

KICK NUCLEAR & NUCLEAR TRAINS

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REGULAR FRIDAY SOLIDARITY VIGILS

Every Friday (since August 2012): leafletting outside the Japanese Embassy, 101-104 Piccadilly (Green Park tube) from 10am-12.30pm; and then outside Tokyo Electric Power Co. offices, 14-18 Holborn (Chancery Lane tube) from 1-1.30pm. Held in solidarity with the anti-nuclear movement in Japan. Organised by: *Kick Nuclear* and *Japanese Against Nuclear UK* (JAN UK)

NEXT JOINT KN/NTAG PLANNING MEETINGS

Monday January 8th, 7pm, At CND Office. (Address at top.)

FUKUSHIMA 7th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Friday March 9th, 2018: Vigil outside Japanese Embassy, 5.30-7.30pm.

Sunday March 11th: March from Japanese Embassy to Houses of Parliament for **Rally** in Old Palace Yard. Assemble for march outside Embassy at noon.

Wednesday March 14th: Public Meeting in Parliament, in Attlee Room, Portcullis House.

WASTING OUR TIME?

Our regular Friday solidarity vigil outside the Japanese Embassy and the TEPCO offices has lasted for 5¾ years on virtually every Friday. During that time we have distributed tens of thousands of leaflets. We are often told by passers-by that they “believe” in nuclear power, that nuclear power is “needed to keep the lights on”, even that it is “the cheapest form of energy”, and other things which parrot government and industry propaganda, but which are for the most part entirely false.

Another thing that passers-by are eager to tell us is that we are wasting our time or

that the government won't take any notice and other things of that ilk. And it is true we can't show that our long vigil has made the slightest difference to government policy.

So how do we reply to this latter charge?

One of the regular participants in these vigils, Bunny, now 87, who previously was a regular supporter of Brian Haw's 10-year peace camp in Parliament Square, has written the below riposte:

IN PRAISE OF FAILURE

Failure, Failure, Failure
Failure is my name,
Failure, Failure, Failure,
Failure is my fame.

If we count up all the failures;
If we count up all the “shame”;
If we count up all the scoffing;
If we count up all the blame:

Let's count the many failures;
Let's remember every flop;
Let's count the many cock-ups;
All these help us to the top:

Not the top of Private Profit
Not the top of ladder climb
But the top we share together
Yes, the top where all may shine.

The path to change is paved with failures
Embrace these failures – Yes!
If it wasn't for these failures
We would still be in a mess.

So if, like me, your name is Failure,
Just remember this, my friend:
If it wasn't for our failures
Life would never reach the end –

An end that is a new beginning
Of a system truly great;
That will people raise to levels
Never viewed in Cap'list state.

MOORSIDE OWNERSHIP CHANGING AGAIN?

Ownership of the company supposedly intending to build a new nuclear power station at Moorside, next to the Sellafield site, has had a very chequered history.

As long ago as 2009, Sellafield was chosen by the UK Government as one of 10 sites (soon reduced to 8) where a new generation of nuclear power stations was to be built. The company, NuGen, was set up to build the power station. The company was originally owned 37½% each by the French company GDF Suez and the Spanish company Iberdrola and 25% by the UK company Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE).

In September 2011, 6 months after Fukushima, SSE withdrew from the project, leaving the other two companies with 50% each. Less than two years later, December 2013, Iberdrola sold its 50% stake to Toshiba and a month later GDF sold 20% of its 50% stake to Japanese company Toshiba. The plan was to build a Westinghouse AP1000 design reactor, Westinghouse being a US company that was bought by Toshiba in 2006. Land for this next to Sellafield was purchased in July 2015.

In March 2017 the UK regulator approved the AP1000 design: however the same month Westinghouse was forced to file for bankruptcy, mainly as a result of losing immense sums in attempting to build four AP1000 reactors in the US. Toshiba, also suffering large-scale losses largely as a consequence, announced it would build no more reactors outside Japan, and the following month, GDF Suez by then renamed “Engie” withdrew from the project leaving Toshiba with 100% control of the project it clearly wanted to abandon. By then Moorside was looking dead and buried.

However, in December 2017 it was reported that the South Korean firm KEPCO had been declared “preferred bidder” to take over the Moorside project from Toshiba. The only other bidder that had come forward was the Chinese state company CGN, which had previously conditionally agreed with the UK government and EDF to fund 33.5% of the building of Hinkley C, 20% of that of Sizewell C and 66.5% of that of Bradwell B, in return for being allowed to build its own design at Bradwell.

But what does being the “preferred bidder” mean? It presumably doesn’t mean that KEPCO has actually made a bid, let alone invested any money, only that it has been invited to make a bid *first!*

However, KEPCO is looking for business outside South Korea, given that the South Korean government announced in June 2017 that it intended to have no more nuclear power stations built in South Korea.

It is reported that KEPCO as planning to build two of its APR-1400 reactors at Moorside. This would mean that even if this project gets off the ground immediately it is unlikely a station will be operating at Moorside anytime soon. The APR-1400 design will need go through the generic design assessment required for regulatory approval in the UK; this normally takes 4-5 years; and also KEPCO would have to negotiate with the government for a guaranteed price for power from the Moorside plant, like EDF did for that from Hinkley C. KEPCO would be unlikely to get such a generous guaranteed price as EDF did for the electricity from Hinkley C given that the cost of electricity from renewables has fallen well below that guaranteed for the electricity from Hinkley C.

This all means would take us at least to 2022 before building could begin and with nuclear power stations taking up to 10 years building, Moorside would not be operating before 2030.

UK ATTITUDES HARDEN FOR RENEWABLES

The Government’s “Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy” issues a quarterly “Energy and Climate Change Public Attitude Tracker”

The latest findings for the period September to October 2018 showed high support for renewables, combined with an increase from the same period the year before. It also shows a much lower, but stable, number for those supporting nuclear power, greater than those opposing combined with a large proportion undecided on the issue.

Thus the findings for renewables in the Sept.-Oct. period were (figures in brackets the figures for a year previously.)

Support: 82% (79%), with only 3% opposed. Support for various forms of renewable energy varied: 84% for solar energy; 79% both for off-shore wind and for wave and tidal; 74% for on-shore wind and 69% for biomass.

Support for energy was 33% (33%), compared with 25% (26%) against, but with 40% undecided. Interestingly the following groups expressed the largest support for nuclear energy: those with incomes of more than £50,000 (42%); those aged over 65 (42%); males (40%) and those in AB social grades (38%).

Asked what they knew about the way the UK manages its nuclear waste only 14% of respondents said they knew a lot or a fair amount about the way the UK manages it, whilst 86% knew not very much or nothing at all about it.