From: [redacted]
To: NDF
Subject: Response to Draft National Development Framework
Date: 14 November 2019 12:45:28

Dear Mark Drakeford and Julie James
Response to Draft National Development Framework

I strongly oppose the part of Policy 22 – Northwest Wales and Energy that supports nuclear energy.

By now everyone who worries about the environment and our Earth's future should realise that nuclear energy is irrelevant to the struggle against climate change, as there is a need to decarbonise within a timescale far shorter than it would take for new reactors to be built and start producing energy.

We have the opportunities for real clean and renewable energy before us, if only we would give them the support and investment needed, investment that for far too long has been flushed down the U bend of the Nuclear industry.

As demonstrated countless times the Nuclear industry are experts in the 'Negative learning curve', where project after project comes with evermore problems, evermore delay, and budget busting expense. Hinckley C is barely out of the ground and is already subject to delay and cost over runs. EDF's track record in Finland and Flamanville should have been a stark warning to the UK government, but as we know, the Tories know best… how to waste tax payers hard earned money.

According to Welsh Government stats there are approximately 1.4 million households in Wales. The £20 billion for Wylfa Newydd could provide around £14,000 per household, set against an average cost of £7000 per household for solar and battery storage systems, as just one example. How many jobs would be created if this was a chosen route?I understand that it is an oversimplification, but nevertheless it should be born in mind that the £20 billion is just the construction cost of new Nuclear and does not include the running cost, nor the environmental costs of such a project.

The waste produced by the proposed station is of a different order to that which the previous station produced (as stated in Horizon's own presentation), is much more radioactive, and much more difficult and dangerous to handle. Wylfa Newydd would have meant storing this highly radioactive waste on site for 6 - 7 generations of children (140 years) as it is too hot to move to any other location. Do we really have the moral right to leave generations of children that legacy, a legacy the nuclear industry has consistently failed to find a solution for in its entire history?

The nuclear industry likes to boast that their electricity is clean and green, but conveniently miss out all of the carbon emissions involved in such huge construction projects, before you even begin to look at the fuel manufacturing cycle which is more carbon intensive the burning coal. Of course we don't mine Uranium in this country, so they don't include these figures in their submissions, but generating that carbon in a far away place is still damaging the planet.

In addition, you should be aware of, and support, the other reasons for opposing nuclear energy. Here are some:

1. The danger to people of having a nuclear waste dump on site for over a century.

2. The failure to deal with waste anywhere in the world.

3. The huge cost to taxpayers and electricity bill payers.

4. The environmental destruction of building in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

5. The destruction to the environment and the danger to people where uranium is mined.

6. The fiction that nuclear energy is low carbon.

7. The unproven technology which is advocated for small raectors.

8. The uncertainty regarding the number of jobs for local people.

9. The lessons which you have failed to learn from the freezing of the Wylfa project – investing scarce public resources; broken promises to youngsters on jobs; the folly of dependence on one large capitalist employer; the lack of an economic back-up plan.

10. The social problems which have developed at Hinkley – e.g. worker suicides and a growth of expoitation of women as sex workers.

11. The link with nuclear weapons which is admitted by Rolls-Royce, a company keen to build a reactor at Trawsfynydd.

12. The huge problems which will be left to future generations.

13. The lack of public funding for renewables if such funding is used to support nuclear.

The above reasons all go against the intent of your own exemplary legislation, which is the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It is incomprehensible how supporting the production of the most toxic waste devised by humanity can be of benefit to future generations, and most certainly goes completely against the principle of a Wales which is responsible on a worldwide level.

Yours sincerely

Julian Wynne Msc

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