



## **Press Release – Dungeness Nuclear Power Station Site**

It is extremely bad news for Romney Marsh that the Government has decided not to select a site at Dungeness for the building of a third nuclear power station. The people of the Marsh have had their future snatched away. With the stroke of a pen this Government has thrown the whole future of the Marsh into doubt .

Local consultations carried out have revealed that there is little opposition to a further nuclear station at Dungeness from the local population. Even those of us who have reservations about nuclear power have to accept that the safety record of Dungeness has been excellent and the benefits outweigh the disadvantages. It will be a major setback for the local economy which urgently needs meaningful employment being created, particularly for our young people.

From DOC's perspective there are even greater concerns with regard to coastal protection. The building of a new Nuclear Power Station ('C') would bring protection to the wider Marsh, its wildlife and environment. It would raise the whole value of the Marsh and would bring confidence and investment to this unique area. The old transformer building within the licensed site was being proposed as the position for a new station with the footprint of the new station not exceeding that of the existing building , thus not affecting any SSSI , SAC or similar designations. Rather than being labeled a 'threat to the environment' it would actually provide good reasons to protect the area, the population and the wildlife.

The long-term implications of not building Dungeness C. could have catastrophic consequences and DOC hopes that this Government will rethink its disastrous decision. With rising sea levels and climate change it may mean the loss of thousands of acres of fertile agricultural land and ultimately the loss of homes and the threat to human life. Combined, this could present a very genuine threat to the whole of Romney Marsh. DOC will continue to campaign to 'hold the line', defend our coast and improve our defences. DOC will make representation to the Environment Agency for an assurance that their declared policy to 'hold the line' and to maintain the sea defences to a 1:200 year standard will not be compromised.

**Terry Preston**  
**DOC – Chairman**

**11 November 2009**