



Together Against Sizewell C

TASC observations sent to ONR regarding recent issues relating to the performance of the EPR design

TASC's IP no: 20026424.

11th August 2021

Dear Mark,

I hope this finds you well.

I would like to bring to your attention three issues which are of great importance to people living in the vicinity of East Suffolk close to the proposed Sizewell C development:

- Taishan: I appreciate that the ONR has been in contact with Alison Downes on this point and that she is in on-going discussions with your personnel.
- M5 alloy sheaths which have been found to deteriorate prematurely and which are to be found in EPRs in France, Finland and China (and, by implication, in the UK).
- IRSN's concern over the origin of vibrations which affect the primary water circuit of EPRs such as those at HPC and planned for SZC.

See: <https://journaldelenergie.com/nucleaire/combustible-nucleaire-empoisonne-edf/>

<https://www.blast-info.fr/articles/2021/nucleaire-epr2-le-feu-rouge-de-linstitut-de-surete-a-edf-y4TmgjhVQtmsts-E5HAKKA>

I appreciate that you are aware of these issues and have a far greater awareness of the problems, the consequences and the possible solutions to them than I, and I will not go into the technical details, as that would be a waste of time and you know them already. My question is simply this:

Will the ONR or you as CNI please write to PINS which as you know is currently conducting a DCO examination on Sizewell C, to tell them that you, the nuclear regulator, wishes to bring these potentially serious technical issues to the examining authority's attention?

This community in Suffolk already has a store of hundreds of tonnes of PWR spent fuel on its doorstep. The emergency plan which is the community's only defence against the accidental or malicious release of some of the radioactivity locked up in the fuel is acknowledged by most observers as inadequate to protect everyone from harmful exposure. This community also faces a 12+ year period of 24/7 noise, dust and light pollution from the construction of Sizewell C should it ever be granted planning permission and then a 60 year period in which Sizewell C (and D) reactors are expected to be operational. The finale is that the spent nuclear fuel from SZC will also have to be stored at Sizewell – by then an island thanks to climate change – for at least another 100 years, if not indefinitely, with or without institutional control.

If there are suspected or actual generic faults with the EPR which have the remotest chance of putting people in this community in even more danger than they already are, you have a duty and a moral obligation to tell the Inspector as well as the people of this area what those faults are, what might happen if those faults create an emergency and how you are going about resolving them. We, as tax payers who contribute to your pay packet every month, expect of our regulator, regardless of the difficulties created by national boundaries and differing areas of responsibility, action on our behalf to do what is right and proper to allay our fears and to protect us from the nuclear industry and the nuclear-fixated government which seems impervious to criticism or reason.

I look forward to your reply,

Best wishes,

Pete