WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

SIZEWELL C PLANNING EXAMINATION

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Deadline 7 Comments 2

I did not intend to comment in the policy and need special issue hearing unless topics I had already touched on in my evidence came up , The questions on Wylfa did relate to my initial representation , but other matters were also of interest to me and all my statements were spontaneous and not prepared . I would therefore like to qualify how one or two things relate to the question of need for Sizewell C , in addition to the comments I have already made at the hearing .

Since the Sizewell B Public Inquiry in 1983 , I have been convinced of the importance of retaining the role of wood as a source of heating . However you look at it it is a good idea unless you are a vested interest in electricity supply .

When grown in the right quantity and coppiced in a balanced ratio to growth it is a zero carbon fuel . It is very efficient for home heating in a well insulated , draught-proofed and double glazed house or similar environment , if used in a wood burning stove.

It has all the advantages of coal without the disadvantages . Only bulk is an issue, but it's lightness and potability outweighs this .

It is of supreme importance above all other fuels except bio-diesel in the rural community as it is available when forms of heating dependant on electricity have failed because of system breakdown – especially that related to harsh winter weather .

The main problem of wood energy is that no-one has listened . In fact , governments have done everything to quash support for wood energy

because it is a large resource that can compete with electricity for the rural domestic heating market . This policy of government , together with the policy of replacing oil systems with gas on the farms , has created a substantial threat to life , as no back up system is on offer to heating that relies on electricity .

Wood stocks that should have been planted years ago have been denied , It has become a matter of policy to grow trees for carbon tie up as an offset for use of non Carbon neutral fuels , thus taking land away from the possibility of being used to supply primary energy .This , particularly now , when we cannot be sure that climate problems will allow for tree growth at expected levels. (trees are far more vulnerable to drought and scorching while still young). There are many crops that will tie up carbon much more efficiently than trees in comparison to land acreage required .

However , just like the very threat to electricity supplies that depend on wires , high winds also threaten large mature trees .In the Great Storm of 1987 (I was at Goudhurst in Kent , picking apples) I witnessed the destruction of the trees – it was the largest and most mature trees that were being felled by the wind , and when they fell , their substantial size and weight caused them to uproot , thereby killing them . I believe that coppicing will help save many trees from the high winds that are going to befall us due to the foreseen climate instability . A measured approach using a percentage of mature trees in the rural areas for wood resource will be an insurance policy should 1987 re-occur , in which one third of the trees in Southern England became victim .

In addition to that , a programme of hemp production to tie up carbon at the same time would be desirable with half the crop creating articles , the other half used for bio-fuel . According to the Ecologist Magazine Hempathy Issue 1982 , hemp produces 7 times more pulp than forestry per hectare , and grows on poor soil whilst surviving drought and hot weather . The experiment of growing it in Northern Ireland , in the most unsuited environment possible , which resulted in rust disease , should be ignored .

I think I have given you the main points , and would suggest that home heating by Sizewell C electricity is not the most desirable way of approaching the coming decades , but suffice it to say that if the rural areas were returned to primary energy supplied by trees and bio-fuels , the same effect of allowing the urban regions to have preference for carbon credits remaining until the very uncertain conversion to carbon neutrality can be achieved , would still happen without the need for nuclear power , which cannot be relied on to decrease the less wealthy worlds retreat from greenhouse gas production , and neither has the supplies of uranium on the planet to achieve very much success in this anyway .