

Sizewell C

Open Floor Hearing Briefing Notes

Hello my name is Simon Gray and I am the Executive Director of Policy & External Affairs at EEEGR – The East of England Energy Group

We have just celebrated our 20th anniversary working for the best outcomes of our region with a geographical footprint covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. The East of England Energy Group [EEEGR] is a highly successful, industry led, membership organisation serving the incredible energy industry in the East of England.

EEEGR represents the entire supply chain NOT just the producers, developer and operators such as EDF. We embrace and assist in the future development of the supply chain which is predominantly made up of SME's and sole traders many of whom will benefit from the Project. Not just the tier 1's and multi nationals but lots of potential for small local companies. Some of the existing supply chain have diversified as we have seen trends and technology change.

- EEEGR represents over **200 member organisations** with a further 600 energy related companies in the East of England, with an estimated 100,000 thousand employees...
- EEEGR's board is made up of **industry leaders**, **regional government** officers and **academic and training** organisation representatives...
- EEEGR has helped leverage **hundreds of millions** of investments into the East of England economy...
- EEEGR acts as an **industry bridge** with other industrial regions in the UK such as Aberdeen and the Northern Powerhouse...

The ability to be able to work in more than one category of energy has seen the East of England develop an innovative and dynamic supply chain that moves between oil and gas, renewables and nuclear which has allowed them to maintain a workforce throughout different periods of energy production.

As we seek to decarbonise our nation the supply chain will be reliant upon projects such as Sizewell C to see them through the energy transition. A strong and vibrant supply chain is vital to our nations future energy projects and must be supported for the good of the nation.

EEEGR works with numerous stakeholders across the region in maintaining the supply chain in good heart and our members are reliant upon this development to maintain and grow jobs in the sector in the region.

EEEGR also operates a regional skills program called Skills for Energy, a highly successful programme helping people in other sectors [such as the military] transfer in the energy sector and helping young people develop their careers in the energy industry

EEEGR is not new, we are over 20 years old this year and, in that time, we have worked with the regions:

- **Energy supply chain companies** helping them win business, develop their exports, and develop innovative solutions to industry technical challenges...
- **Energy developers and operators** helping them navigate the region, introducing them to the supply chain and campaigning on their behalf...
- **Academic institutions**, helping them develop suitable curriculums for future energy engineers, technicians, and leaders...

EEEGR is here today to outline the importance of the Sizewell C development:

- to our region's economy
- to our regions existing and future supply chain companies
- to our regions existing and future workforce
- and
- to our regions young people

The Sizewell C development offers the East of England an amazing opportunity...

Not only will it help the UKs achieve its legally binding NET Zero targets, and in doing so help the UK play its part in reversing climate change, I'm sure this forum will not need reminding that Suffolk has declared a climate emergency caused by the effects of global warming...

Sizewell C will help provide the UK's essential energy baseload electricity supply; in simple terms it will help keep the lights on, claims substantiated by The Committee on Climate Change and the Energy Systems Catapult...

Equally importantly, Sizewell C will help shape the next generation of an energy industry and an energy community in our region...

An energy industry with a 60-year heritage, an energy industry employing many tens of thousands of people and an energy industry that has for years exported our skills internationally and put the East of England on the global map, an outcome of our industry that has stimulated huge investment and support back into our region.

EEEGR is proud to be part of the Sizewell Consortium and believes that the benefits of building Sizewell C in our region far outweigh the downsides, and yet we recognise those downsides, not dismiss them...

Indeed, EEEGR's own vision for the future includes maintaining a balance between the economic benefits of energy and the environmental and habitat downsides that we are all keen to protect.

From our experience across the energy sector we understand the geographical footprints of the various technologies that will be required to deliver the net zero economy. We can see from both Sizewell A and B that both stations take a comparatively small amount of land of the 600 hectares of the Sizewell estate. This has allowed EDF to manage that land in a manner that enhances biodiversity of the Suffolk coast and heaths area of outstanding natural beauty.

The amount of low carbon electricity generated by Sizewell C , from a platform of just 40 hectares, will power 6 million homes but leave acres and acres for the operator to deliver for nature. There is a proven track record in biodiversity management in the area by EDF

We know that the carbon emissions generated during the construction of Sizewell C will have will be offset by the generation of low carbon electricity in just a 5 month period. We must not stop the delivery of low carbon projects when we know the demand for electricity is only going to increase as we electrify our economy.

But let us be in no doubt, that the benefits of the development of Sizewell C in our region are significant:

- The development will create 73000 new jobs in the region with 35000 in Suffolk
- The development will stimulate an economic impact in the region of £4 billion with some £2 billion in Suffolk
- The development will see 1500 new apprentices creating a future legacy for our regions young people
- For every new job the development creates another will be stimulated in the regions supply chain, so another 73000 jobs will be created and secure growth for our region's companies
- The development will stimulate economic investment in other parts of the region such as Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Ports

EEEGR believes that the development of Sizewell C is a once in a generational lifetime opportunity and that in the event it does not go ahead, EEEGR has deep concern that the loss of investment into the region will leave a negative legacy:

- Tens of thousands of jobs will be lost, not only to our regional economy but also across the whole of the UK economy...
- Many thousands of young people both in our region but also across the UK will lose the opportunity of a prosperous future...
- Our region will loose an opportunity to position itself in the eyes of the global investment community as "the place to invest"...

On behalf of the supply chain, the skills providers and the young people that want to stay, live and work in the region we support this project and would commend it to this hearing.