



The Sizewell C Project

9.10.2 Initial Statement of Common Ground - Essex and Suffolk Water

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Status of the SOCG

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') has been prepared in respect of the application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 ('the Application') for the proposed Sizewell C Project. This version (Rev 02), dated 27.05.21, has been prepared through a programme of engagement between NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited ('SZC Co.') as the Applicant and Northumbrian Water Limited ('NWL'), referred to as 'the parties'. NWL trades locally as Essex and Suffolk Water ('ESW'). It is envisaged by the Parties that updates to this SoCG will be provided as the ongoing technical studies progress.

1.1.2 It should be noted that NWL are engaging in the SoCG process to assist the Examining Authority as part of its normal role as a statutory consultee in connection with proposed developments which may affect the capacity of its infrastructure and water supply systems.

1.2 Purpose of this document

1.2.1 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the position of the parties arising from the application for development consent for the construction and operation of the Sizewell C nuclear power station and together with the proposed associated development (hereafter referred to as 'the Sizewell C Project'). This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the 'Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent' published in March 2015 by the Department of Communities and Local Government (hereafter referred to as 'DCLG guidance').

1.2.2 The aim of this SoCG is, therefore, to inform the Examining Authority and provide a clear position on the state and extent of discussions and agreement between the parties on matters relating to the proposed Sizewell C Project.

1.3 Structure of this Statement of Common Ground

1.3.1 Chapter 2 provides a schedule which detail the position on relevant matters between the parties, including any matters where discussions are ongoing. This is underpinned by Appendix A, which provides a summary of engagement undertaken to establish this SoCG.



2 POSITION OF THE PARTIES

- 2.1.1 Table 2.1 provides an overview of the position of the parties and any further actions planned.

Table 2.1 Position of the Parties

Ref.	Matter	NWL's Position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed / Not Agreed / In Progress
Potable Water Demand					
1.	SZC Co's peak daily and annual average daily mains water demand forecast in respect of the Main Development Site (MDS) is 4MI/d during the construction phase and 2MI/d during operation, assuming both reactors are generating electricity. The operational demand would increase to 2.9MI/d for two months every 16 months, when one unit is generating electricity and the other unit is in maintenance shutdown.	<p>SZC Co's original peak estimate was 2MI/d during construction and 0.5MI/d in operation. In January 2021 the construction estimate was increased to 3.5MI/d and the operational estimate was increased to 2MI/d. In April 2021 SZC Co advised NWL of a further revision to the estimate based on its demand studies.</p> <p>We have provided SZC Co with a demand forecast spreadsheet with they are currently populating.</p>	<p>SZC Co has been carrying out further, more detailed demand forecast studies since the January 2021 change submission as part of its strategy for potable and non-potable water supply for the SZC Project. This has covered all aspects of the Project including the MDS and Associated Development (AD). The figures provided for the MDS include requirements for domestic and construction use where non-potable water cannot be used due to water quality requirements. The Land East of Eastlands Industrial Estate (LEEIE) is also included, as is the campus. The AD demand is for domestic/welfare use and construction activities such as earthworks, dust suppression and irrigation. The demand forecast for the operational phase also includes domestic and industrial requirements. The industrial demand is driven mainly by the production of deionised water which is used extensively within the power station.</p> <p>NWL's demand forecast spreadsheet is currently being populated.</p>	SZC Co is satisfied that the demand forecast provided on 08 March 2021 is appropriate for use by NWL in resource planning. NWL's demand forecast spreadsheet is being populated.	Headline figures have been provided by SZC Co to NWL – demand forecast spreadsheet is in progress
Resource Availability					
2.	The options available for supplying potable (mains) water needed to construct and operate Sizewell C nuclear power station have been considered by NWL at a high level; further assessment is required to determine the final design which would have the capability of supply SZC from NWL's infrastructure .	<p>Following the publication of our Water Resources Management Plan 2019, we confirmed with SZC Co that we would be unable to provide a mains water supply to the SZC site from our local Blyth Water Resource Zone within which the SZC site is located. This is because all raw water in our Blyth Water Resource Zone is sourced from the Chalk and Crag aquifers which are currently assessed by the Environment Agency to be over abstracted.</p> <p>Consequently, we are required to maintain annual average groundwater abstraction below a recent actual baseline level. This "no deterioration" policy is to prevent any significant impacts on the environment (e.g. impacts on base flow to rivers and to wetland sites).</p> <p>Instead, we agreed that we would work with SZC Co to investigate whether an alternative supply could be provided.</p> <p>This work is dependent on the ongoing Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) investigation and should be completed in August 2021. An interim report in respect of the proposed Sizewell C demand should be available in early June 2021.</p>	<p>SZC Co acknowledges that there is no resource available within NWL's local Blyth Water Resource Zone and that SZC's full demand, from early construction activities onwards, must be met from other sources. Based on discussions with NWL, the preferred option is a transfer from Northern/Central WRZ, although it is recognised that the availability and sustainability of this potential resource is still to be confirmed through ongoing studies, the most important of which is NWL's part of the Environment Agency's Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP). SZC Co notes that NWL anticipates the release of an interim report on the sustainability of the SZC demand in early June 2021, two months earlier than the completion date for the full report, in order to facilitate the Sizewell C examination process.</p>	NWL and the EA to complete WINEP study – interim report to confirm sustainability of supplying SZC due June 2021	In progress

Ref.	Matter	NWL's Position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed / Not Agreed / In Progress
The New SZC Transfer Main					
3.	Based on high level outline design work, a new Transfer Main is required to take potable (mains) water from NWL's wider infrastructure system and transfer it to the SZC site.	<p>Following discussion with SZC Co, we procured a high level outline design and cost for an option to provide the SZC Transfer Main.</p> <p>NWL has provided SZC Co with an outline design and cost in August 2020 and the SZC demand was assumed to be 3.5MI/d during construction and 2MI/d during operation, although it was understood at the time that the exact demand profile was still to be confirmed by SZC Co following further design development work.</p> <p>The outline design for the pipeline will be refreshed once NWL has concluded further assessment work required as a result of the increased demand projection provided by SZC Co.</p> <p>A full feasibility study of the Sizewell Transfer Main, based on the above outline scheme, will be required. On an indicative basis only, NWL consider that it may be possible to deliver the scheme by September 2024 at the earliest. This projection is however subject to additional ongoing work.</p>	<p>SZC Co continues to engage closely with NWL on the proposed SZC Transfer Main. We look forward to the new main being requisitioned at NWL's earliest convenience.</p> <p>We are confident from our engagement with NWL that the proposed transfer scheme would be designed to meet the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet the peak potable demand to construct and operate SZC To utilise a sustainable resource without impact in relation either to base river flow or sensitive and protected wetland sites To enhance the capacity and resilience of the local supply network in the vicinity of Sizewell whilst also supplying SZC <p>SZC Co looks forward to continued engagement and co-operation with NWL to help ensure that all three objectives are delivered by the scheme.</p>	Further work to be undertaken to determine next stage of outline design process.	In progress
Protective Provisions					
4.	There are a number of NWL assets that lie within the Redline Boundary as defined within the Development Consent Order Application.	The existing assets inside the order limits have been categorised as needing either protection or diversion. There has been ongoing dialogue between NWL and SZC Co between October 2020 to present. The impact to these assets has been discussed between NWL and SZC Co with SZC Co having shared details with NWL in December 2020. NWL is committed to continuing discussion with SZC Co on the impact to these assets. SZC Co submitted draft Protective Provisions to NWL with a view to seeking their agreement during June 2021.	No comment.	Agree Diversions and Protections. Agree Protective Provisions	In Progress
Summary of Matters Agreed					
5.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supply of all of SZC's potable demand, based on the new demand figures, is being investigated by NWL. It is anticipated that a technical solution will be available, but further work is required 			

Ref.	Matter	NWL's Position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed / Not Agreed / In Progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy for supply of SZC's potable demand is subject to satisfactory completion of the ongoing study due to report in early June 2021 as well as the NWL's part of the Environment Agency's Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) and NWL's wider capital programme SZC Co and NWL continue to discuss additional work streams in respect of the SZC Transfer Main 			
Summary of Matters Not Agreed or Outstanding					
6.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no areas of disagreement between the Parties. Outstanding matters comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review/potential update of outline of the SZC Transfer Scheme based on final SZC demand profile Confirmation of resource availability subject to completion of the WINEP study (interim report on SZC supply due in June 2021) and NWL capital programme Requisition SZC Transfer Scheme including planning, detailed design, construction & commissioning (aim to be in contract in June 2021) 			

APPENDIX A: ENGAGEMENT ON THE SOCG

A.1.1. The preparation of this SoCG has been informed by a programme of discussions between the parties, and are summarised in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2 SOCG meetings held between the parties

Date	Details of the Meeting
Weekly progress meetings between SZC Co and NWL held from March 2021	To discuss progress in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SZC demand forecast - SZC site mains requisition - Status of various technical studies
Monthly Water Supply Meetings between SZC Co, NWL, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council & the EA held since Q1 2020	To discuss progress in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SZC demand forecast (potable and non-potable) - Potable and non-potable water supply strategy - Status of various technical studies