



# The Sizewell C Project

## 9.61 Third Notification of Proposed Project Changes

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July 2021

Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 A development consent application for the Sizewell C Project (the 'Project') was submitted by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited ('SZC Co.') on 27 May 2020. The application was accepted for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 24 June 2020 [\[PD-001\]](#). An Examining Authority ('ExA') was appointed on 30 June 2020 [\[PD-004\]](#) and the Examination commenced on 14 April 2021.
- 1.1.2 On 21 April 2021, 15 changes to the application were accepted for Examination by the ExA [\[PD-013\]](#) following a request made by SZC Co. in a letter dated 11 January 2021 [\[AS-105\]](#) (the 'Accepted Changes').
- 1.1.3 SZC Co. then notified the ExA of its intention to submit a request to make three further changes in a letter dated 2 June 2021 [\[REP2-001\]](#). That request has been made by SZC Co. in a letter dated 23 July 2021 [\[REP5-001\]](#).
- 1.1.4 As a result of the ongoing engagement between SZC Co. and stakeholders, SZC Co. has now identified a further proposed change that it wishes to make to the application.
- 1.1.5 SZC Co. considers that the further proposed change to the application is not material. However, as it is recognised that this is a question of planning judgment for the ExA, SZC Co. is broadly following the process for making a material change set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 16<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.1.6 The first step in that process is to notify the ExA of the intention to request a change to the application. This Notification Report hereby notifies the ExA of that intention and seeks advice from the ExA on the procedural implications.
- 1.1.7 The further proposed change is intended to enhance the application, which remains an application for fundamentally the same project. The change affects only the Main Development Site potable water supply during construction, and is not considered to be of such a degree that its effect would constitute a materially different project.
- 1.1.8 In order to save time, consultation on the further proposed change will be undertaken on a voluntary basis commencing on 3 August 2021. This is in advance of advice to SZC Co from the ExA on the need, scale and nature of the proposed consultation exercise, which is sought by 5 August 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> Advice Note 16: How to request a change which may be material, Planning Inspectorate, March 2018

- 1.1.9 This approach is in accordance with Advice Note 16, which recognises at Paragraph 3.4 that it is not obligatory to seek advice from the ExA before commencing consultation. Whilst it is understood that such an approach may mean that the ExA may request further consultation is undertaken if it considers that the steps taken by SZC Co. are not adequate, that risk will be minimised by undertaking the consultation in a way that reflects the advice given in respect of the previous consultation exercises.

## 1.2 Report structure

- 1.2.1 The remainder of this Notification Report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2:** Further proposed change – provides a description of and justification for the change.
- **Section 3:** Potential change to the environmental assessments – provides an overview of further work being undertaken to assess how the change would affect the environmental assessments reported in the application.
- **Section 4:** Consultation – details the proposed consultation approach.
- **Section 5:** Indicative programme – sets out indicative timescales for introducing the change.

## 2 FURTHER PROPOSED CHANGE

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Details of the extensive consultation carried out in respect of the Project are provided in the: **Consultation Report** [[APP-068](#)]; **Consultation Report Addendum** [[AS-153](#)]; **Consultation Report Second Addendum** [[REP3-009](#)]; and, **Consultation Report Third Addendum** [[REP5-041](#)].

2.1.2 The further proposed change set out in this report has resulted from ongoing engagement between SZC Co. and stakeholders – particularly Northumbrian Water Group (trading as Essex and Suffolk Water) and the Environment Agency.

2.1.3 This formal notification of the intention to request a further proposed change is being made as soon as possible in the examination period to provide time for the necessary steps to be taken without impacting on the statutory timescale for the examination stage.

### 2.2 Materiality of change

2.2.1 Neither the Planning Act 2008 nor the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 define what constitutes a material change to a project.

2.2.2 Advice Note 16 clarifies that ‘*whether the change is substantial*’ will be an appropriate consideration in identifying a material change. The matter is ultimately a question of planning judgment, which Advice Note 16 confirms may be based on criteria including:

- whether the change would generate new or different likely significant environmental effect(s); and
- whether (and if so the extent to which) a change request involves an extension to the order land, particularly where this would require additional compulsory acquisition powers, e.g. for new plots of land and/or interests.

2.2.3 At this stage it is not possible to fully determine whether the further proposed change would generate new or materially different likely significant environmental effects. Assessments are ongoing to establish this and the results of these assessments will be included in the change request. The preliminary view is that it is unlikely that there will be any new or materially different effects.

- 2.2.4 The further proposed change does not involve an extension to the Order land.
- 2.2.5 The proposed change is intended to enhance the application, which remains an application for fundamentally the same project.
- 2.2.6 SZC Co. considers that the further proposed change to the application is not material. Nevertheless, SZC Co. intends to follow the process for making a material change set out in Advice Note 16.
- 2.2.7 This Notification Report constitutes Step 1 of the process and provides the ExA with the necessary information to allow advice to be given to SZC Co. (Step 2). The views of the ExA are sought by 5 August 2021 on the need, scale and nature of the proposed consultation exercise, which is due to commence on 3 August 2021.

## 2.3 Summary overview of the further proposed change

- 2.3.1 SZC Co. is proposing a change to the proposals on the Main Development Site during the construction phase only. The change is summarised in **Table 2.1** and explained in the text that follows. The location of the change is shown in **Appendix A**.
- 2.3.2 The numbering of the further proposed change is Proposed Change 19 to follow consecutively from the previous 15 Accepted Changes [[PD-013](#)] and the three further Requested Changes [[REP5-002](#)].

**Table 2.1: Summary of further proposed change**

ID	Description	Impact on Order limits
<b>Proposed Change 19: Temporary desalination plant</b>		
i	A change to the Water Supply Strategy to propose new temporary infrastructure for the desalination and treatment of seawater to produce potable water suitable for construction-related activities until the Sizewell transfer main is delivered and operational.	None

### a) Proposed Change 19: Temporary desalination plant

- 2.3.3 The **Water Supply Strategy** recognised that there is likely to be insufficient potable water available locally to meet the full demands of the Project and identifies options.

- 2.3.4 The **Water Supply Strategy Update** considers this further and explains why all potable water sources apart from one – a new Sizewell transfer main from Barsham Water Treatment Works – have been discounted. Barsham Water Treatment Works is located in the neighbouring Northern/Central Water Resource Zone (WRZ). The Sizewell transfer main would be provided by ESW and does not form part of the Application.
- 2.3.5 ESW's Sizewell transfer main would involve construction of approximately 28km of replacement or new high pressure water mains, with associated infrastructure.
- 2.3.6 ESW were commissioned by SZC Co. to undertake two tasks:
- *Undertake modelling work to confirm ESW's expectation that it is sustainable to abstract water from this WRZ.* In order to determine whether the Northern/Central WRZ can sustainably provide the water required by Sizewell C, ESW are undertaking an abstraction sustainability study as part of an Environment Agency led 'Water Industry National Environment Programme' (WINEP) scheme. ESW provided interim feedback in June 2021 identifying that the Sizewell C demand is likely to be sustainable subject to agreement with the Environment Agency and Natural England.
  - *Develop an implementation plan for the transfer main.* In June 2021, ESW provided further information on the planning strategy and implementation schedule for the Sizewell transfer main. This confirmed that the transfer main would not be available until December 2024 at the earliest. They have also indicated that there is significant programme risk around this milestone and it may not be fully available until 2026 or later, which is significantly later than previously expected.
- 2.3.7 For the early years of construction while the Sizewell transfer main is being constructed, SZC Co.'s expectation was that ESW would be able to balance water between the Northern/Central WRZ and the local Blyth WRZ using existing network connections with no net increase in abstraction within the Blyth WRZ. However, ESW have now confirmed that it is not feasible.
- 2.3.8 Now that SZC Co. has received this information it is clear that a temporary supplementary potable water source is necessary. Plans have been progressed for consultation at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.3.9 The desalination plant will be required before the Sizewell transfer main is fully available. This is likely to be for approximately the first four to five years of construction. However, it should be assumed for the purposes of consultation that the desalination plant may need to be retained for longer – potentially throughout the majority of the construction period – in the

unlikely event of a delay to delivery of the transfer main by ESW that is beyond their control. The desalination plant would be decommissioned once the transfer main is fully available.

- 2.3.10 The modular desalination plant would be located on the Main Development Site and away from sensitive receptors, including Sizewell Marshes SSSI and Sizewell Beach.
- 2.3.11 The intake and outfall pipes would be bored out to sea using an underground directional drilling technique or similar. A headworks would be located at the seaward end of the intake pipe with screens to prevent the intake of fish, which will be approximately 380m seaward of the Temporary Hard Coastal Defence Feature (HCDF). Diffusers would be located at the seaward end of the outfall pipe to help disperse the brine water, which will be approximately 200m seaward of the Temporary HCDF.
- 2.3.12 The seawater intake headworks would be decommissioned and removed once the transfer main is fully available. The buried intake pipeline would be grouted, capped and would remain in-situ.



### 3 POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

- 3.1.1 The findings of the environmental assessments reported in the Volume 2 of the **Environmental Statement** [APP-178 to APP-347], as updated by the **First Environmental Statement Addendum** for the **Accepted Changes** [AS-179 to AS-260], and other environmental information outlined in the **Environmental Statement Signposting Document** [REP2-025] are unlikely to materially alter as a result of the further proposed change. However, further work is required to confirm this position. Such confirmation will be provided when SZC Co. makes a formal change request following consultation.
- 3.1.2 The findings of the **Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment Report** [APP-145 to APP-152, AS-173 to AS-178, REP2-032 and REP4-004], **Water Framework Directive** [APP-619 to APP-633 and AS-277 to AS-279] and **Flood Risk Assessments** [APP-093 to APP-144, AS-157 to AS-172, REP2-026, REP5-045 and REP5-046] are anticipated to be unchanged.
- 3.1.3 A **Second Environmental Statement Addendum** for the **Requested Changes** [REP5-062 to REP5-069] was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 5. Whilst the Examining Authority has not yet reached a decision on whether to accept those changes into the Examination, the proposed change is anticipated to neither affect, nor be affected by, the conclusions in the Second Environmental Statement Addendum.

## 4 CONSULTATION

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Advice Note 16 states that *‘Before making a written request (Step 4 of Figure 1, page 4) it is recommended that applicants consult all those persons prescribed in the PA2008 under section 42 (a) to (d) who would be affected by the proposed change (giving a minimum of 28 days)’* (paragraph 3.3).

4.1.2 In accordance with this recommendation, SZC Co. intends to carry out non-statutory consultation on Proposed Change 19 before submitting its change request. This will allow consultees, including those potentially impacted by the proposed change, to consider and respond, and for those responses to be considered by SZC Co. before it decides on the final form of any change to include in the written request.

4.1.3 SZC Co. seeks the views of the ExA by 5 August 2021 as to the need, scale and nature of the proposed consultation exercise, as described below.

### 4.2 Consultation Activity

4.2.1 SZC Co. intends to carry out consultation between Tuesday 3 August and midnight Friday 27 August 2021. Consultation will be carried out as follows:

#### **Letters posted to all section 42(1)(a) to (d) consultees**

4.2.2 SZC Co. will consult all of the consultees identified in section 42(1)(a) to (d) of the Planning Act 2008, being prescribed persons, the MMO, the local authorities and persons with an interest in the land. This goes beyond the recommendation in Advice Note 16, which refers to consultation only with those section 42 consultees who would be affected by the proposed change.

4.2.3 Letters will be sent to these parties by 3 August 2021 with details of the proposed change and how they can submit comments on the proposed change to SZC Co. by midnight 27 August 2021.

#### **Consultation newsletter to 40,000+ homes and businesses**

4.2.4 SZC Co. will also voluntarily send a consultation newsletter to 40,000+ homes and businesses within a ten-mile radius of Sizewell and to those within the parish and neighbouring parishes of associated development sites outside this area. This newsletter will provide a summary of the further proposed change, the dates of the consultation, details of how to participate

and directions to the consultation website. Additionally, emails will be sent to all parish councils before 3 August.

### **Meetings**

- 4.2.5 Emails will be sent to the parish councils within the areas affected by the proposed change to offer them the opportunity to participate in meetings with SZC Co. to discuss the proposed change.

### **Press releases to advertise the consultation**

- 4.2.6 The launch of the consultation will be advertised through press adverts in the East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star on 3 and 10 August 2021, the Lowestoft Journal on 6 and 13 August, and The Times, Lloyds List, the Gazette and Fishing News on 3 August. Additionally, adverts displayed in the vicinity of the locations affected by the proposed change.
- 4.2.7 The consultation will also be advertised through digital and social platforms.

## **4.3 Access to Consultation Material**

- 4.3.1 A consultation document, an online feedback form and the consultation newsletter will be available to view on the SZC Co. website during the consultation period at: [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk).
- 4.3.2 Owing to the current period of Covid-19 related uncertainty, SZC Co. does not intend to host any public exhibitions. However, subject to any applicable Government restrictions in response to Covid-19 that might apply at the time, SZC Co. will provide access (by appointment) to view hard copies of the consultation material at the Sizewell C Information Office and the Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council.
- 4.3.3 A phone number and email address will be provided in the consultation material where hard copies or electronic copies on a USB stick can be requested by those facing difficulties accessing the material online or who wish to ask questions about the proposed change.

## **4.4 Consultation Statement**

- 4.4.1 A Consultation Statement, in the form of a further addendum to the **Consultation Report** [APP-068], will be submitted with the change request, confirming who has been consulted in relation to the proposed change in accordance with Advice Note 16, and how the feedback received in response to that consultation has been taken into account.
- 4.4.2 Copies of any consultation responses received will also be included as an annex.

## 5 INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

5.1.1 In accordance with Advice Note 16, this report sets out when the request to make a change is likely to be made to the ExA.

5.1.2 For additional clarity, the programme dates for each of the six steps contained in Advice Note 16 are set out below:

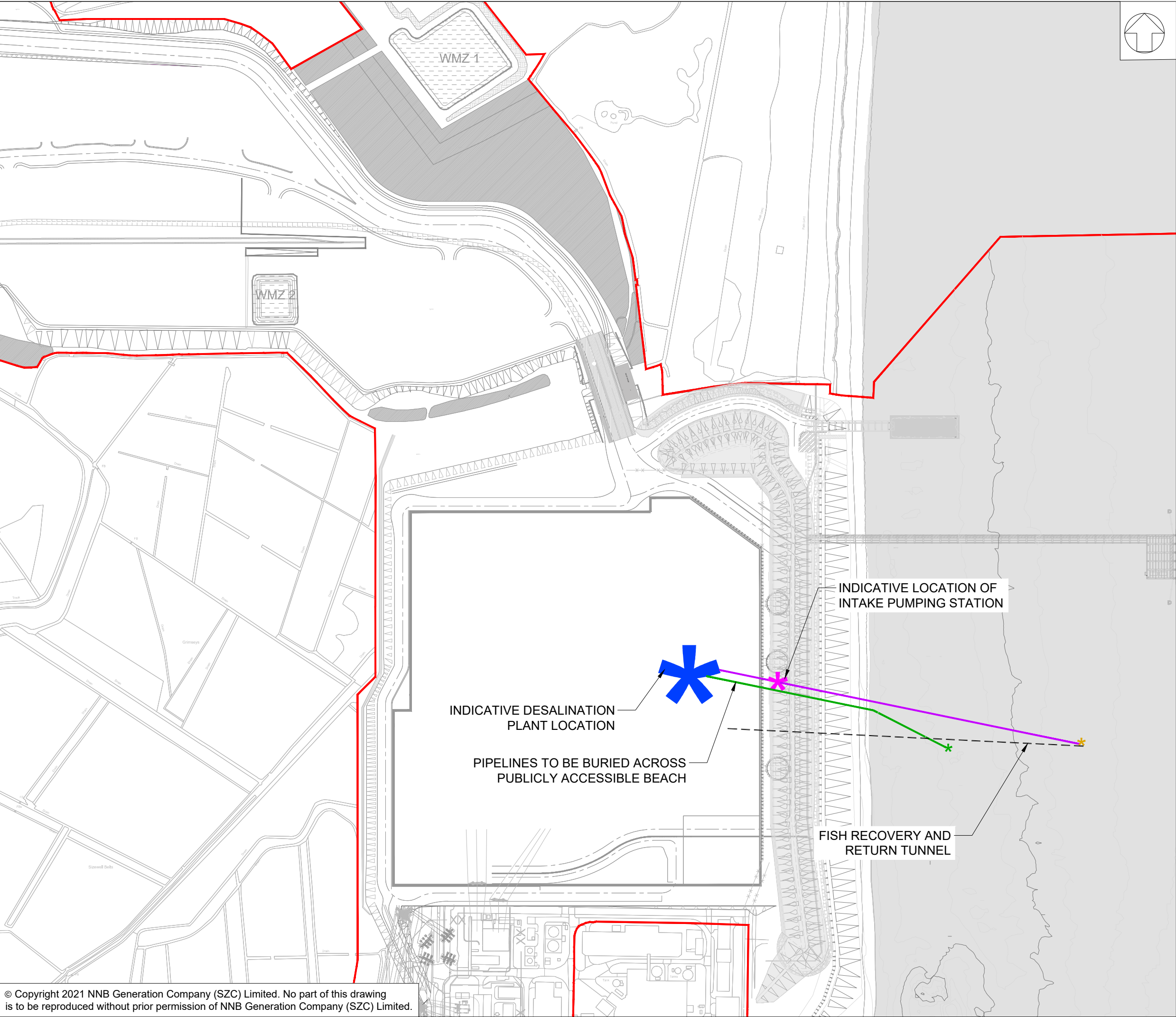
- Step 1. Notification of change to Inspectorate: 30 July 2021
- Step 2. Inspectorate to provide advice: By 5 August 2021
- Step 3. Non-statutory consultation begins: 3 August 2021 (to midnight 27 August 2021)
- Step 4. Formal request for change: targeted for 3 September 2021
- Step 5. ExA decision on whether to accept the change: targeted for 10 September 2021

5.1.3 It is not at this stage considered that it is appropriate or necessary to carry out any publicity that reflects the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. However, if such publicity is subsequently considered to be required, this would be carried out following acceptance of the proposed change (if accepted) in September to October 2021.



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## APPENDIX A: PLANS SHOWING LOCATIONS OF CHANGE



NOTES:

KEY:

- RED LINE BOUNDARY
- INDICATIVE INTAKE PIPE LOCATION
- INDICATIVE OUTFALL PIPE LOCATION
- FRR TUNNEL
- INDICATIVE DESALINATION PLANT LOCATION
- INDICATIVE PUMPING STATION LOCATION
- INDICATIVE OUTFALL DIFFUSER LOCATION
- INDICATIVE INTAKE SCREEN LOCATION

01	JULY 2021	BK	RV	RESPONSE TO PINS RULE 17 REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION	SZC Co
REVISION	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	REASONS FOR REVISION / COMMENTS	APPROVED

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PROJECT:  
SIZEWELL C

Document:  
NOTIFICATION REPORT

DRAWING TITLE:  
WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY: PROPOSED TEMPORARY DESALINATION PLANT, INITIAL LOCATION

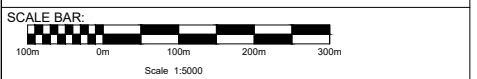
DRAWING NO:  
FIGURE 1

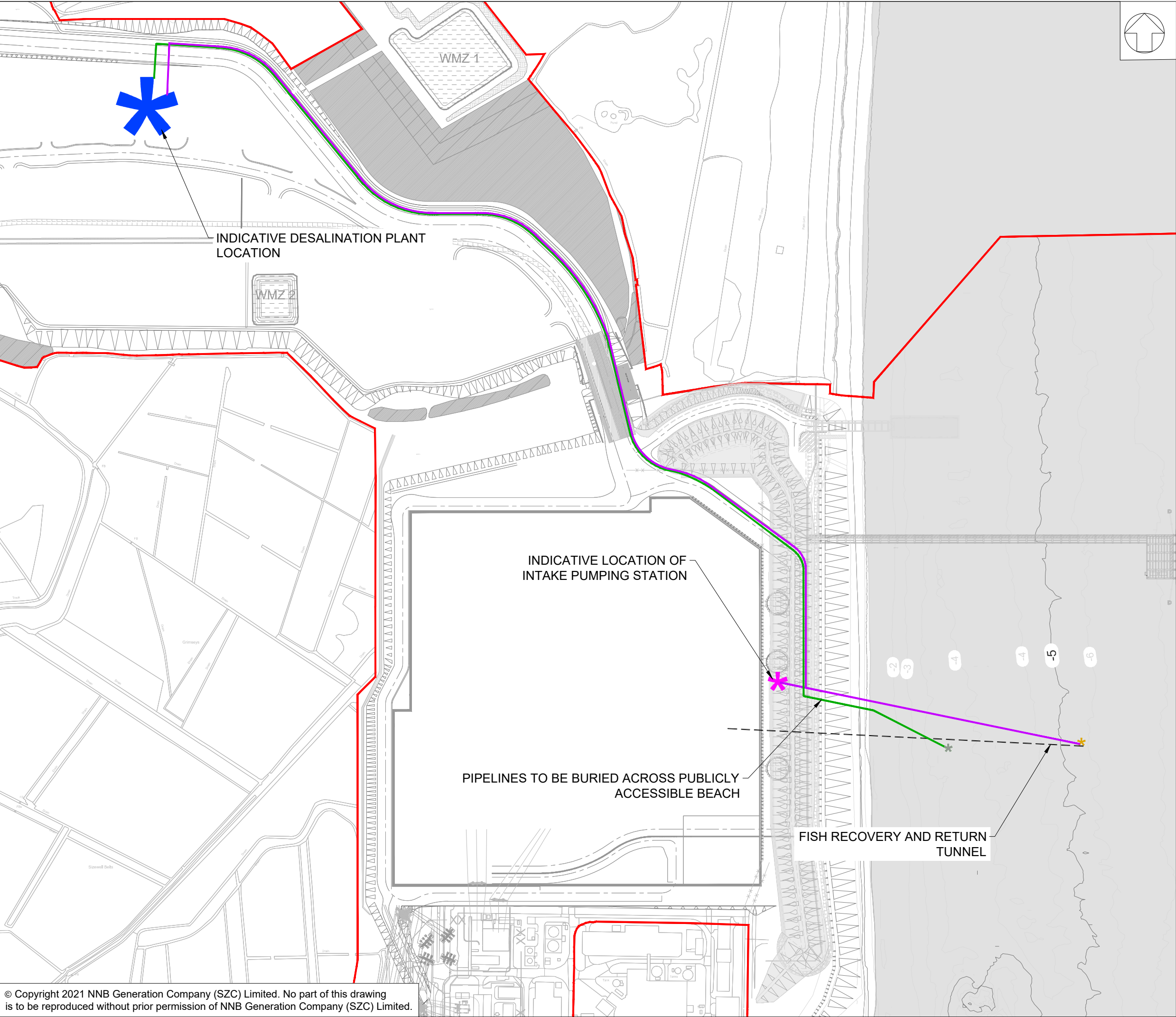
REVISION:  
01

DATE:  
JULY 2021

DRAWN:  
BK

SCALE:  
1:5000 @ A3





NOTES:

KEY:

- RED LINE BOUNDARY
- INDICATIVE INTAKE PIPE LOCATION
- INDICATIVE OUTFALL PIPE LOCATION
- FRR TUNNEL
- INDICATIVE DESALINATION PLANT LOCATION
- INDICATIVE PUMPING STATION LOCATION
- INDICATIVE OUTFALL DIFFUSER LOCATION
- INDICATIVE INTAKE SCREEN LOCATION

REVISION	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	REASON FOR REVISION / COMMENTS	APPROVED
01	JULY 2021	BK	RV	RESPONSE TO PINS RULE 17 REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION	SZC Co

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PROJECT:  
SIZEWELL C

DOCUMENT:  
NOTIFICATION REPORT

DRAWING TITLE:  
WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY:  
PROPOSED TEMPORARY  
DESALINATION PLANT,  
SUBSEQUENT LOCATION

DRAWING NO:  
FIGURE 2

REVISION:  
01

DATE:  
JULY 2021

DRAWN:  
BK

SCALE:  
1:5000 @ A3

