



**Suffolk Coastal  
Friends of  
the Earth**



26 January 2013

Mr Mark Wilson  
Sizewell C Case Manager  
National Infrastructure Directorate  
Temple Quay House  
Bristol BS1 6PN

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Dear Mr Wilson

Re: Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group

I am writing on behalf of Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth. Our members are deeply disturbed by the behaviour of some of our councillors. This, we believe, has prevented the Pre-application Consultation process from being, so far, fair, open and transparent as it should be as set out in the Planning Act of 2008.

When the Government announced in November 2009 that it considered Sizewell to be a potentially suitable site for another nuclear power station, Suffolk Coastal District Council announced on its website: 'Suffolk Coastal has made it clear that it feels that there should be a genuine local say in whether another nuclear power station is built at Sizewell'. Unfortunately this has not occurred. Not only have the Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group meetings been held in effect in secret, with no Minutes taken, only 'Notes', but certain groups, ours included, and members of the public have been deliberately prohibited from attending 'community engagement' events. Bearing in mind the magnitude of the impact of such an enormous development on our tranquil rural area, and the many ways in which our members could be directly affected, we consider this to be grossly out of order.

After the Notes of the JLAG meeting of 9 March 2012 became available announcing the intention to hold a 'community engagement event', and further prompted by an open invitation on the SCDC website and local radio to apply, our group requested that we send a representative. When we were eventually told that our group could not attend, we were shocked, especially as the Notes had declared that 'It was widely agreed that this event should be as inclusive as possible and that

invitations should be extended across the District and represent a socio-economic balance to include education, skills, businesses, environment groups (e.g. RSPB) and community groups.' As Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth, we are naturally both an environmental and community group, and would have had a great deal to contribute to such a conference. We sent in a formal complaint to the councils, but were brushed off with the excuse that a group cannot complain, only an individual.

While this occurred before the formal Pre-application Consultation, we are now within this period. Once again we have been excluded from the recent 'community engagement' meeting on January 15th, despite notifying Richard Mayson, EDF Energy Director of Planning & External Affairs, of this unsatisfactory situation.

#### Statement of Community Consultation

We also informed Mr Mayson of our concern that several of our local councillors were either ill-informed about the SoCC, or in complete ignorance of it. When one councillor asked a JLAG member if he could see it, he was told not to circulate it. This is very worrying as it seems that some councillors were being deliberately kept out of the picture. Because of their ignorance, they were not able to represent residents' views as to how the Consultation should be conducted. Is it not the job of the developer to ensure that councillors know what is going on? It appears therefore that the SoCC was not fairly nor openly carried out. As a result of this I wrote to Mr Mayson on our group's behalf with the request that all our councillors are kept fully informed (and I copied you in to this communication).

Although JLAG has always asserted that it is not a decision-making body, it nevertheless took on the exclusive responsibility of responding to the Statement of Community Consultation. Moreover, this meant that the SoCC was never endorsed as it should have been by the correct bodies on each council, i.e. the Cabinet for SCDC and Council for SCC. This part of the Pre-application process has therefore not been properly followed.

#### Is the Sizewell C development a 'done deal'?

A further concern of our members is the attitude of the JLAG towards the development. We feel it is totally wrong of them openly to support the application for the new Sizewell C nuclear power station long before the details have been decided upon. We are particularly worried about the Press statement of 21 November 2012, viewable on the website, in which Councillor McGregor states: 'The County Council recognises that the development of Sizewell C is necessary .... and indeed supports its construction'. Moreover, our members have reported hearing the following statement from local councillors: 'It is going to happen anyway, so we might as well get the best deal for Suffolk.' I myself heard this from a councillor at a meeting of the Greenprint Forum on 10 Dec. 2012.

Another member heard this same statement from MP Therese Coffey at a Sizewell C meeting in the village of Yoxford on 18 Jan. 2013. On her website the following appeared: 'It is essential local residents benefit as much as possible from the project including maximising infrastructure.' Here again a green light to the project is implied. As a result, the public thinks that this proposed EDF Energy development is a 'done deal' and that there is therefore no point at all in taking part in the Consultation. Once again, it is our view that this Stage 1 Consultation is not being fairly carried out.

We should add that it is obvious that the JLAG is heavily biased in favour of the construction as all members except one (an Independent) are Conservatives. We feel it is wrong that this group is having so much influence when the views of other political parties are not represented.

We would very much welcome your comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Fulcher". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Rachel Fulcher, Coordinator  
Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth