

**P-04-514 A Welsh clean coal and/or renewable energy power station instead of the proposed Wylfa B nuclear plant at Anglesey, Correspondence from People Against Wylfa B (PAWB), to the Clerking Team 10.02.2014.**

Dear Kayleigh Driscoll,

I am writing on behalf of PAWB, Pobl Atal Wylfa B/People Against Wylfa B, in response to a letter sent by the Minister, Alun Davies AM, to the Chair of the Petitions Committee, William Powell AM.

The letter is disappointing and superficial in many respects. It refers to the role that the Welsh Government expects fossil fuels to continue to play in Welsh life. Superficial reference is made to carbon capture and storage technology, without elaborating on the fact that Hitachi claims to be a leader in this technology. The main thrust of the Sovereign Wales petition is that GEHitachi should not waste billions of pounds on expensive, hazardous and radioactively toxic nuclear reactors at Wylfa in Anglesey. The Welsh Government should discuss what the options are for Hitachi to invest in clean coal technology in Wales.

The Minister's analysis of the possibilities relating to the Wylfa B project is very superficial. Reference is made only to the potential economic benefits to north west Wales of proceeding with the construction of Wylfa B. Horizon has admitted publicly that at least 75% of the construction workforce for Wylfa B will come from outside the local area. In this context, that means the whole of north Wales, as far as Chester and Merseyside. Therefore, the prospect of jobs for local people has been greatly exaggerated.

The Minister does not refer at all to what would happen to the radioactive waste that would be generated from Hitachi's boiling water reactors. The nightmare facing the people of Anglesey and the rest of Wales would be to see waste that is twice as hot and twice as radioactive being stored at the Wylfa site for at least 150 years. Again, Horizon has admitted that this would be the case. The British state has no idea what to do with all the radioactive waste that has been produced over the last half century, let alone adding to the waste mountain with new, more dangerous types of radioactive waste. Who can give an honest assurance that storage of this kind at surface level in the north of Anglesey would be safe for such long a period? Who can guarantee political, economic, military, climatic and geological stability over such a period? The politicians in London and Cardiff who blindly support dangerous, outdated, and extremely expensive technology are oppressing the people of Wales environmentally, socially, linguistically and culturally, not to mention economically. Through the agreement between the Westminster Government and EDF on the strike price of £92.50 per megawatt/hour over a period of 35 years, and the construction of two EPR reactors at Hinkley Point C, less than 20 miles from the Welsh parliament across the Severn estuary, we saw that we as electricity consumers and taxpayers will be paying through the nose for expensive nuclear electricity

that will threaten all of our ecosystems. We are thankful that, at the moment, the European Commissioner for Competition has called in this contract for inspection to see whether it contravenes EU competition guidelines. It has already published an initial report that is highly critical of the contract, and the fact that it relies heavily on unfair state subsidy. It is now expected that the Commissioner will prepare a thorough report on the contract. Accordingly, there is no guarantee that any new nuclear plant will be built in England or Wales.

Therefore, it would be appropriate for members of the Petitions Committee to give favourable and detailed consideration to the Sovereign Wales petition in its meeting on 18 February.

Sincerely,

Dylan Morgan, Coordinator PAWB, People against Wifa B