

EDF's application for the *Development Consent Order* for Sizewell C. This means that they were absent from the plans approved by the Secretary of State in July 2022 after he had overturned the Planning Inspectors' recommendation for refusal.

There are very different estimates of the cost of building Sizewell C and of the time it will take to build. The government official estimate is the cost is £20bn, while the University of Greenwich Business School estimates the cost could be more as much as £43.8bn. (In either case, it's hardly cheap!) It is not clear whether the cost of building the sea walls is included in these figures. The business school estimates construction would take 17 years, while the EDF estimate is 9-12 years.



*Sizewell C: artist's impression (without sea walls!)*

**FOOTNOTE.** The UK's last coal-fired power station, Ratcliffe-on-Soar closed down on October 1, 2024. The closure ended the country's 142-year history of burning coal to generate electricity. The UK is now the first G7 nation to end its use of coal to fuel power stations.. How long before the UK's last nuclear-fuelled power station shuts down?

# KICK NUCLEAR

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The monthly newsletter of the *Kick Nuclear* group

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We hold “**Remember Fukushima – End Nuclear Power**” vigils in London **on the last Friday of each month**, from 11am to 12.30pm outside the Japanese Embassy at 101-104 Piccadilly, followed by from 1-2pm outside the offices of the Tokyo Electric Power Company, owners of Fukushima, at 14-18 Holborn WC2. Join us!

Copy date for November edition: November 1.

## **BILLIONS MORE NEEDED TO FINISH HINKLEY POINT C**

It was reported in the *Guardian* on October 11 that *Electricité de France*, which currently has a 66.5% stake in the Hinkley Point C 2-reactor nuclear power station, is in talks with investors to raise up to £4bn to finish the project. Indeed, so desperate is the government to find new investors, that is offering to guarantee investors that if Hinkley C is not completed they will get their investment repaid. With the example of HS2 in mind, this is not an unlikely possibility.

State Company Chinese General Nuclear (CGN) currently has a 33.5% stake, but declined to continue funding the project beyond its contracted term, which ended in 2023. This follows the UK government renegeing on an agreement with CGN for it to build its own Chinese-designed nuclear power station at Bradwell in Essex. No doubt CGN would like to sell its stake.

To recap: In 2012, it was estimated that the cost of the project would be £16 billion; the latest estimate is £47.9bn in today's money. In

2017 when building started it was estimated it would be finished building by 2025; the latest estimate is around 2030.



*Hinkley Point C in construction*

## **SELLAFIELD FINED NEARLY £400,000**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at Westminster Magistrates' Court, Sellafield Ltd. Pleaded guilty to cyber security offences between 2019 and 2023 and was fined £332,500, plus £53,200 for prosecution costs.

The charges were laid by the UK's chief nuclear regulator, the *Office for Nuclear Regulation* (ONR) which found that 75% of Sellafield's computers were vulnerable to cyber attack.

In 2023, a "Nuclear Leaks" investigation by the Guardian had found a string of IT failings at Sellafield over several years, radioactive contamination and a toxic workplace culture. The investigation also found that the site's systems had been hacked by groups linked to Russia and China that had embedded sleeper malware that could be used to spy or attack systems.

However, in sentencing the chief magistrate ruled that since the prosecution had not offered any evidence of a successful cyber-

attack, but only asserted that it was impossible for Sellafield to prove the site had not been effectively attacked, Sellafield could only be sentenced on the basis that there had been no evidence put before the court of "actual harm" arising from any attacks.

The chief magistrate also said he had reduced the fine by a third because of Sellafield's entering a guilty plea and the fact that Sellafield was state-funded.



*Sellafield: Europe's biggest nuclear waste dump*

## **THE SEA SHALL NOT HAVE THEM!**

*Together Against Sizewell C*, (TASC) in a press release dated October 4 reported that Sizewell's owners, *Electricité de France* (EDF), had plans for erecting two 30-foot sea walls to act as flood barriers to protect the site of Sizewell A, Sizewell B and the site for the planned Sizewell C nuclear power station from being inundated by the ever-rising North Sea. Indeed the existing Sizewell plants have long been considered under a high risk of flooding.

This information was divulged by ONR as part of its justification for issuing a nuclear site licence for Sizewell C nuclear development.

TASC reports that ONR claims that Sizewell C Ltd is "committed" to install these structures "should climate change be worse than is reasonably foreseeable". despite there being no mention of them in