

WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF ORAL CASE: MRS MARILYN CHECKLEY 20026503

Our daughter is a Consultant in Infectious Diseases at a large teaching hospital in London. You can't imagine her and her family's life over the last year! In the first wave of the pandemic she had to tell her two small children that she might have to stay away from home at night. She's had to watch countless people dying of Covid and watch junior colleagues and nurses catch Covid, then return to work, exhausted. At the end of the first wave she was so exhausted that when rules permitted, she asked if her family could come to Suffolk. She held clinics over the internet, and when not working was able to do walks and take her children to the beach. She only had to return to London when she was rota'd to be on the wards. For her that break in Eastbridge was absolutely lifesaving - but it also meant an NHS doctor regained her morale, and returned to work with renewed vigour - treating patients with Covid, and also researching Covid treatments.

The same went for my husband some years ago. As Dean of a hospital in London that was threatened with closure, he came and recovered when my parents-in-law lived here. He's clear that this helped him survive, and maintain his ability to make decisions, which in turn saved a centre of excellence in treatment and research.

It's shocking that EDF admits that not only will Eastbridge be blighted during the build of SZC, but that it, and the countryside around it, will be blighted for ever!

The degree to which Nature heals us is proportionate to its wildness - and this area is the wildest part of SE England. The same benefits are experienced by the 90,000 visitors who come to RSPB Minsmere every year. We speak to many of them at the bridge, and they all describe the huge benefits they get from being in an unspoilt natural environment. Some come from a long way away, and have been coming for years. The BBC Springwatch programmes have made Minsmere even more popular: the whole area benefits thousands of people country-wide. The flagship nature reserve has taken almost 80 years to reach Council of Europe Protected Status - which will be rescinded if SZC goes ahead.

By contrast, when I look at pictures of Hinkley Point C, I can only describe it as a hell-hole. It has all the ingredients that cause stress and physical and mental ill health: noise, pollution, ugliness and the total degradation of the natural environment.

If SZC goes ahead, there will be traffic congestion and both noise and light pollution. Dust will be blown over the area from the spoil heaps that will be right next to Eastbridge. Our tiny hamlet will be dwarfed by the accommodation block for 2,400 workers a couple of fields away. The workers will dominate the village and its pub and will trample the local footpaths which were intended for small groups. Given that Eastbridge is so close to the projected spoil heaps and borrow pits, it will suffer more than any other community in East Suffolk - so it is very disappointing that it is not given a chapter of its own in EDF's response. We are an administrative addendum under the ward of Saxmundham, fobbed off with vague promises of double glazing, or funding for relocation to other premises during the development phase should noise and pollution levels exceed unspecified conditions.

I was appalled during the hearings to hear repeatedly how insensitive and cavalier EDF have been towards the lives and livelihoods of local residents, with whom they have consistently failed to engage. In particular, I was struck by their arrogance and entitlement towards [REDACTED] next door to us, who testified that compulsory land purchase will cost them their livelihoods and the wonderful staff who have been with them for years. They were shocked to find EDF trespassing in their fields, and on another occasion a drone photographing their farm - also

without permission. We would be heartbroken to see their cowman go. (He gave an oral representation on the phone.) He is a local character, a lovely man, who devotedly tends their prizewinning herd of Simmental cows. As our family has experienced firsthand, he welcomes visiting children, allows them to bottle feed calves, introducing them to country life. He also makes many important contributions to the local community - as well as welcoming visitors, some of whom have been coming to the neighbouring campsite for years and regard him as an old friend. (Note - [REDACTED] doesn't even get a mention in the quote above!)

As a result of the influx of 2,400 workers a couple of fields away, this healthy country life will disappear, and safeguarding will become a nightmare. The director of Pro Corda, at Leiston Abbey, talked about how school heads fear for the safety of their vulnerable autistic pupils, and are reconsidering sending them on their courses. They're right to be concerned. According to DrugRehab.com, "the construction industry employs more workers with substance abuse disorders than any other profession." The only heritage left to Leiston by Sizewell B was a drugs problem that blights it to this day. If SZC went ahead, we in Eastbridge would feel extremely unsafe. At the moment I can take bike rides or walks on my own - I definitely wouldn't feel safe enough to do that. And just when our grandchildren - and their peers - are becoming teenagers their independence, too, would be curtailed.

The damage to this precious place if SZC were to go ahead would be monstrous; EDF admit there will be permanent effects on the AONB and SSSI's. On p 354 of their response to Relevant Representations, EDF talk about "the potential acceptability of significant environmental effects in this regard in view of the national need for nuclear power generation and the scarcity of alternative sites." (Ch. 3.10 (Nuclear Impact: Landscape and Visual Impacts) of NPS EN-6). In other words, the sacrifice of this irreplaceable area is acceptable - when there are 7 other potential sites for nuclear power stations that are in less sensitive areas! And that's if you accept the premise that large nuclear is essential to our energy mix. Dominic Cummings is known to have favoured Small Modular Reactors instead - so there is an alternative.

As for the build time - the area would be utterly blighted for 12 years, which is when our grandchildren - and their peers, will be growing up. No amount of traffic mitigation would alter the fact that access would be a nightmare, and on inevitable days when trains couldn't run, or the sea was too rough, the shift of the traffic to road would cause total gridlock. We'd fear for our health as we get older, as blue-light services would be compromised if we needed to go to hospital. EDF's risible suggestion that these services would only be delayed by one minute is evidence - if more was needed - of their complete contempt for truth and the local community.

Blight would deter people from coming to the whole of East Suffolk. If EDF admit that there would be a 29% drop in visitors, you can be quite sure that the real figure will be a lot higher. And the reduction of existing tourist accommodation by the importation of thousands of workers from Hinkley Point would make double disincentive. So local businesses dependent on tourism would be catastrophically damaged.

And what if - as seems highly likely - EDF dispose of this questionable asset once it's constructed? Such guarantees as they've given to local communities will be null and void - terrifying.

What's most galling is the fact that this build is totally unnecessary. Not only are wind and solar vastly cheaper, the EPR technology of SZC is out of date and impossible to construct, witness Olkiluoto in Finland and Flammanville in France; significantly, EDF itself is abandoning this model for future projects. The reference in their response to two functioning Chinese stations is hardly reassuring, given the indifference the Chinese government demonstrated towards their own population over Covid!

EDF admit that SZC will not even start to contribute to net zero carbon emissions until at least 2040 - and their argument that there will still be a need for extra electricity then ignores the fact that this will be supplied by other technologies. And the greenwash carbon-capture programme powered by SZC to make them carbon-negative is a case of the emperor's new clothes: it is blindingly obvious that a similar programme powered by wind or solar would be a thousand times more carbon negative!

And the elephant in the room is waste disposal. The thought of nuclear waste buried in soft sandstone that's being rapidly eroded by the sea, compounded by unpredictable rising sea levels and a sinking coastline, is beyond belief. Now we know that that climate change is faster and more unpredictable than originally thought, government claims of site security are no longer reliable.

Government studies quoted by EDF, claiming the project will be within acceptable safety levels, don't take account of the fact that no one can predict the speed of climate change. It is now predicted that, contrary to previous estimates, we'll probably reach the 1.5 degrees Paris limit during one of the next 5 years, with associated extra rises in sea levels. King Canute comes to mind!

In conclusion - if Wylfa was granted a reprieve on the grounds of its pristine ecology, then manifestly our community, the RSPB reserve, the AONB and SSSI's in this area should be spared as well. And for the sake of the health and security of generations to come, locals and visitors, I beg you to recommend that this proposal is turned down.

Finally, I totally endorse the Stop Sizewell C and TEAGS representations.

Marilyn Checkley, Eastbridge.