

# Stop the Devonport Dump!

Plymouth Nuclear Free Coalition Newsletter, Summer 2009

## No to Nuclear Waste Dump, Yes to Green Jobs and Transition to a Green City

Every Devonport Dockyard watcher knows - the plans are already laid for Plymouth to be the centre for sawing-up and storage of all decommissioned nuclear submarines...



## Radioactive waste kills!

**9 Radioactive leaks since 1997 - MoD tried secrecy\***

**March 25th 2009:** radioactive water escaped from HMS Turbulent while the reactor's discharge system was being flushed at Devonport.

**November 2008:** 280 litres of radioactive liquid escaped into the River Tamar after a hosepipe burst while contaminated water was being pumped from HMS Trafalgar.

**October 2005:** 10 litres of radioactive liquid leaked out of the main reactor circuit of HMS Victorious while it was being cleaned to reduce radiation.

**May 2008:** two spillages in a week: Environment Agency threaten legal action.

**10 earlier radioactive leaks between 1980 and 1997, with over 570 litres spilled.**

**The Dockyard is licensed to discharge low-level nuclear waste into the River Tamar - Why?**

\* as reported in Plymouth Herald, 20th May 2009

The public consultation on the *Submarine Dismantling Project* at Plymouth Devonport starts next December. But we think we know *Babcock's* desired and highly profitable choice - the sawing-up and storage of nuclear waste in the middle of a City of 250,000 people. While the local media, politicians and businesses make play of the loss of the surface fleet, the real danger to the people of Plymouth is that the City becomes a toxic waste dump for the 27



### Plymouth's Future - a nuclear wasteland, the Sellafield of the South West

nuclear submarines scheduled for decommissioning by 2040. **One submarine a year will be sawn-up in a special facility for which Babcock already has outline planning permission. They have yet to develop the technology for this work, the first of its kind and full of dangers.**

A separate and safer option is to store the subs, minus the core, intact until the safe disposal of nuclear waste is assured. But there's little profit in that option.

The new facilities will require taxpayer investment of millions to establish, but will place Plymouth at new and grave danger of serious radioactive accidents.

**It is simply not possible to assure the public that the facilities will be safe. According to documents obtained by Channel 4 News and broadcast in May, the MoD's track record of Health & Safety at Plymouth and Rosyth is appalling.**

There should be no nuclear facilities or waste dump within 25 kilometres of any population centre of 5,000 people or more.

**There is a better future for the dockyard in Plymouth than as a toxic nuclear waste dump set to employ just 100 people. The effects upon the economy and environment of Plymouth, and future health of the Plymouth people, will be catastrophic.**

As we see at the Sellafield reprocessing centre, there's high paid jobs inside the plant, but high unemployment outside. And the nuclear storage dumps there are now leaking toxic waste that cannot be identified. £billions are needed to start the clear-up. Let's learn from other's mistakes.

**Plymouth is England's 10th largest City, yet for 100 jobs, they're ready to risk us all.**

Instead we should use the technology and investment in Devonport to create "Green Jobs" to produce the technology to stop climate change and create a Green City.

# Devonport Naval Base: nuclear garage and scrapyards

**The Healthy Work has gone  
The pride of the Navy is dead  
The identity of Plymouth sullied**

On June 1st 2009 the MoD confirmed that Plymouth Devonport will be the servicing port for nuclear submarines and a few surface ships. The work will have busy and lean times, not a steady flow, so how will Babcock make it's millions? How will Devonport stay financially lucrative?

Nuclear waste! The decommissioning of nuclear vessels will ensure a steady flow of tax-payers money. But only if the waste is sawn-up on-site and stored in Nirex containers - an expensive and hazardous process. There's little money to be made from decommissioning the submarines and sending them elsewhere. The profit is in the dismantling and salvage - just like a scrapyards, only this scrapyards is dealing in nuclear waste.

## Don't vote SDP!

The *Submarine Dismantling Project* (SDP - formerly ISOLUS) has completed the Technical Options Study, carried out by *Frazer Nash*, a wholly owned subsidiary of *Babcock International*. They have devised three options, but only the most dangerous - sawing-up and storage - is profitable. **Less than 100 jobs will be needed to:**

- X<sup>o</sup> Cut out the reactor cores (high level nuclear waste) and transport them away
- X<sup>o</sup> Chop-up the reactor compartment (medium level waste) and store on site for indefinite *Interim Storage* in NIREX boxes - a complicated and brand new and **untested** process
- X<sup>o</sup> Saw up the vessel, considered as low level nuclear waste (despite contamination by direct contact with the nuclear compartment and core) for selling as recyclable metal to be resmelted for commercial steel production such as cars and household appliances.

**And they expect us to vote for it!**

# Green Jobs, not Green Slime



**The Trade Union Congress now estimates that 800,000 new jobs are needed in the UK to meet the essential demand to cut CO2 emissions by 40% by 2020.**

Plymouth's Devonport Dockyard is in a key location, with valuable skills and technology capable of producing the wind and wave turbines needed to move from gas and oil to sustainable energy production.

*Tax-payers money now aimed at replacing Trident weapons and sawing-up nuclear hulks should be diverted to create thousands of jobs at Devonport Dockyard - a prime location to advance wind and wave energy technology.*

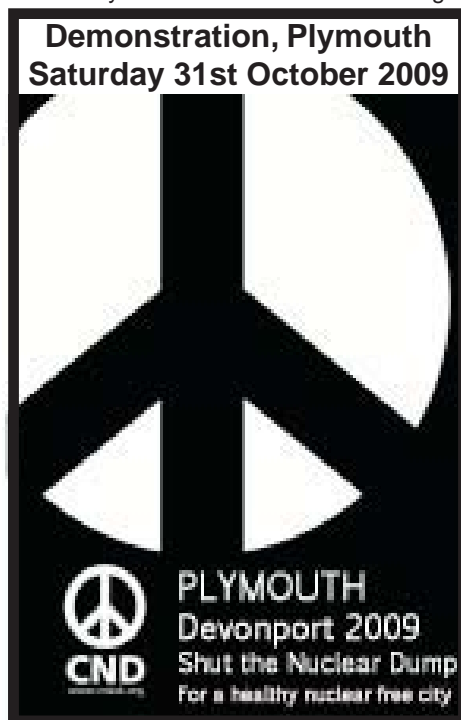
Climate Change is real and is likely to destroy the way we live by 2050 unless we act fast and act now. At relatively small cost, the submarines can be grounded and stored away from major human populations until the technology is invented to dispose of nuclear waste safely.

But the threat from climate change cannot be under-estimated and must be tackled now. We have the skilled workers, the technology, the machinery, and the Base. But where's the political will and corporate vision? Plymouth must rise to the challenge!

**Times are hard - don't waste our money on nuclear weapons!**



With the UK facing its biggest economic crisis in decades, there is no case for wasting £76 billion on replacing the Trident nuclear weapons system. Nuclear weapons do not meet our security needs and have been described by retired generals as 'useless'. The MoD's first report on the replacement process (the Initial Gate) is due in September 2009. This must not be subject to behind-the-scenes decision-making and must be reviewed by Parliament. Over the next few months, we will be stepping up our campaign against Trident replacement and we want you to get involved. Ask your MP to sign EDM 660: Parliamentary Scrutiny of Trident Replacement. Join our national demonstration in Plymouth on Saturday 31st October - No to Trident, No to Nuclear Waste! Keep checking our website [cnduk.org](http://cnduk.org) for the latest news on Trident or contact [notrident@cnduk.org](mailto:notrident@cnduk.org)



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