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Ms McKay
The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
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Bristol BS1 6PN

Copied to Ms Gregory, Case manager (sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

13 January 2021

Dear Ms McKay

Application EN010012 for The Sizewell C Project by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited (SZC Co.) - Request for Changes to DCO Application, including 'additional land'

I am writing to you in relation to SZC Co.'s submission yesterday for a request for changes to the DCO application and the correspondence to you from the Environment Agency and Natural England which were accepted by you as additional submissions. Their correspondence expresses concern about the scale of material made available through the request for changes and the further Additional Information and asks that this is taken into account when settling the timescale for the examination of the Application. I hope it may be helpful to explain the views of SZC Co. in this context.

SZC Co. is very grateful to the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation for their extensive engagement with us in the formulation and assessment of the Sizewell C Application. As both the Environment Agency and Natural England make clear, we have been engaged in joint working over a substantial period of time, including significant pre-application engagement, as well as a programme of site-specific meetings since formal submission of the application in May 2020. With the Environment Agency, for example, we meet fortnightly at the technical working level, quarterly at a senior level quarterly to review issues and progress, as well as frequent topic specific meetings.

The timescale is relevant of course because, whilst Sizewell C is a substantial Project, it is subject to the same process and timescale as other DCO applications. In this context you will be aware that:

- whilst the Sizewell C application was ready for submission in February 2020, we took the decision to defer its submission until May 2020 in recognition that the pandemic would impact upon the resources available to all stakeholders;
- nevertheless, we shared the Application material in draft in October 2019 with the Defra family and in its full form on its submission in May, prior to its acceptance;
- the period provided for relevant representations then ran until 30 September – again in recognition of the scale of the Application but also the continuing implications of the pandemic;
- despite its readiness in February and submission in May, no date has yet been set for the preliminary meeting and we recognise the consideration which has been given by the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that stakeholders have sufficient time to prepare for the examination. It is probably fair to say that no DCO

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application to date has experienced such an extensive period between submission and the commencement of the examination.

I recognise that the submitted request for changes is supported by a substantial volume of information, but it is relevant to note that:

- the Environment Agency and Natural England do not object to the submission of the changes and both of their letters published yesterday recognised that a number of the changes respond to issues raised by those parties and are to be welcomed;
- the scale of the supporting information is in part at least a response to the requests from stakeholders for that additional material;
- the nature of the changes requested is fully explained in the Notification Report, sent to you on 6 October 2020, and on which detailed consultation was undertaken between 18 November and 18 December 2020;
- the information and the proposed changes have been shared with and presented to the Defra family and other key stakeholders throughout this period;
- whilst the changes are significant, Natural England's letter readily accepts that they fall within the substance of what was applied for and my letter to you yesterday with the request for changes identified that they give rise to few new or different significant environmental effects;
- the letters refer to the Additional Information including additional survey information which has been provided by SZC Co. In accordance with your request, however, much of the Additional Information referred to in our Notification Report was provided with my letters of 16 October and 8 December 2020.

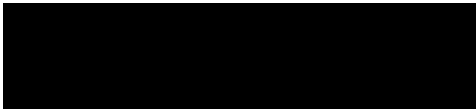
SZC Co. has shared all of its submissions with the Defra group prior to them being published on the Planning Inspectorate's website, in order to maximise the time the organisations have to consider the materials.

SZC CO. has a continuing programme of close engagement with all principal stakeholders. SZC Co. continues to resource the work of the Defra family on all areas of their work, except where they have a statutory duty, which includes the review of information by them and their appointed consultants. Both the Environment Agency and Natural England ask you to ensure that there is sufficient time for them to assess the information provided with the change request and I undertake that we will continue to assist them as best we can. It is appropriate to recognise, however, that even if the preliminary meetings were to be set as promptly as they may be, we recognise that it is likely to be at least 3 months before any stakeholders are expected to provide Written Representations to the examination and that the examination, of course, would run for its 6-month period.

The Application, of course, is nationally important in view of the Government's recent confirmation of the urgent need for new nuclear power generation and the contribution which it necessarily must make to urgent climate change objectives. Additionally, the recent Energy White Paper confirms the importance of new nuclear investment to transform regional economies.

I believe that we have taken every reasonable steps to ensure that the Application is now ready for examination and I would be very grateful if all of these factors could be taken into account as you consider settling the timescale for the examination.

Yours sincerely



Carly Vince
Chief Planning Officer