

Pointless waste of nuclear plants

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/21/letter-nuclear-power>

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So the nuclear industry's flagship £1.8bn reprocessing plant has still not completed work it should have finished five years ago (Thorp nuclear plant may close for years, 19 May). High time this completely pointless plant was closed down for good. All the long-suffering taxpayer has to show for Sellafield's operations is an embarrassing stockpile of 100 tonnes of weapons-useable plutonium and some of the most dangerous [nuclear waste](#) in the world, neither of which we have any idea what to do with. Another £2bn has been frittered away on the Sellafield Mox plant, to add to the £75bn bill for cleaning up the rest of the mess created by this industry.

The Mox plant should have been producing 120 tonnes of fuel every year, but has not even managed 10 tonnes in seven years. It should also be noted that Thorp's reprocessed fuel does not reduce in any way the total amount of radioactive waste the UK has to deal with. Meanwhile, in Finland a reactor similar to the ones EDF wants to build at Sizewell and Hinkley is three years late and 50% over budget. And in France a second new reactor is already nine months late and 20% over budget. It is difficult to comprehend why any government would want to trust this failed industry yet again.

We should be launching a local energy revolution to tackle climate change and fuel poverty. A policy based on decentralised energy would be cheaper, create more jobs, and could be implemented in time to meet our climate change commitments without creating dangerous waste and threatening nuclear weapons proliferation.

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