

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON SIZEWELL C AT DEADLINE 2:
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JOHN SUTHERELL REGISTRATION NUMBER 20026479

SIZEWELL C: A STRATEGIC MISTAKE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strategic mistakes occur when objectives are pursued hubristically in spite of changing circumstances and when the ways and means of achieving the desired ends are inappropriate and inadequate.

While a nuclear component to the national energy mix remains necessary, changes in circumstances since the inception of the Sizewell C project, the weaknesses of the current plan (ways) and inadequate financing (means) results in this being a high risk project with all the hallmarks of an impending strategic mistake with serious political, economic, environmental, reputational, human and possibly legal consequences.

The **changed circumstances** include: **political** (security concerns about Chinese influence, 'levelling up' suggesting investment outside East Anglia); **economic** (damage to a thriving tourist based local economy; following the departure of EU workers post Brexit and pandemic the current problem is the shortage of workers for existing jobs); **environmental** (serious damage to the local environment difficult to justify given the higher priority of preserving the environment and bio-diversity; effect of climate change, ice melt, rising sea levels on a fragile marine environment and eroding coast); **technical** (greatly enhanced renewables, and other options, including alternative nuclear to achieve carbon neutral targets with less risk); **governance and legal** (growing demand for transparency and accountability); **public confidence and attitudes** (loss of trust in EDF and demand for accountability).

This is a large and complex project. The current plan (**ways**) is seriously flawed, **The declared intention to copy Hinkley Point C onto the much smaller, more vulnerable Sizewell site in an area with much more fragile infrastructure than Somerset is high risk.** There are many contradictions in the plan which is lacking in convincing detail. The region's infrastructure will be overloaded leading to progressive delays and rising costs and conflict. There is little evidence of effective collaboration with other developments using the same infrastructure. Governance is opaque and there is a lack of accountability. The **means**

(resources) have yet to be identified. The putative approach (RAB) has **serious issues for governance and accountability and appears to build in a reward for failure.**

The combination of the many weaknesses makes Sizewell C a high risk project with damaging consequences. The Inspectorate has the power to stop this strategic mistake being made, and I humbly request that it does so.

2 June 2021