

Dear sirs,

I cannot think of anything more ill considered than to propose siting a nuclear power station in the Severn Estuary.

There is no need to draw your attention to the events at Fukushima, but what needs drawing to everyone's attention is that the Severn Estuary is the only place in the UK with a tsunami in recorded history.

It happened on 30th January 1607, when on a beautiful clear morning a giant wave swept up the estuary killing approximately 2000 people, and destroying 200 square miles of land, sweeping away villages, and even destroying a church in Cardiff.

The shape of the estuary means that even small events at sea are magnified as the resulting wave travels towards the head of the estuary. Even high tides do it - it's called the Severn Bore, but an earthquake under the Atlantic, which may have been the cause of the 1607 event, would produce a truly cataclysmic event in the estuary.

It true that this was a rare event, and may never be repeated, but equally it could happen tomorrow. The geographic features of the estuary mean that if a tsunami happens anywhere in these islands, this is the most likely place for it to have maximum impact.

And someone wants to build a nuclear power station on the banks of the estuary?

Yours faithfully,

Alan Freke