Dear Mr Wilson

DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER - NON-MATERIAL CHANGE IN RELATION TO THE HINKLEY POINT C DEVELOPMENT SITE HINKLEY POINT, BRIDGWATER

Thank you for referring the above application, which was received on 20 October 2017.

The Environment Agency OBJECTS to the proposed development, as submitted, on the following grounds:

FLOOD RISK

We would wish to raise the following matters with EDF and their appointed consultants, prior to accepting the conclusions of the document i.e. that these proposed changes are not significant to our interests and/or would not reduce the effectiveness of the flood risk mitigation measures for the main site.

Contrary to section 4.2.1 of the application statement, we have not been party to any specific detailed pre-application discussions around these proposed changes. Changes to the sea wall in particular give rise to various questions from us which we believe require a response before any approvals are given for these changes.

Section 2.3.47 of the application statement notes that the sea wall construction is to be indented by 7m inland, over a 100m linear length, to avoid conflicts with the former graving dock for HPA.

Whilst the statement elaborates on the likely impact on the sediment transport regime on the foreshore, section 2.3.47 and onward sections are silent on whether the proposed sea wall design changes cause any impact on tidal over-topping flood risks to the HPC site. The PINS consultation does not contain any new supporting Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) documentation to demonstrate that this has been considered in any
way by these design changes. We would ask what consideration has been made and/or modelled as part of the re-design exercise.

Whilst the crest height of the proposed sea wall indentation is set at 13.5m AOD, as per the original approved DCO, we would ask whether the newly formed indent could cause any increase in tidal over-topping rates from large waves travelling in a west to east direction along the face of the wall e.g. the previously modelled mach-stem wave. Would this pose any additional flood risks to the eastern EPR and/or interim spent fuel storage buildings?

What impact on the sea wall back-drainage system is caused by the proposed indentation? Can this be easily accommodated on site?

What risk to the longer term stability of the sea wall foundations is posed by the existence of the back-filled graving dock? Does this area need any form of reinforcement to prevent possible future scouring exposing the new sea wall footings, even in their proposed set-back position?

In light of these questions above, we would also be keen to learn of any comments expressed by ONR, and whether they are satisfied that the proposed changes are likely to be acceptable to them in terms of their forthcoming pre-commencement safety case review for the site, which considers more extreme tidal flood risk design events than those examined by ourselves in any FRA.

Finally, subject to the clarification of the above points, it is worth pointing out at this stage that the sea wall re-design could be subject to a new Flood Risk Activity Permit from ourselves, as it is no longer possible to vary our original Flood Defence Consent for the sea wall, issued in December 2015. However, it is possible that these changes may now be excluded from requiring a new permit from us if they are, or will be covered by an extant MMO licence to which we have been fully consulted on. Please clarify if a MMO licence is in place for the work.

Notwithstanding the above objection, we can make the following comments:

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

The discharge from the Jetty cannot commence until the variation to the Environmental Permit (JP3122GM) has been granted to permit the discharge point on the Jetty.

We would like to confirm that the documents titled ‘TR443; Cefas Report HPC Assessment of Construction Discharges from the Jetty – Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) HPC-DEV024-XX-000-REP-10000’ and ‘TR428; Hinkley Point C construction discharge modelling assessment at the temporary jetty location Edition 3, HPC-DEV024-XX-000–REP-100002’ have not been reviewed under the planning consultation as these will be reviewed and included in the determination of the current permit variation (EPR/JP3122GM).

We note that the proposed change from wet to dry interim storage of spent nuclear fuel is still subject to regulatory scrutiny by us and the ONR. Such a change would require an amendment to the Hinkley Point C Environmental Permit for radioactive substances activities.
Please quote the Agency's reference on any future correspondence regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

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cc EDF Energy