

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to in opposition to the proposed plans for the Oldbury nuclear power station (the Hitachi ABWR).

The KiKK report initiated and accepted by the German government conclude that there is a 37% increase in leukaemias in children under 5 years old within 5 km of German nuclear plants. There is also an increase of 28% in solid cancers. Similar conclusions have been drawn by subsequent studies in France and Switzerland. The KiKK report was published before the Fukushima disaster and could well be a factor in Germany's decision to close all its reactors by 2022. These are very good reasons not to justify the Hitachi ABWR.

None of the 4 ABWRs in Japan are currently operational. When they were in service, their performance was not impressive. Between 2006 and 2010, the 4 ABWRs managed a load factor of under 45%. There must have been technical difficulties and unplanned stoppages. These reactors are priced on 80-90% load factor so the ABWR has obviously performed very poorly in Japan and turning out to be a highly expensive investment with poor returns. Curiously, the Nuclear Industry Association don't mention the problems with the Japanese ABWR.

Hitachi will no doubt be looking for a generous strike price guaranteed over 35 years as is the case with EDF's agreement with DECC for Hinkley C. We as consumers will pay inflated electricity bills to pay for this strike price. There is also the concern that the government's Levy Framework Control will divert money away from renewable energy technologies towards the nuclear cuckoo in the nest. So there is a real danger we will be hit through our taxes to subsidise even further the genuine market failure that is nuclear power.

I look forward to your response.

Nik Kieboom