

Fukushima disaster has affected and continues to affect their lives. Plus scientist, Dr. Ian Fairlie, on the continuing dangers from the ruined reactors. Free. Allow 20 minutes to get through security at main St. Stephen's Entrance. <https://kicknuclear.com/>

Wednesday March 20th, 7pm: Film Screening and talks by Akiko Morimatsu, who evacuated to Osaka with two young children after Fukushima Disaster and leading campaigner on behalf of victims of disaster and Asami Yokota who remained in Fukushima but evacuated her son to Hokkaido In Room B104, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, off Russell Square WC1. Free. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1503536093114824/>

RADIOACTIVE IRISH BORDER DUMP PLAN

As if the British Government hadn't been doing enough to antagonise the people of Ireland, north and south, over its failure to agree a Brexit deal that doesn't involve a new hard border between the Republic and Northern Ireland and/or a customs border between Northern Ireland and Britain, it was reported in the Irish Republican News in February that "the town of Newry is being considered as a location to dispose of British nuclear waste..."

Newry is nicely placed in Northern Ireland near the border with the Irish Republic so as to be in a good position to further antagonise both communities.

Indeed nothing could better demonstrate the continuing colonial attitude of Britain towards Ireland than to consider dumping its nuclear waste there after failing to find any community in Britain willing to host this waste on a long-term basis. The fact both parts of Ireland are entirely free of nuclear plants and therefore of nuclear waste of its own, "thanks to the efforts of environmental campaigners dating from 1978", as the Republican News claims, makes the idea of polluting it by dumping British nuclear waste there even more outrageous.

As the Republican News report continues: "However, the London government has said it wants just one site for British nuclear waste, and five locations in the north of Ireland are under consideration.

"Radioactive waste is currently stored at about 30 sites across Britain, predominantly at ground level at the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria. Emissions from that extended nuclear complex have in the past been linked to high levels of radioactivity in the Irish Sea and clusters of disease in County Louth.

"There are granites and similar strong rocks around Newry, in which we

may be able to site a GDF [geological disposal facility],' according to a report for the British state. 'We would need to do more work to find out whether these rocks have suitable properties and thicknesses in the depth range of interest for a GDF.'

"On Monday, an emergency motion was passed at the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, unanimously opposing locating any nuclear waste facility in the local area.

"Sinn Féin MP for South Down, Chris Hazzard, said Britain could not be allowed to use the North 'as a dumping ground' for its hazardous and toxic waste.

"Not only would this have dire consequences for our environment but it would also pose a serious health risk to the population,' he said. 'This shows once again the complete and total disregard the British government has for the north of Ireland and its people.'

"A petition to ensure the north of Ireland is not used as a dump for British nuclear waste has already been signed by 12,000 people. It can be signed at this web address: <https://bit.ly/2BusUSC>"

THE FUTURE FOR NUCLEAR IN THE UK

As reported in the November and January editions of these newsletters, plans for three extremely powerful new nuclear power plants in the UK were abandoned in the space of two months either side of Christmas.

In this article I want to explore in more detail how that leaves the prospect for nuclear power in the UK.

There are currently 15 nuclear reactors supposedly operating in the UK. However two of them – at Hunterston in Scotland - have both been shut down for nearly a year because of extensive cracking of their reactor vessels and perhaps are unlikely to reopen. All except one of the remainder are of the "Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactor" (AGR) type that started operating between 1976 and 1989, with original planned closure dates between 2008 and 2018; these have been extended to between 2023 and 2030 so they are all operating beyond their intended lives and some have also suffered cracking to their reactor vessels. The final one is Sizewell B, a Pressurised-Water Reactor (PWR) that started operating in 1995, with a planned closure date of 2035.

The UK made the decision as long ago as 2008 to build a new generation of nuclear power stations, originally 10 in number, rapidly reduced to eight. Now, 11 years later, with the cancellation of three of these we are left with just

one new nuclear power station in construction – a European Pressurised Reactor (EPR), Hinkley C, being built by Electricité de France - and four sites still supposedly available for construction of new nuclear power stations. However plans to build at one of them, Heysham, were dropped in 2012, and no plans have ever been put forward for building a nuclear power station at another, Hartlepool. At the other two, Sizewell and Bradwell there are plans by Electricité de France to build a French EPR at Sizewell like that being built at Hinkley C and plans by a Chinese state company to build a PWR of its own design at Bradwell. Both of these plans seem to be in abeyance.

There is some doubt also about when if ever Hinkley C will go into operation. Only four EPRs have been or are being built apart from Hinkley C and all of them have been much longer in construction than originally planned and have all vastly exceeded their original budgets.

Thus, the French company Areva is building an EPR at Okiluoto. Building was started in 2005 with an estimated operation date of 2009, but the latest prediction by its builders, in November 2018, is for it to start operation in September 2019, a whole decade late and in July 2018 EDF said the cost of the project had ballooned to 10.9 billion euros, triple the original estimate.

The EPR being built by EDF in France, at Flamanville began building in 2007 with a predicted opening date of 2012. In November 2018 EDF announced problems with weldings had pushed back its start-up date to the second quarter of 2020, eight years later. Meanwhile the cost of the project has risen from 3 billion euros to 10.5 billion euros, also over 3 times the original estimated cost.

The two EPRs being built in China, at Taishan, began construction in 2009 and 2010 respectively, with construction planned to last four years. The first of these didn't begin operation until December 2018, some five years late, and the second is predicted to be opening in 2019. The cost of the project must have also increased greatly because of the considerable delays, but I can't find published figures for this.

FUKUSHIMA UPDATE, 2019

Kick Nuclear has held a vigil outside the Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly (nearest tube; Piccadilly), from 10am to 12.30pm since August 2012. During that time we have given out thousands of successive "updates" on the continuing tragedy at Fukushima as well as leaflets calling for the UK to give up nuclear power. The updates are written by regular vigiller, Rik Garfield- Mottram. The 2019 update is just being published. If you would a copy e-mailed, please let me know. Also, we would welcome more people coming to the vigil, eve on an irregular or one-off basis. David Polden

KICK NUCLEAR & NUCLEAR TRAINS

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Editor: David Polden, Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Rd. N7 8DQ
www.kicknuclear.com ; www.nonucleartrains.org.uk ; 020-7700 2393

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

Thursday March 21st, 7pm, at CND Office (Address above.)

FUKUSHIMA ANNIVERSARY EVENTS, 2019

Monday March 11th, 5.30-7.30pm: Vigil outside the Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly W1 (nearest tube: Green Park, with speakers, poetry and music.)

Wednesday March 13th, 7pm: "The End of Nuclear Power in the UK?" Talk by Dr. Ian Fairlie, nuclear expert, at Jackson's Lane Community Centre, N6 (Corner of Jackson's Lane and Archway Road N6. Other side of Archway Road from Highgate tube. Org. Haringey CND. Info. davidtrpolden1@gmail.com)

Saturday March 16th: March from Japanese Embassy to Parliament for rally outside it, in Old Palace Yard with speakers, poetry and music also. Meet noon outside Japanese Embassy for march; rally from 2 to 3.30pm.

Tuesday March 19th, 7-9pm: "The Continuing Effects of the Fukushima Disaster" Public meeting in Committee Room 9, House of Commons with three Fukushima mothers recounting how the