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Our ref: SIZE-SP004 / 20025411 (NE internal ref: 361180)  
Your ref: EN010012



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Ms McKay

**Application by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for The Sizewell C Project**

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response for Examination Deadline 5.

**1. Natural England's Deadline 5 Submissions**

- 1.1. Natural England continue to review the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadlines 3 & 4.
- 1.2. We have also reviewed transcripts and recordings from Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 1 the draft DCO, Section 106 agreement and Deed of obligation, ISH5 Landscape and Visual Impact and Design, ISH6 Coastal Geomorphology and ISH7 Biodiversity and Ecology.
- 1.3. After reviewing the transcripts and recordings for ISH1, ISH5 and ISH6, which we did not attend, we do not have any further comments to provide beyond those provided in our Written Representations [REP2-153].
- 1.4. See below for the list of documents Natural England are submitting at Deadline 5:

- EN010012\_361180\_SZC\_Comments on draft DCO/DML [REP2-013 REP2-014 REP2-015]
- EN010012\_361180\_SZC\_NE's Oral Reps ISH7 Deadline 5
- EN010012\_361180\_SZC\_NE Comments on Coastal Defence Feature Report [REP3-032]

## **2. The Applicant's Deadline 5 Submissions**

- 2.1. Natural England understand that a large number of documents relevant to our remit are to be submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 5.
- 2.2. In many cases these are documents, assessments and plans that we have requested in the hope that they will address ongoing issues on which we have outstanding concerns, and we therefore welcome their submission. However, the volume of submissions that we have been advised to expect by the Applicant will require a significant amount of time and resource to be able to review and provide our advice to the examination.
- 2.3. We advise that a 50-page document will typically require 0.5 days to review, 0.5 days to comment and 0.5 days to quality check comments. These rough estimates will increase with the length and complexity of the document. Additionally, we highlight that these estimates are likely to be further increased during the summer period where Natural England staff advising on the project will be taking annual leave.
- 2.4. We will continue to endeavour to provide our comments on submissions to the examination at the earliest possible opportunity. However, for the reasons detailed above we will find it extremely difficult to review all relevant documents submitted to the examination, while also working with the Applicant towards establishing common ground.
- 2.5. Natural England find it disappointing to be at this stage of the examination and to be seeing multiple documents setting out key proposals, environmental assessments and mitigation, compensation, management and monitoring plans/strategies for the first time. At this stage, we would normally anticipate providing advice on updated versions of documents and getting close to agreeing finalised positions in our Statement of Common Ground with the Applicant.

This concludes Natural England's advice at this time, which we hope you will find helpful.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter only, please contact Jack Haynes on 020802 64857.

Yours sincerely,

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Norfolk & Suffolk Area Team

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