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To: [SizewellC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sizewell C Project - MMO Written Response to Rule 6 Letter
Date: 10 March 2021 12:35:51
Attachments: [20210310_EN010012_Sizewell_C_MMO_Response_to_Rule_6_Letter.pdf](#)

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Sizewell C Project – EN010012

Our Identification Number: 20025459

Please find attached the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) response to the Rule 6 letter.

The MMO will be attending the Preliminary Meeting Part 1 on Tuesday 23 March 2021, and Part 2 if required. We have completed the Preliminary Meeting Participation Form to register that we wish to be heard orally at this meeting.

Please can you confirm receipt of this response.

Kind regards,

Ellen Mackenzie

Marine Licensing Case Officer | Marine Management Organisation

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<https://www.gov.uk/mmo>

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The Sizewell C Project Case Team
National Infrastructure Planning
sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
(By email only)

10 March 2021

Your reference: EN010012
Our Identification Number:
20025459

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 - Rule 6

On 23 February 2021 the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) received the Rule 6 Letter notice, under section 88 of the Planning Act 2008, with an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting, and a copy of the draft Examination Timetable, for the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Sizewell C Project.

Please find the MMO's response outlined below for your consideration:

1. Preliminary Meeting Attendance

1.1 MMO will be attending Preliminary Meeting Part 1 and Part 2 if required. The MMO reserve the right to be heard orally at these meetings on any matters within our remit. The MMO confirm that the Preliminary Meeting Participation Form has been completed to register this.

2. Comments on the Preliminary Meeting Agenda item 4 - Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Annex C of Rule 6 letter

2.1 The proposed temporary and permanent Beach Landing Facilities and the Hard and Soft Coastal Defences have potential to cause significant impacts on coastal processes. The MMO advises that the topic of Coastal Geomorphology is given focus as a principle issue in the Examination for this to be specifically discussed. The Coastal Processes Monitoring and Mitigation Plan should form part of this discussion. The above project elements have been subject to design changes in the January 2021 submissions, and at the time of writing, MMO are awaiting full details of those changes, including geomorphological modelling and scour assessment, and a comprehensive updated assessment of the impacts. Therefore, a focus on this topic would be useful to ensure this impact is properly scrutinised.



- 2.2 With regards to 'Noise and vibration', MMO would like to highlight that underwater noise and vibration should be considered in relation to the points of discussion listed.
- 2.3 The MMO would like to seek clarity as to whether the discussion of disposal of dredged material at sea will fall under the "Marine ecology and fisheries, marine water quality and sediment, marine navigation" and not the 'Waste (conventional) and material resource' topic. MMO advises that this would be best considered under "Marine ecology and fisheries, marine water quality and sediment, marine navigation".

3. Comments on the Preliminary Meeting Agenda item 5 - The Applicant's Proposed Changes to the Application – Annex B of Rule 6 letter

- 3.1 The MMO is still awaiting modelling in relation to the assessment of impacts from the proposed changes to the Beach Landing Facilities and Coastal Defences. The MMO will be unable to robustly advise on the materiality of the proposed changes until we have reviewed this additional information with sufficient time.
- 3.2 The MMO note that the Examining Authority (ExA) have further asked how the changes could be examined. The MMO considers that although it is unclear as to the scale (see point above) of the materiality of the changes at this stage, they could be considered within the bounds of the initial proposal, with the largest change within the MMO's remit being the addition of a temporary Beach Landing Facility. As such, the MMO is of the opinion that the proposed changes could be considered alongside the current proposal, but it is advised that the changes, and how they impact the environmental statement conclusions, are clearly presented throughout. The MMO further advise that the changes are fully considered, assessed and submitted prior to the examination, to allow for one set of hearings for the entire project as a whole.
- 3.3 The MMO is continuing to engage with the applicant and is attending a Marine Technical Forum (MTF) on 15 March 2021. The MMO understands that the applicant will outline the impacts on Coastal Geomorphology from the changes proposed in January 2021, and the MMO may provide further comment at Procedural Deadline B. The MMO reiterate that if the proposed changes are considered alongside the original proposal, they must be fully considered and assessed prior to the commencement of examination.

4. Comments on the Preliminary Meeting Agenda item 6 - Draft Examination Timetable – Annex D of Rule 6 letter

- 4.1 The MMO requests the Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) hearings are organised into marine (below Mean High Water Springs) and terrestrial matters to minimise the need for MMO to be in attendance for matters that are not be relevant to our remit. This would benefit our resources and allow for an efficient and effective examination.
- 4.2 The MMO further requests that ISH hearings to discuss marine matters are grouped together on consecutive days to minimise requirements for MMO attendance, freeing up resources in order to better utilise time. This would also help reduce travel requirements for the MMO, should the COVID-19 public health restrictions allow physical attendance at hearings in the future, although MMO would like to state a preference for virtual hearings to continue in 2021.



4.3 The MMO note that the agendas for ISH will be published at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. The MMO advises that it would be beneficial to have agendas as far in advance of the hearing as possible to ensure preparedness. MMO may have to organise for technical consultants to attend meetings depending on the agenda, and so additional time would be very beneficial to ensure this can be organised with sufficient notice.

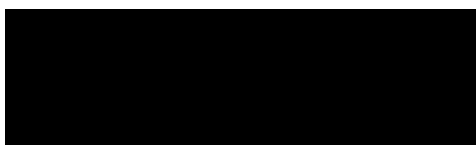
4.4 Additionally, the MMO requests that detailed agendas are provided to ensure that the MMO can effectively prepare for each hearing in order to provide the best advice.

4.5 The MMO is aware that a Water Discharge Activity (WDA) Permit for the proposed cooling water discharge has been submitted to the Environment Agency, and that there are complex overlapping Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) issues between the WDA permit and the DCO. The MMO understands that the WDA HRA is unlikely to be available until after the close of examination, but defers further comment on HRA matters to Natural England.

4.6 MMO would like to highlight that the Examination is scheduled across the period during which COVID-19 restrictions are expected to be relaxed. The MMO hope that there will be some gaps maintained in the Examination timetable devoid of deadlines that could be utilised by those staff requiring a break, after working under pressure over the last 12 months during the pandemic. The MMO further encourage the continued use of virtual hearings throughout 2021, as many staff await vaccinations in line with the government roadmap.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.

Yours faithfully,



Ellen Mackenzie
Marine Licensing Case Officer

■ [Redacted]
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