



BANNNG
Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group



Press Release - 28 March, 2018

BANNNG despairs at the lack of mention of potentially serious problems at Bradwell B cheerleading event hosted by Maldon District Council.

The event

Reports in the local press of Maldon District Council playing host to the recent annual meeting of the New Nuclear Local Authority Group (NNLAG) have been met with amazement by the Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group (BANNNG). The location was chosen because of the proposals for a new nuclear power station and the meeting included a visit to the proposed Bradwell B site. Stephen Speed of the Civil Nuclear and Resilience Directorate at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and John Devine from the Department for International Trade attended the meeting.

The unmentioned problems

‘Not a whisper of the environmental problems at this utterly quite unacceptable site is contained in the media reports - but they do talk of the huge potential envisioned for the region from a new nuclear power station. It is as if gold dust is being rained down on innocent citizens and wildlife and landscape. But it is gold dust that could quickly turn to radioactive rain, polluted air, contaminated land and radioactive discharges into the Blackwater estuary’, said BANNNG’s Chair, Professor Andy Blowers.

‘No word is spoken that this massive engine of radioactive risk with its inevitable cargo of spent fuel and dangerous radioactive wastes will be left on the site for way over a century. And what will the territory be like then - if it exists at all?’

‘No mention is made of the fact that the site is only designated until 2025. Beyond that there is no site at Bradwell. The site does not exist. So, to overcome this, the Government is busily undertaking a deceptive consultation on siting criteria, re-running the same ideas of a decade ago when Bradwell was deemed a potentially suitable site for new nuclear development that could be operational by 2025 – of course, it will not be. If Bradwell was a poor site then, it is an impossible one now. And the case for nuclear energy has, in the meantime, all but disappeared. By the time the Chinese could build their reactors at Bradwell, a new nuclear power station will be as dead as a dodo.

‘It’s scandalous that BEIS which is running the consultation should be supporting this latest jamboree. It gives credibility to the project, suggesting it is a foregone conclusion. But it is not and the Government should insist it is neutral as to whether the site should be designated.

‘BANNG and its supporters feel badly let down by the biased approach being taken. Essex County and Maldon District Councils appear to have totally ignored the fact that Colchester Borough and West Mersea Town Councils do not support the new power station. The environmental, public health, security and safety issues and the indefinite, long-term storage on-site of radioactive wastes are not mentioned - yet the public is overwhelmingly opposed to the project on these grounds.’

BANNG has set out the case against the project in its response to the consultation on siting criteria (see BANNG Paper 34 at banng.info) and will shortly be meeting with the developers, EDF and China General Nuclear Power Corporation.