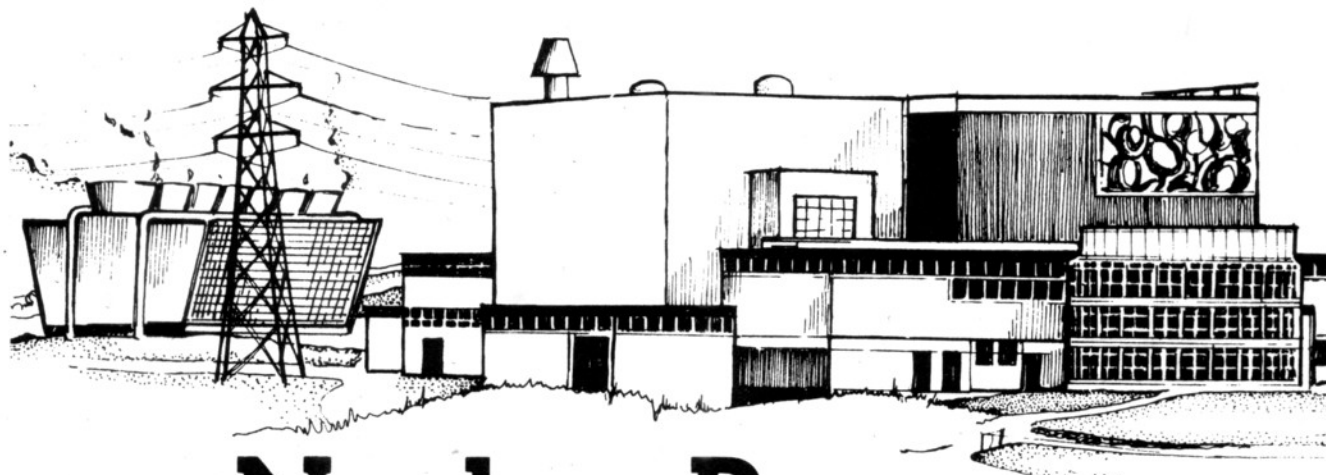


Winfrith



Nuclear Power

do you know?

- Nuclear power uses as a fuel 'uranium' for which industry has little or no requirement.
- About 14% of Britain's electricity is produced by nuclear power.
- Instead of the world's dwindling supplies of coal, gas and oil being burnt as fuel for electricity generation, they can be used more efficiently in a wide range of industries, for example chemicals and transport.
- In the advanced gas cooled reactors as much electricity can be made from one kilogram of enriched uranium fuel as from about 60 tons of coal.
- Nuclear power is clean. No smoke, no soot.
- The relative costs 1977/78 per kilowatt hour of producing electricity were: nuclear fuels – 0.76p; coal – 1.23p; oil – 1.42p.
- On present forecasts only nuclear power can assure the energy supplies to meet our needs in 25 years' time.
- The 'burning' of plutonium in fast breeder reactors will give us at least a fifty-fold increase in uranium utilisation and the present stocks of used uranium which we have in the UK alone would provide us with as much energy as our entire coal reserves.
- The general public is exposed to background radiation all the time. Any additional radiation exposure that the general public gets from nuclear power is less than 0.1% of the natural background radiation level.
- All the "highly active" waste produced so far from Britain's nuclear power programme, if collected together, would occupy less volume than the average sized 4-bedroomed house.
- A process is under development for converting radioactive waste into glass. In this form, all the highly active liquid wastes from our nuclear power programme up to the year 2,000 could be stored in a properly engineered and shielded area no larger than that of two football pitches.
- There has been more research into nuclear power as an energy source and into quantifying its risks than for any other fuel.
- Stringent safety and security precautions exist to protect employees and the general public against any possible hazard from nuclear power and the industry has an excellent safety record.
- Comparative studies of the public and occupational health effects of various sources of power leave no doubt that electricity generation from uranium offers far less of a public health hazard than from coal or oil.
- The statistical risk of a member of the public dying as the result of an accident at a nuclear power station is less than that of being struck by lightning.
- Spent nuclear fuel is transported in massive thick walled steel containers. They are designed and built to withstand extreme accidents and must pass stringent tests, including a drop from a height of nine metres and exposure to fire, without release of the contents.