

Pro Hanhikivi opposing a nuclear power project in Finland.

A letter to the Japanese politicians, companies and media

Pro Hanhikivi association was founded in December 2007, in Pyhäjoki, northern Finland as local people realized, that their home and living environment would be threatened by a Finnish nuclear company Fennovoima. The grounds were not just "not in my backyard", but perhaps more importantly the non-sustainability of the whole energy branch of nuclear power. Another reason for opposing the project in Pyhäjoki is, that the area on Hanhikivi peninsula has extremely important nature values, an internationally remarkable bird area for migrating arctic bird species and includes many protected nature types and species. (http://www.hanhikivi.net/pdf/hanhikivi_brochure_en.pdf)

The association is working on local, national and also international levels. During the past five years, Pro Hanhikivi has formulated hundreds of pages of opinions, responses, and complaints on the environmental impact assessment of the project as well as on the decision-in-principle granted to Fennovoima. In addition, Pro Hanhikivi has participated in several levels of land use planning, sent complaints about the project and all its' official proceedings to all court levels in Finland, and also formulated a petition to the Committee on Petitions of the European Union.

President Mrs. Helena Maijala and vice-president Mrs. Hanna Halmeenpää have visited the Finnish Parliament several times and the European Union (Committee on Petitions) twice as representatives of the association. Hanna Halmeenpää has also participated in the Annual General Meeting of E.ON AG, the biggest shareholder of Fennovoima, in Essen, Germany, in 2009, 2011 and 2012. Pro Hanhikivi now has over 350 members, and the anti-nuclear work against the Fennovoima project continues very intensively.

An attempt to construct a new reactor in Pyhäjoki, on Hanhikivi peninsula, a mainly untouched area with many endangered natural habitat types (<http://www.hanhikivi.net/niemi/>), is one of the most arrogant ones in the whole of Europe. Fennovoima still does not own all the land and water areas they would need for the construction, the land use plans for the nuclear power plant are not legally valid, and the company has not been able to show any solution for the disposal of its' nuclear waste, which is prerequisite for granting the construction license. Still, Fennovoima tries to move ahead with its' plans at full speed. The company has now started an official process through the Ministry of Employment and the Economy in order to expropriate the land and water areas they are still lacking. This means that the company is trying to take more than 100 hectares of land and waters by force from private persons in Pyhäjoki.

During the past few months the company has faced a number of setbacks. Several of the Finnish shareholders have withdrawn from the project, the company has fired the chairman of the board as well as their CEO, and there is a lot of speculation in Finland about the possible collapse of the whole project. Most dramatic blow to the project was the decision of the biggest shareholder E.ON AG, which will abandon Fennovoima by June 2013. Latest news in Finland speculate about Fennovoimas alternative reactor suppliers Toshiba or Areva as possible new shareholders in the company, after E.ONs pullout of the project.

Related to Fennovoimas project in Finland, our goal is not just locally, but also nationally and internationally to raise into public discussion the problems of nuclear power and problems of building



new reactors. With respect, we are asking japanese companies and politicians not to allow any support to realization of Fennovoima nuclear power plant project in Finland.

Sincerely,
Pro Hanhikivi

Helena Maijala
president

Hanna Halmeenpää
vice president



Mrs. Helena Maijala is president of the association and a civil engineer. She lives with her family in Parhalahti village in Pyhäjoki, about 5 kilometers apart from the site, where a new nuclear reactor is being planned.

Mrs. Hanna Halmeenpää is vice-president of the association and a secondary school teacher in biology and geography. She lives with her husband and three small children in Kalajoki, a neighboring municipality for Pyhäjoki, about 50 km apart from the planned reactor site.