

Nuclear Waste Alert

Greenpeace activated local NIMBY characters with nothing else to do.

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Shocked campaigners (**for what?**) have revealed that Thoresby Colliery has been earmarked as a possible nuclear waste dumping ground.

The still-active pit is identified on a list of potential future sites for the hazardous waste -- bombshell news that has sent shockwaves across the community.

Greenpeace protesters have highlighted the Government project and issued a desperate appeal to local folk to rally behind their campaign to block the highly controversial nuclear plans.

The Edwinstowe 'super pit' is thought to have been identified on a list, drawn up as long ago as the 1980s, as an ideal site to get rid of nuclear waste. Now with the Government looking to build a new generation of nuclear power stations across the country, experts admit that the geological reasons that made Thoresby suitable as a dumping ground 20 years ago remain the same today.

The Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (NIREX) has, therefore, refused to rule out Thoresby or any of the other 536 locations in the UK that were originally shortlisted.

Greenpeace fears that the controversial new energy policy could quadruple the amount of nuclear waste created and has dubbed the plan a potential time bomb. Campaigners were out on the streets of Edwinstowe on Saturday highlighting the threat to Thoresby and the knock-on health and environmental impact it would have on surrounding areas. Said **paid activist** Jane Burd: "There is no failsafe way to deal with nuclear waste. Dumping it underground simply creates an environmental time bomb for our children and grandchildren and could have catastrophic consequences for people living nearby." Greenpeace wants to raise awareness of the plans in Edwinstowe and has urged residents to lobby Sherwood MP Paddy Tipping about the issue. Added Jane: "Tony Blair wants to build these new power stations so the best way to stop him is to urge MPs to try to get the Government to change its mind. "Our campaign in Edwinstowe is at an early stage but it is already obvious there is a great deal of local anger about the fact the colliery is even being considered. "Residents are concerned about the health risks of radiation, the possibility of waste leaking and potential accidents as it is transported."

Thoresby was once considered the jewel in the crown of the Nottinghamshire coalfield but fears about its long-term future have increased this week with news that miners are being laid off at Harworth Colliery.

Union bosses believe this development could result in a domino effect that sees Welbeck Colliery and Thoresby axed -- and potentially bring nuclear dumping at Thoresby a step closer.

But Labour MP Mr Tipping has immediately played down the fears, saying that nothing could be decided until two separate reports are published later this year into the future of energy provision in the UK and the safe disposal of nuclear waste.

"I will be meeting representatives from Greenpeace and will of course take the views of local residents very seriously," he said.

"But the idea of any imminent threat to dispose of waste at Thoresby is very premature and speculative."

His comments were echoed by Edwinstowe Parish Council chairman Dennis Tattersall, who told Chad he believed the colliery would be in operation for another 10 years.

"The parish council has heard nothing about this and we are told the colliery is still doing well," he said. "But if they ever tried it, it would be over my dead body."

NIREX was established by the Government in 1982 to oversee the disposal of nuclear waste and it claims the original list of 537 sites, which has only recently come to light, will not be the basis for any new site selection.