast at Sizewell.

The Government manifesto said it would prioritise offshore wind as the best means of providing energy and would also invest in research into energy storage. A laudable idea and one to be encouraged as it is considerably cheaper than nuclear and waste is not an issue.

In January 2019 the then secretary for energy, Greg Clark said nuclear power must "represent value for money". He added "I could not justify a price above £75 per megawatt hour, especially given the declining cost of renewables". EDF are talking of £92 per megawatt hour.....

In 2012 Suffolk County Council complained of a lack of information in the consultation process and asked that it should be extended to Ipswich and Felixtowe as both these areas will be impacted. This request has been ignored by EDF and indeed, the fourth consultation process was only in the areas of Saxmundham and Leiston, it did not even go as far as Halesworth.

The Government's Public Accounts Committee have asked the government to publish a strategic case for nuclear before any more plants are agreed. This has not been done which is why it is vital that we listen to the experts who are all saying that nuclear power is past its sell by date, it is expensive, dangerous and potentially destructive.

Interestingly, EDF's own environmental Impact Assessment says that

"The Area of Outstanding National Beauty has importance in a national context for biodiversity as it contains important areas of heath and acid grassland

which support a high number of protected species populations. The SSSI is of international importance and one of the most significant in lowland Britain as it helps: regulate climate, carbon storage, water storage, flood defence, flood prevention and climate change adaptation through linked habitats”.

Yet EDF plans to ignore their own findings and destroy these important habitats by breaking them up; no amount of mitigation can replace an area that has been slowly developing over millennia.

With the climate crisis a reality it is essential that we look at a means of providing energy that is sustainable and clean.

It is the responsibility of the government to protect the environment, keep the cost of energy realistic, ensure that the health and welfare of the population is sound and that there is employment for everyone.

EDF argue that they will provide employment but it will only be during construction as we have seen from Sizewell B. Renewable energy is already providing a wealth of employment in this region and, with government blessing it could do more.

As for the health and welfare, there is a huge question hanging over nuclear energy which has not been solved in the 60 odd years since the first power station: what do we do with the radioactive waste?

EDF say there will be less waste with new nuclear but it will be more toxic, the radioactive level will increase, it will be harder to store and nobody knows either what to do with it or how long it can be kept under control.


This is a terrible legacy to leave to future generations and an issue which must be addressed with urgency.

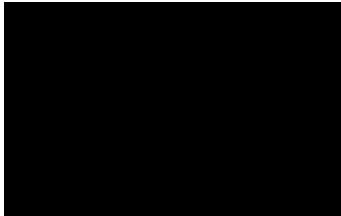
I understand EDF are aiming to apply for planning permission this month during the country lock-down; neither councils, organisations or individuals can review, discuss or meet at the moment.

So I urge you, please do not let the plan for new nuclear go through.

I attach letters to both EDF and the minister for energy for your information.

Yours sincerely, Alison Shirreff





8th.April 2020

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20 MAY 2020

From: Alison Shirreff

To: Alok Sharma, Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

House of Commons

Dear Alok Sharma

EDF are planning to put forward an application to build two new nuclear power stations at Sizewell in Suffolk within the next month.

Their argument is that construction is key to the economy and it will contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

EDF has no funding model to pay for Sizewell C, construction will be at least two years away and the carbon payback will never happen as I will explain.

More important, at this time of lock-down this behaviour is underhand to put it mildly as neither the public nor local authorities will be able to view material or plans physically or meet to discuss, question or clarify. Such furtive behaviour makes me think it may not just be the high price of this energy that EDF are hiding.

May I remind you of a speech Greg Clark made on 17th. January 2019. He said, regarding nuclear power: "I could not justify a strike price above £75 per megawatt hour, given the declining cost of alternative technologies."

Yet it seems that this Government has given EDF a guarantee that the price of energy from the nuclear power station at Hinkley Point will be £92.50 per megawatt hour with the taxpayer and energy user covering any extra cost should the price in real terms fall.

Your own Public Accounts Committee says about Hinkley and the guaranteed price that: "households have been locked into an expensive deal lasting 35 years. Consumers are left footing the bill and the poorest will be hit the hardest yet in all negotiations no part of the Government was really championing the consumer's interest". Meg Hillier, M.P. the Chair of PAC added: "Bill payers have been handed a bad hand by the Government".

The Public Accounts Committee have drawn up a list of recommendations for your department to follow before embarking on further nuclear build, which includes that you:

1. "Draw up a plan to create wider economic benefits from Hinkley and explain how they will prove they have been achieved".
2. That you also "Publish a strategic case for nuclear before any more plants are agreed."

Have you?

Where is the independent assessment of the effect on consumers?

What is your plan B, which they also ask for?

I know that EDF has said the Government has agreed to a third nuclear plant 'IN PRINCIPLE'

Before it is allowed to go further will you consider the reports by experts who have been asked by the Government for their professional opinion?

The Public Accounts Committee calls nuclear "a risky and expensive project"

Sir John Armitt, Chair of the National Infrastructure Committee calls nuclear "A 20th. Century industrial failure" He also said: "nuclear power plants are not adding up".

Regarding a third nuclear power station at Sizewell specifically:

Suffolk County Council has expressed reservations because EDF, even at the fourth consultation level still has not provided clear information of their plans. Their exhibitions were vague and unclear and left a great deal out.

What can be said is:

The plan threatens two sites of special scientific interest and an area of outstanding national beauty containing one of the most significant lowland sites in the UK, regulating climate, carbon storage, water storage, flood defence, flood prevention and climate change adaption. This is of national and international importance.

In the environmental Impact Assessment EDF talks of: 'Low crumbling cliffs and steep banks of pebbles on the beach which contribute to a landscape of constant change'

Is this a sensible place to build a nuclear power station at all, especially now we know that climate change is a reality?

Manchester University climate, energy and research institute at The Tyndall Centre reported:

The non- nuclear pathway is credible

Health impacts are fewer

Nuclear waste is an unresolved issue; a new nuclear programme will increase the overall radioactivity of the waste stores by 265%

As the Tyndall report says, "The waste is still an insurmountable problem. No-one knows how to contain such toxic material in a safe and permanent way."

Surely we need to solve this problem as a matter of priority?

With the cost of renewables going down: ("to the point where they now require very little subsidy and will soon require none..... renewable energy may now not just be cheap but also readily available"; as Greg Clark said in January in the same speech.) may I urge you to concentrate on methods of energy production which has a less harmful impact in the long term.

EDF argue that renewable energy is not constant but with more research into energy storage this problem could be solved.

Will you spend wisely and invest in renewable power and energy storage?

It is even more necessary to spend wisely now that so much is being spent on preventing the country from going under in the current situation.

Greg Clark said in January: "We need to consider a new approach to financing future projects, including Sizewell" and so he proposed looking at the viability of a: Regulated Asset Base model and assessing whether it can offer value for money for consumers and taxpayers.

It is patently obvious that nuclear will not fit into a value for money base model.

It is expensive, out of date and the waste is dangerous.

EDF will want compensation for the work they have already done but is it not better to cut our losses now than to teeter on towards a hugely expensive, out-dated industry which will leave a toxic legacy for our children and grandchildren?

With the urgent need for all countries to reduce their carbon footprint it is vital that we continue to lead the way. Research shows that nuclear power does not provide low carbon energy.

Keith Barham, professor of physics at Imperial College, London has estimated that 'half of the most rigorously published analyses have a carbon footprint for nuclear power above the limit recommended by the UK government's official climate change advisor, the Committee of Climate Change'

It would be totally irresponsible:

to build more nuclear power stations

to accumulate more radioactive waste

to destroy more habitats, SSSIs, AONBs which are essential to the welfare of the planet, salt marshes, reed-beds, heath and grassland are essential stores of carbon dioxide

And I therefore urge you to call a halt to EDF's plans and put a stop to all nuclear build.

It is for the welfare of the planet and a responsibility that we must abide by to leave a better place for our descendants.

Yours sincerely

Alison Shirreff



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20 MAY 2020

28th. July 2019

Dear EDF,

So, a fourth consultation, again, well displayed and explained, but not really getting to the nub of the problem. You are looking at the cosmetic details but missing the bigger picture, especially in the light of the present climate: the reality of global warming and the necessity for carbon capture.

We all know the importance of peat, marshland flora and woodland to absorb CO₂.

Your own environmental impact statement says that the AONB has importance in a National context for biodiversity as it contains important areas of heath and acid grassland which supports a high number of protected species populations.

The SSSI is of international importance and one of the most significant in lowland Britain as it helps: regulate climate, carbon storage, water storage, flood defence, flood prevention and climate change adaption through linked habitats.

If you had studied this you would have stopped immediately.

The National Infrastructure Committee has said that nuclear is a "20th. Century industrial failure", and that it has become too expensive. It advised that we should not rush to tie ourselves to an expensive nuclear future. It suggested we should back more renewable energy projects and invest more in storage, which I understand you are considering so I urge you to turn the corner and leave all thoughts of nuclear behind.

Your people enthusiastically told me about the Regulated Asset Base (RAB), as though it will solve all financial problems. The electricity in the end should be cheaper but the consumer bares the brunt of overruns and provides financing at zero interest, according to the National Infrastructure committee. The RAB model has never been used on anything as complex or as risky as nuclear power says the NIC.

Your deal with the Government regarding Hinkley has also been criticised by the NIC who said that the consumer will 'be paying through the nose'. How can you expect people to pay over £90 per megawatt hour with a Government guarantee on it which means that the energy user and tax payer foots the bill should the price fall below this?

Surely you can see the unfairness of such an agreement.

There are so many things that you do not seem to have addressed in your consultations.

Your carefully exhibited information is extraordinarily vague and in many cases the key to maps and plans were impossible to read. Having said this I deliberately spent a great deal of time researching your plans and still find that you are glossing over the detail.

You still have not fully considered:

the fragility of the area and the site. The impact on the peat, possible water and dust pollution and loss of habitat which cannot be replaced:

You have increased the size of the site and put in compensatory replacements for the areas of fen meadow habitats and marsh harrier hunting grounds but these are far away from the original sites and there is no plan for corridors or connections to restore things in equal measure.

The impact on the local villages both for accommodation and roads, neither of which have been thought out with the neighbourhood or the future in mind.

The impact on the tourist industry, you say there will be a 1% loss, it will be considerably more.

The grey water which will accumulate and feed into a system which is already at capacity.

And what about the waste? You say there will be less in volume with the new technology but what has not been broadcast is that this waste will be considerably more radioactive than that from Sizewell B.

We do not know what to do with the waste we have from the very first nuclear power station. When I asked your experts about this they were adamant that waste from past nuclear power stations was a government problem and the waste from the new design of nuclear power stations was so small as to be negligible.

I find this extremely irresponsible.

Until we have solved this problem it is immoral to continue to build these monstrosities.

I urge you to put everything on hold before you spend more millions on this white elephant.

I and a thousand like me will be writing to the Government to urge them to follow a more sensible and sensitive way.

Yours sincerely

Alison Shirreff



29th. January 2020

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of 4th. March 2019 I would like to emphasise my very great concern for what you are already doing on this vulnerable part of the coast.

Nuclear power might be carbon neutral, though even that is questionable, but the disturbances you have created already in you preparation to build Sizewell C and D are releasing huge quantities of carbon dioxide.

Peatland, if not disturbed or dried out is a better carbon storehouse than the rainforest, taken acre by acre. To stockpile the carbon they need plants to absorb the CO2 through photosynthesis, and water to create anaerobic conditions and so stop CO2 from escaping.

Peatlands collect carbon, purify water, protect against flooding and support biodiversity.

They hold ten times more carbon per acre than other ecosystems so can become powerful greenhouse chimneys when disrupted so it is imperative that they maintain their ecological integrity.

Scientific researchers have been working hard and their findings are vital to ensure that the welfare of this planet is maintained.

Your work at Sizewell in disturbing the acid grassland, heathland, marshes and now Coronation Wood is nothing short of vandalism.

I know that the council has given you the go-ahead but that permission was granted in ignorance.

I therefore urge you to rethink your plans and retreat.

Nuclear energy has priced itself out of the market anyway so would it not be both political and wise to stop all activity in preparation for a project that, if sense prevails, will never see the light of day.

Renewables are the way forward so perhaps you could use this land for solar panels? The peat can lie undisturbed below

Yours sincerely,

Alison Shirreff