

## "Sellafield - The cover-up continues"

So said local County Councillor Eoin Costello who recently sent a petition to the UK Director General of Energy.

"Recent UK publications saw yet more articles concerning deliberate falsification of quality control data relating to material that was processed at Sellafield for export to Japan. This follows recent revelations concerning the falsification of safety at Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant, which led to the resignation of the director of the plant and other senior personnel".

"The reprocessing plant discharges low level radioactive waste into the Irish sea all year round. The company denies that there is any link between the long-term radioactive emissions and the clusters of cancers identified by research in areas surrounding the reprocessing plant" said Councillor Costello. Continuing the Fine Gael Councillor stated "the revelations in April spurred me to make sure the British Government was aware that the citizens of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown do not want the Sellafield facility to continue its activities. I have now

collected over 280 signatures for a petition demanding the closure of Sellafield. I am posting them today to Anna Walker, director general of energy at the Department of Trade and Industry. I would like to thank local schools for their help in organising this petition".

According to Councillor Costello, Germany has now set an example that should be followed throughout Europe by firstly banning any shipments from Sellafield and secondly a commitment to wind down their nuclear industry over the next twenty years. The recent OSPAR meeting in Denmark passed a motion calling on BNFL to suspend reprocessing at Sellafield.

According to Councillor Costello "The people of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, particularly those with young children, want this threat to our country removed. I hope that Anna Walker will respond to our petition positively and take action to stop reprocessing at Sellafield"

SOUTHSIDE PEOPLE

2nd August 2000 East

# Sellafield Targeted

Cllr Eoin Costello has called on the director general of energy at the UK Department of Trade and Industry, Ms Anna Walker to call a halt to nuclear reprocessing at Sellafield.

Cllr Costello said he has collected over 280 signatures from local school children who are demanding the

closure of Sellafield.

In April the UK Nuclear Safety Inspector released a report on Sellafield pointing to lapses in safety at the plant, following disclosures on the falsification of data.

According to Cllr Costello, the report points to a serious risk to the east coast of Ireland because of the possible release of a large amount of radiation should the cooling towers overheat and the plant's storage tanks not be able to cope with increased flow.

The Cumbrian reprocessing plant discharges low-level radioactive waste into the Irish Sea all year round. However the company denies that there is any link between the long term radioactive emissions and the clusters of cancers in surrounding areas.

Cllr Costello said the Germans have now set an example by banning all ship-

ments from Sellafield as well as a commitment to wind down their nuclear industry over the next twenty years.

"The people in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, particularly those with young children want this threat removed. I hope Anna Walker will respond to our petition positively and take action to stop reprocessing at Sellafield."

Last weekend it was reported that Sellafield is to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive for failing to improve its management of sealed radioactive sources.

The sealed source is a piece of equipment which safely contains a known and usually small quantity of radioactivity. It is used to test and calibrate equipment which detects or measures radioactivity.

According to HSE report some of the sealed sources at Sellafield have gone missing while others are not properly registered.

## New Weapon Against Sellafield

Councillor Eoin Costello has said that the introduction of a new buoy to monitor radiation levels in the Irish Sea is a source of some comfort to people living in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. Unlike current monthly testing carried out by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland this new buoy will carry out testing continuously without the necessity for the samples to be brought to a laboratory. According to Councillor Costello this buoy is the result of a number of advances in technology and has been developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

At the moment the RPII takes samples of seawater, seaweed, sediment and fish from the east coast of Ireland. In conjunction with the Department of the Marine it also takes samples from the centre of the Irish Sea. The new buoy will greatly increase the amount and regularity of information available. This buoy is the first of its type in the world and results from it will be published on the website of the RPII. Data from the buoy

is transmitted automatically via satellite to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Monaco and from there is relayed to the RPII's laboratory in Dublin. It will initially run for 12 months. According to Councillor Costello "I am continuing to take signatures for the petition to close Sellafield at my website ([www.eoincostello.ie](http://www.eoincostello.ie)) and you can also find links to the RPII and Greenpeace sites on my site."