

P-04-514 W A Welsh clean coal andor renewable energy power station instead of the proposed Wylfa b nuclear plant at Anglesey – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 18.06.15

Dear all at the panel,

I write in response to Mrs Edwina Hart's letter dated June 17th 2015 in regard to Petition number P-04-514 / 'A clean coal power station for Wylfa Newydd instead of a nuclear one'. I'll try and make my reply as brief as possible.

Mrs Hart is incorrect again in her statement that “CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) technology has not yet been successfully commercialised”. Alun Davies previously made the same incorrect statement as the former Minister. This New Scientist article reports on a new retro fitted CCS plant in Canada (Boundary Dam) that is the first commercial station to become a working coal fired power station, with 90% of its CO2 emissions captured:

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22129593.300-trailblazing-power-plant-is-first-to-bury-its-carbon.html#.U6HS0bEhUdV>

The turbines/generator for the plant are supplied by General Electric and Hitachi.

Kemper County power station in Mississippi will soon follow to become the second CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) coal power station. The station is scheduled to open in the first half of 2016:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kemper_Project

In other words, Carbon Carbon Storage is up and running and is commercially viable.

According to this report (attached) by Hitachi, last updated in 2014, their next generation power plants with CCS will enable carbon storage and near-zero emissions within the next decade

http://www.hitachi.com/rev/pdf/2010/r2010_03_111.pdf

This below extract can be found in their conclusion:

"Hitachi's next generation ultrasupercritical power plants with CCS will

enable carbon storage and near-zero emissions within the next decade"

Other brief point why the proposals for a nuclear Wylfa newydd are dangerous and unviable:

* The German Government, after their research showed increased rates of childhood cancers and leukaemia around nuclear sites, especially in children under 5, is closing all its nuclear power stations by 2022. The Welsh Government has a duty of care to follow suit and not risk the lives of children and people in Ynys Mon, the rest of Wales and beyond.

* Nuclear plants are a dangerous and uneconomical method of producing electricity, with a short unviable operational time span which costs tax payers tens of billions in development, subsidies and decommissioning costs. As well as being vulnerable to attack and natural disasters as seen in Fukushima, nuclear power has known health risks. With no known method of disposing of the nuclear waste, it will also contaminate the planet for thousands of years.

* Ynys Mon's PAWB manifesto states that, whilst the proposed Wylfa Newydd would provide 1,000 jobs once it begins working, up to 3650 new jobs could be found by developing local renewable energy projects alone as an alternative to a nuclear plant. This before even considering a clean coal power plant.

* The DECC has a £1 billion pound fund to support developing commercial Carbon Capture Storage and it has been shown that CCS technology works commercially. The Welsh Government and Hitachi therefore have a clear duty to acknowledge that there is no need for a nuclear plant at Wylfa and that there are better, cheaper and safer options such as clean coal and renewable energy options.

* Even if a person is in favour of nuclear power, the proposed plans for a Wylfa Newydd are flawed as they would be using the antiquated nuclear fission method of producing power. Other nuclear technologies such as nuclear fusion (as opposed to fission) are far safer, more effective and produce next to no waste. Nuclear fission energy production such as that proposed for Ynys Mon is not a renewable energy and will produce a vast amount of toxic waste which nobody knows what to do with. The waste also creates astronomical containment costs and serious health and pollution problems for present and future generations. It goes without saying that

the Welsh government has an unequivocal duty of care to the people of Wales and beyond to avoid this.

The Welsh Government can't avoid its duty of care and can't therefore allow this new nuclear site to go ahead in Ynys Mon. As I'm hoping you will agree, it therefore follows that the Welsh Assembly also has a duty of care to hold the Welsh Government to account over this to ensure it cannot go ahead with these proposals for the reasons given above.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this,

Sincerely,

G.Meredith