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Environment

Eco Soundings

The Guardian, Wednesday January 16 2008

John Vidal

Off message Does Nick Clegg understand how central the environment is for most Liberal Democrats? Last week, Eco Soundings revealed that the party's new leader did not consider it one of his top three issues, and he went even further at the latest shadow cabinet meeting. The full team was sitting round the table trying to decide what topic would be the best bet for Clegg's (...)

(...)question time. Nuclear power, the government...that nuclear plants have, once...consequences of accidents or (...)

Environment

Questions, questions

The Guardian, Saturday January 12 2008

What's the carbon cost of the Tata Nano? "I'm having nightmares." It probably wasn't the kind of celebrity endorsement the maker of the world's cheapest car was hoping for, but the comments of Dr Rajendra Pachauri, the chairman of the UN's intergovernmental panel on climate change, who recently shared the Nobel peace prize with Al Gore, neatly sum up how many (...)

(...)1986 and the Windscale fire of 1957 still linger, serious accidents at nuclear power plants remain extremely rare. And nuclear supporters, to which we (...)

Comment is free

Presenting nuclear as the grown-up option is deceptive and delaying

The Guardian, Friday January 11 2008

Polly Toynbee

Marking the new political year, Gordon Brown promised to take "the difficult long-term decisions, even if at times it may be easier to do simpler or less difficult things". Going nuclear is a big decision and a difficult one, but that doesn't necessarily make it the right one. In fact, the government chose the easier option - and it's easy to see why. The nuclear cause has (...)

(...)it may be easier to do simpler or less difficult things". Going nuclear is a big decision and a difficult one, but that (...)

UK news

Finance, not politics, remains biggest hurdle to nuclear power

guardian.co.uk, Thursday January 10 2008

Terry Macalister

A host of issues remain before Britain greets the first batch of nuclear plants since construction started on Sizewell B in Suffolk 20 years ago. Planning constraints, a shortage of skills and complex waste arrangements are among the main obstacles. But the biggest hurdle remains the uncertainty over whether the right financial conditions exist to encourage private (...)

(...)first batch of nuclear plants since construction started...outright help,The power firms insist (...)

Environment

Green or greedy?

The Guardian, Monday November 5 2007
Terry Macalister

A recent announcement from the biggest diversified mining group in the world that it that it will undertake immediate and urgent steps inside and outside the company to help lead the fight against global warming has caused a tremor of excitement. If companies such as BHP Billiton with its shareholder funds of \$220bn can bring their muscle to bear, then we are in with a good ch

(...)2012. BHP currently produces 52m tonnes of CO2 equivalents per annum and plant plans are currently aimed only at those sites that produce more (...)

Comment is free

An error of seismic proportions

guardian.co.uk, Wednesday October 24 2007
Albena Simeonova

You don't have to be a Nobel prize winner to realise that building a nuclear power plant in an earthquake zone is a really dangerous thing to do. July's events in Kashiwazaki, Japan, at the world's largest nuclear plant, have unfortunately shown that nuclear energy and seismic fault lines do not mix. It is therefore all the more surprising that the European commission seems (...)

(...)building a nuclear power plant in an...of an accident? But (...)

Society

Contaminated evidence

The Guardian, Wednesday October 10 2007
Jean McSorley

"I opened the gag-port and there it was - a fire at the face of the reactor. I thought: 'Oh dear, now we are in a pickle.'" Those were the words of the late Arthur Wilson, the instrument technician who discovered the Windscale fire on October 10 1957, in No 1 of the twin plutonium piles. It signalled the beginning of the world's second biggest nuclear reactor accident. The rea

(...)the world's second biggest nuclear reactor accident. The reactors, which supplied (...)

Science

Windscale radiation 'doubly dangerous'

The Observer, Sunday October 7 2007
Robin McKie, science editor

Britain's worst nuclear accident, the Windscale fire in Cumbria, released twice as much radioactive debris as was previously thought. Scientists studying weather patterns and amounts of radioactive material distributed after the 1957 blaze say previous estimates have played down its deadly impact. 'We have had to double our estimates of amounts that were released,' said form

(...)s worst nuclear accident, the Windscale...the nuclear plant's core...a nuclear power plant (...)

Comment is free

Crossing the radioactive line

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday September 18 2007
Ros Taylor

Never underestimate the Lib Dems' distrust of nuclear power. It goes to the heart of the party. Yesterday one of the party's MEPs, Chris Davies, said the party needed to drop its opposition to nuclear power if it was serious about cutting emissions. But Ming Campbell had already slapped him down on Sunday night when he told a Climate Clinic reception the Lib Dems would never (...)

(...)Dems' distrust of nuclear power. It goes to...of building new plants, the spectres (...)

Music

Boris calling to the zombies of death

guardian.co.uk, Friday September 7 2007
Richard Smith

When Boris Johnson launched his campaign to become Mayor of London at City Hall this week, he bounded onstage to the strains of - what else? - London Calling by the Clash. Now, I don't know about you, but whenever I hear Joe Strummer screaming like he's just woken up from some apocalyptic Cold War nightmare, I've always thought what he was really saying was: "Go out and vot

(...)recent accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant ("Meltdown expected"). Might this signal a policy u-turn from the Kyoto-hating, nuclear power (...)

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