

**P-04-514 A Welsh clean coal and/or renewable energy power station instead of the proposed Wylfa B nuclear plant at Anglesey, - Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 11.02.14**

"Thanks to Mr Davies for his reply regarding the alternative Wylfa B clean coal/renewable energy petition. Mr Davies says that 5000 jobs could be created in the construction phase of a nuclear power plant in Ynys Mon and only 800 as full time jobs afterwards. Ynys Mon's PAWB's (whom I have worked with on this petition and who have also sent in a reply to Mr Davies' response) manifesto states that up to 2950 full time jobs could be created by equivalent renewable energy generation, with 700 extra also being employed over 20 years in the decommissioning process. This 3560 employment figure alone makes the proposed 800 full time jobs offered by the nuclear option seem redundant.

However, this is not the only major flaw of this plan. As recently highlighted by PAWB (Pobol Atal Wylfa B) in relation to a report in The Independent newspaper <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/inside-westminster-our-politicalconferences-have-turned-into-glorified-trade-fairs-8835522.html> "PAWB are calling for a parliamentary standards investigation following revelations in The Independent that the Labour Party receives sponsorship from Horizon Nuclear. Horizon sponsored 'Welsh Night' at the recent Labour Party Conference in Brighton, that's the same Horizon who are hoping for the government to force through consumer "subsidies" – so they can profit from the building of a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa, north Wales. This sort of sordid sponsorship for influence is totally unacceptable. How could a future Labour government be relied on to consider the costs of nuclear safety, or assess the merits of rival greener energy sources when they appear to be in the pocket of the very company hoping to profit from new nuclear contracts? Countries such as Germany and Japan are pulling out of nuclear power following the Fukushima disaster and the cost of new nuclear plants are spiraling. Investors are reluctant to gamble on the nuclear industry without significant government financial assurances. No wonder Horizon are desperate to use any means to get support"

The Independent also commented in their article: "The truth is that while big donations to political parties have been cleaned up and made more transparent, the same cannot be said for the money made at party conferences. These companies and lobbyists do not pay for passes or fund events out of the goodness of their hearts: they are buying access and the possibility of influence"

Horizon, who have been bought out by GE/Hitachi should not be in a position to buy access and possibly influence such serious political decisions. PAWB are very much justified in calling for a parliamentary standards investigation in to this matter. The Welsh Government will hopefully also support such a crucial investigation.

As quoted in Mr Davies' letter, Dr Weightman is incorrect in claiming that any nuclear power station is 'fundamentally safe'. Any power station, nuclear especially,

carries a weighted risk however much it is claimed otherwise. Potential terrorist attacks and acts of war also make makes this an empty phrase. In terms of radiation health implications around nuclear power sites, it seems that Mr Davies is claiming that the German Government's mentioned health report is incorrect or has been overtaken by more recent studies. I have written to Mr Hermann Gröhe, Federal Minister of Health for the German Government for his opinion on this. I hope his answer will enlighten everyone including myself on whether they are still standing by the findings of their report in to the effects of radiation on increased levels of childhood leukemia and cancers around nuclear power stations. In my view the prudent and responsible thing would be for the Welsh Government to invite members of the German Government over to Wales to provide their expert advice. Germany is world renowned as one of the most technologically advanced and technically astute nations on earth. It, along with Austria, Sweden, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland, to name but a few, have enacted laws not to build any new nuclear power stations. As of November 2011, countries such as Australia, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Israel, Malaysia, Latvia, Lichtenstein and Norway have no nuclear power reactors and remain opposed to nuclear power. Other countries such as Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, the Philippines and the United States of America are also looking at ways of phasing out nuclear power.

Wales literally has no need for a dangerous, expensive and archaic nuclear power station - we already produce at least twice the energy we need. We have an abundance of natural energy and clean coal opportunities, which, if properly managed could make Wales one of the leading clean energy countries in the world. Building a new nuclear power station in Wales would go against all informed European and world trends. It is an antiquated proposition, out of time and out of touch. And if the UK Government is so confident in the need for the proposed nuclear power stations as well as their apparent 'fundamental safety', perhaps they should put their faith into practice by building them them in Kensington, the Square Mile or Oxford.

Sincerely,

Gruffydd Meredith"