



# Together Against Sizewell C

C/o Wood Farm, Westward Ho, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HT

20th December 2024 (by email only)

Rt Hon Ed Miliband

Secretary of State, Dept. of Energy Security and Net Zero

Dear Mr Miliband,

Your speech to the NIA Conference 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Together Against Sizewell C (TASC) comment on the claim made in your speech to the NIA conference on 6<sup>th</sup> December, that nuclear power is 'clean'.

It is a truism to say that, if the same thing is repeated enough times, it will soon be accepted as a fact by most people forming their opinions from what they read in the populist media. Nuclear is 'carbon free' is one such oft repeated 'fact' which is untrue. Nuclear power is 'clean power', is another. Politicians who believe in either of these 'truths', freely uttered unconditionally, unchallenged and as frequently as they can, blatantly ignore the wealth of information which demonstrates that, across the nuclear fuel chain, from uranium mining, to fuel fabrication, plant construction over a 15 year period, operating the plant for 60 years, refuelling, storage of waste and the eventual disposal of that waste in a geological disposal facility – mooted 17 years ago but still nowhere in sight – nuclear power is neither clean nor zero carbon. TASC would be pleased if you could advise how nuclear power can legitimately be described as clean when:-

1. There are pollutants generated from the mining, milling, fabrication and enrichment to produce the nuclear fuel which mainly affects indigenous peoples in producer countries,
2. Pollutants are discharged to air and water which, in the case of an operational Sizewell C, includes thousands of tonnes of dead fish, heavy

metals, chlorine and the cocktail of other chemicals that will be discharged to the North Sea annually from the plant's cooling water system <sup>1</sup>, and

3. Based on Nuclear Waste Services figures which predict that the 3.2 Gigawatt-scale Sizewell C will create near 4,000 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel – lethal waste – over its 60 year supposed lifetime, it follows that the Government's 24Gw target will create around eight times as much, i.e. 32,000 tonnes, for which there is no universally agreed management programme, nor any waste repository and which will be an environmental, as well as financial, burden for future generations for thousands of years.

By the time Sizewell C is making any contribution at all to driving down climate change gas production, the entire economy will be only a few years away from being at net zero carbon, by law, and any such contribution from Sizewell C will be used to off-set the millions of tonnes of carbon the construction of the plant has created. According to the government's 'Clean Power 2030 Action Plan' Great Britain will be 'a net exporter of electricity' by 2030 meaning Sizewell C's contribution is expected to be surplus to requirements if and when it eventually comes online.

Looking at the area surrounding Sizewell today, a reported 40 sites to be used for lay-down areas, park and ride location, campuses for the potential 15,000 workers soon to invade East Suffolk, are now denuded of vegetation, shorn of trees and left bare and devoid of wildlife. Dust and other particulate matter will be created throughout the construction period to add to the health impact; hundreds of millions of fish will die annually, sucked into the cooling seawater intake and spat out at the other end, back into Sizewell Bay, dead, mutilated and dying. The Environment Agency, committed to 'protecting and improving the environment', has approved the discharge of a cocktail of chemicals, metals and radioactive material to the sea and air while being uncertain of the health impact they create and appear not interested in finding out.

In addition to the spent fuel inventory from Sizewell B, 4,000 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel from Sizewell C will be stored on one of Europe's fastest eroding coastlines at the edge of a town of 6,000 people, for decades, possibly for ever, unless the mythical 'Geological Disposal Facility', first mooted in earnest in 2007, ever becomes a reality. The unimaginable amount of radioactivity locked up in the spent nuclear fuel is of course, as the industry and government will tell you repeatedly and often, 'safely stored' – until it is either attacked maliciously by a malevolent force or through accident, an event which will put to the test the belief that the emergency evacuation plan will, as is hoped, remove thousands of people – potentially including those involved in building

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<sup>1</sup> Table S3.1 in the Environment Agency's Water Discharge Activity Permit sets out the quantities allowed to be discharged into the North Sea from the plant's cooling water system, including up to 1,590 tonnes of dead and dying fish from the Fish Return and Recovery system each year for 60 years of operation [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6422d96c3d885d000cdadc7a/NNB\\_Generation\\_Company\\_SZC\\_Limited\\_-\\_permit\\_for\\_water\\_discharge\\_activities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6422d96c3d885d000cdadc7a/NNB_Generation_Company_SZC_Limited_-_permit_for_water_discharge_activities.pdf)

Sizewell C – safely and quickly from the area to avoid contamination by the radioactive cloud.

For all the above reasons, it is TASC's opinion, that those who choose to ignore the evidence that clearly demonstrates nuclear power is not clean, are guilty of gross distortion of the facts and are therefore gaslighting the British public.

Yours sincerely,

Pete Wilkinson on behalf of TASC