



*Press release from  
Suffolk Preservation Society  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008*

## **Energy Gap – Nuclear must be a part of the answer**

Securing a safe and modern power supply means using a variety of plans and sources – including nuclear energy, Suffolk's leading conservation body said today.

Suffolk Preservation Society welcomed the government's announcement that it would build new nuclear power stations as part of efforts to lessen Britain's contribution to the global CO<sub>2</sub> burden.

But Mike Coleman, chairman of Suffolk Preservation Society, said that it was only a fragment of what will be needed to keep the lights burning. Tougher building regulations with energy conservation at their heart could make just as big an impact, Mr Coleman suggests.

In the light of the government's announcement, the society expects to see a new station at Sizewell, which it says will safeguard jobs and the coastline, and vowed to fight to ensure it was not an eye-sore and to make sure it could provide extra electricity generating capacity without despoiling the Suffolk countryside. An increase in capacity could mean there would be a need to install a large number of overhead lines.

Director of the society, Richard Ward, said: "New nuclear buildings must form part of a comprehensive and holistic policy to energy conservation, management and generation. It should not, in the society's view, be the only way in which the government tries to fill the growing energy gap."

And Mr Coleman continued: "The society has serious concerns over the potential impact of global warming. There are other sources of power besides nuclear but apart from fossil fuel and hydro-electric most, if not all, of them cannot provide the security of supply necessary for a modern, reliable and stable electricity system.

"Nuclear is a sensible approach but only as part of a balanced supply system complemented by other sustainable sources.

"However the society would like to see the same zeal that is applied to new build directed towards energy conservation measures by tightening building regulations requiring the highest standards of thermal insulation and other measures," said Mr Coleman.

Mr Coleman believes a new nuclear station will come to Suffolk at Sizewell. He said: "Things have moved on a lot since the first Sizewell reactor and even Sizewell B produces no more than a few percent of the waste that its current neighbour did and will do during its decommissioning.

A new station should produce even less waste than Sizewell B so fears about needing lots of new storage facilities are wide of the mark.

“From a Suffolk viewpoint, a new station would guarantee that at least this part of the Suffolk coast would be protected against sea level rise and coastal erosion. It would also ensure continuing local employment in the longer term and would ensure that its sister nuclear facilities remaining at Sizewell will be under secure and vigilant eyes for the long term.

“A new station need not have required new power lines subject to the size of station envisaged. However the recent caving in to demands for the Greater Gabbard Wind farm to have a grid connection at Sizewell means that here is now unlikely to be enough capacity on the existing lines, therefore more will be needed. The society understands this and will fight to ensure that any extra capacity required follows the route of the existing lines. This will minimise the impact of the station. Similarly, although it will not fight against the principle of new nuclear build, it will fight to ensure the new plant is designed to be as unobtrusive as possible.”

**Ends**

**Notes to editors**

- SPS is the county’s leading conservation body, with a growing membership of more than 2,000 people. It is a county branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. For more details about SPS, visit [www.suffolksociety.com](http://www.suffolksociety.com)

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