

Submission ID: 2135

Further to my earlier Relevant Representation, I wish to reiterate my opposition to SZC. I live on the B1122 in Yoxford on the section of the road where it joins the A12 at Yoxford and before the level crossing – a section that has been identified by EDF as suffering from an impact of the development.

I quote from EDF's documentation:- 'It is also recognised that the proportional impact of Sizewell C traffic would be much greater on the B1122 than on the A12, or indeed other local roads. EDF Energy recognises the potential for this traffic to cause adverse noise and amenity effects'.

The construction of the proposed roundabout in Yoxford and the increased HGVs, other construction traffic and the to and fro of the Park and Ride buses from Darsham with the ensuing noise, vibration, and light and air pollution would have a devastating impact on day to day life for me and my neighbours.

The proposed Relief Road/Link Road will provide no respite for our section of the B1122/Middleton Road as although it will take away the construction traffic (when completed) to the South, all the traffic from the North will access the Relief Road/Link Road via our section of the B1122. To make matters worse EDF proposes to run high numbers of HGVs from the South as well as the North along the B1122 to the site for at least two – 'Early Years' before the proposed Link Road is available.

The above is all very personal to my neighbours and me and deeply deeply worrying.

On a wider aspect and with environment and nature protection issues to the fore nationally, the damage to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, to habitats for rare bird species at RSPB Minsmere, to a fragile coastline and marine life caused by this massive development should not be underestimated.

In addition, EDF's record with EPR reactors does not inspire confidence. The projects in Finland, Flamanville France and Hinkley Point are all behind schedule and over budget.

There was perhaps a time when Big Nuclear was seen as the only solution to our post fossil fuel energy needs but with the plummeting cost and advancing technologies for renewables and new developments such as the Mast Upgrade nuclear fusion experiment at Culham in Oxfordshire and the IFA2 interconnector we have safer, cleaner, greener options to embrace

However, my concerns do not rest there, I am part of the wider community and I would like to take this opportunity to endorse all the arguments against this development put forth by Alison Downes at Stop Sizewell C, RSPB Minsmere, the B1122 Action Group amongst others.

I would also draw your attention to a brilliant article by Anthony Horowitz in The Spectator from 19 December 2020 – attached herewith. Many thanks.

WRITTEN BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ

I love Suffolk. This Christmas I will be there with my family and we'll almost certainly walk up the coast, joining dog-walkers, bird-watchers, hikers and even swimmers in one of the most beautiful and unspoiled parts of the UK. The secret of Suffolk is its relative inaccessibility. No major motorway connects it and once you arrive you're committed to a sprawling network of country lanes that twist through heathland and grazing marsh, mudflats and reedbeds. Minsmere, a nature reserve that's home to 6,000 wildlife species, is among its glories. The nightjar, the woodlark, the Dartford warbler and the silver-studded butterfly are just some of the rare species found there.

At least for the time being.

Not just the heritage coast, but quite possibly the entire county, could be changed for ever by the arrival of two new European pressurised reactors (EPRs). 'Sizewell C, a proposed new nuclear power station in Suffolk, has the potential to generate the reliable low carbon electricity the country needs for decades to come' is the claim made by EDF Energy, the French-owned company behind the project. It also has the potential to be a disastrous and expensive mistake. Many believe it already is.

First there's the site, which, if this were an episode of *Yes Minister*, might have been chosen for its comedy potential. Next to a world-famous bird sanctuary? In an area well-known for serious coastal erosion? As the avocets and warblers take flight, the entire thing could be reclaimed by a vengeful sea. The site is too small. It's poorly connected. (EDF put forward the idea of an 800m jetty to allow access by water. The idea sank.) Imagine 1,000 HGVs arriving every day, 10,000 cars, hundreds of buses. Actually, if you know the area, you can't.

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As for EDF, perhaps you should judge a company by the company it keeps. EDF is in bed with CGN or China General Nuclear — blacklisted by the US government after the FBI and Department of Justice uncovered a nasty propensity for stealing American technology for its own use.

EDF may have lots of things going for it, but money isn't one of them. Already stretched to the limit by its 66 per cent stake in Hinkley Point (with a budget that has risen from £16 billion to at least £21.5 billion, making it the most expensive power station in the world), it needs £20 billion and hopes the UK government will come up with most of that through either a large stakeholding or a tax added to energy bills known as Regulated Asset Base.

To be fair, EPR nuclear reactors are notoriously difficult and expensive to construct. Look at Olkiluoto Island to the west of Finland, which went wrong almost at once when the slab base was incorrectly laid, a design fault which could have caused the entire thing to collapse if anyone sneezed. The project has been swamped by lawsuits. Or Flamanville in France, where costs have risen from €3.3 billion to €12.4 billion and the EPR is already eight years late. The French energy minister has described it as a 'mess'.

Here are two simple truths.

Right now the main beneficiary of the nuclear industry is... the nuclear industry. No western European country has commissioned new builds apart from the fiascos in Finland and France. Why is EDF even suggesting an EPR when there are other options that could be considered? There are the small modular reactors, for example, proposed by Rolls-Royce and put together in factories off-site, each one producing 440 megawatts of electricity, enough to power a small city. But that's not what EDF does. It'll stick with what it knows, even if what it knows is cumbersome and expensive.

And slow. Sizewell C needs planning consent and operating licences that won't be in place before 2022. It will take 12 years to construct. The earliest it could power even a single Christmas tree light is 2034, and it will need another six years to offset the CO2 created by its construction. Net zero is of course the ultimate goal. But there are other ways to achieve this. Suffolk has offshore wind farms with more planned. Hydropower, geothermal energy, hydrogen cell technology — there's every chance that by the time Sizewell C opens it will already be outdated.

But will it actually go ahead? Nobody knows. The Prime Minister has approved the start of negotiations with EDF and he does like his 'big' projects, but in this case that's exactly the problem. As Alison Downes, a human rights campaigner now leading the Stop Sizewell C protest group, told me: 'We have no ideological opposition to nuclear power. It's the sheer scale and intensity of what's required to build these huge reactors — the workforce and the materials and all the rest of it — that have angered local people.' A petition against the project has been signed by 19,000 of them.

They may well know what to expect. Look at Leiston, just a few miles away, which bought into the myth of Sizewell B. Huge social problems involving pop-up brothels and drug dealing arose during its construction (1987-95) and what has been left behind is hardly glorious. The town looks tired and a little sad. Anthony Douglas CBE, chair of the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership which protects children and adults at risk in the county, describes 'a significantly deprived population... with little social mobility'. This is the legacy of Sizewell B, and he worries that years of disruption during the new construction will further impact the health and wellbeing of local people.

Call me a Nimby if you must. How cleverly Donated (the Department Of Nasty Acronyms To Eliminate Debate) attacks our quality of life with easy insults. Not in my backyard — yes, but how else are we to protect the world if we don't look out for our backyards, for our neighbours, for each other? By the time Sizewell C is actually producing electricity I could well be dead, so in fact it's your and my children's backyards that concern me.

And on that cheery note, COTS! Work it out.