

# West Midlands Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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Dear Letter-writer

Thank you to everyone who has replied to say that you would like to continue writing in 2008. Many of you are worried that you don't write every letter. Please do not be! Even one a year helps.

***If you have not replied yet, please do so as soon as possible. If I don't hear from you, I'll assume you do not wish to continue.***

Following the statement, *Hansard, 10.01.08, column 517*, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080110/debtext/80110-0004.htm>, that the government approves the building of new nuclear power stations, this month we are writing to ***Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA***. Rather than simply repeat the arguments against new nuclear power stations, I thought it would be more constructive to ask John Hutton questions.

In his statement, he frequently referred to nuclear power as "***low-carbon power generation***".

- Please ask him what research has been done to establish the carbon emissions of nuclear power, and whether it took into account uranium mining and transportation, decommissioning of nuclear power stations and storage of spent fuel and nuclear waste.

On public subsidy to the nuclear industry, John Hutton said, "***It will be for energy companies, not the Government, to fund, develop and build new nuclear power stations. ... We will not subsidise them***". Companies would have to pay a regular levy, inevitably putting up the price of electricity, to a fund to cover the costs of decommissioning. In the debate following the announcement, Alan Duncan MP asked, "***What would happen if a nuclear company went bankrupt?***" I've looked through the Hansard report and cannot find an answer.

Please:

- repeat Alan Duncan's question;
- ask whether "decommissioning" includes long-term management of waste;
- ask how the size of the decommissioning fund has been calculated, given that waste management will have to continue for thousands of years.

Thank you and best wishes.

Jenny