

Date: 03 September 2021
Our ref: SIZE-SP004 / 20025411 (NE internal ref: 366560)
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 6.

1. Natural England's Deadline 7 Submissions

- 1.1. Natural England continue to review the documents submitted by the Applicant at previous deadlines. Due to the large number of both new and revised documents that continue to be submitted to the Examination which are directly relevant to Natural England's remit, coupled with the Natural England staff advising on the Application taking annual leave during the summer months, we find it increasingly challenging to provide comment by subsequent deadlines despite our best endeavours to do so.
- 1.2. Natural England note the request by the Examining Authority for written responses to Issue Specific Hearing 10 (ISH10), published on Tuesday 31st August 2021, for Deadline 7. Unfortunately, due to the tight turnaround and the weight of documents which we are reviewing, Natural England are unable to respond to this request at Deadline 7 and will make best endeavours to respond by 17th September 2021.

- 1.3. We advise that a summary of our position on the agenda items discussed at ISH10 can be found in the [briefing document](#) we submitted in lieu of attendance at ISH10 (our ref: 365597, dated 25th August 2021).
- 1.4. We note the publication of '[The Examining Authority's note on agenda item 5a of Issue Specific Hearing 10 on biodiversity and ecology](#)' with a table to be completed with the relevant European sites, qualifying features and potential impacts under dispute. Natural England advise that we have already produced a comprehensive summary table containing this information in section 2.4.3 of our Relevant Representation [RR-0878] and section 3.19 of our Written Representations [REP-153]. These include those impact pathways where the potential for 'likely significant effects' (LSE) were identified by Natural England, based on the DCO application as proposed at those times, as requiring further assessment at the subsequent 'appropriate assessment' (AA) stage of the shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) process. However, as requested, we will complete table 5a by the 7th September 2021. Please note that the tables referred to above (and the table circulated by the Examining Authority (ExA) for comment) do not include consideration of LSE for a potentially wider suite of European sites which may now also be in scope of the HRA in terms of the latest water supply strategy which has been proposed by the Applicant. This presents the potential for LSE to additional European sites within the Northern/ Central Water Resource Zone (WRZ) via the Sizewell transfer main from abstraction, pipeline works and other associated infrastructure required to get the water to the proposal site. Should the latest interim water supply strategy as proposed through the Applicant's forthcoming change proposal be accepted by the ExA, this also applies to the tankered water supply where the source is currently unknown. The desalination plant will also need to be considered in terms of additional impacts to European sites already screened into the sHRA.

1.5. Natural England are submitting the following documents at Deadline 7:

- EN010012_366560_SZC_NE's Comments on Outline Soil Management Plan
- EN010012_366560_SZC_NE's Comments on the Outline Vessel Management Plan
- EN010012_366560_SZC_NE's Comments on the Southern North Sea Site Integrity Plan
- EN010012_366560_SZC_NE's Comments on the Applicant's Comments at D6 – EAVs and Stock Sizes
- EN010012_366560_SZC_NE Response to Examiner's Questions Part 2

2. Attendance at Issue Specific Hearings 11,12,13&14

- 2.1. Natural England note the addition of ISHs 11-14 from Tuesday 14th-Friday 17th September 2021 to the Examination timetable.
- 2.2. We will assess our attendance at these ISHs once detailed agendas have been published for them and will notify the case team to inform the ExA of our intention as

soon as possible.

2.3. We continue to welcome ongoing engagement with the ExA through a written process. We will make best endeavours to provide comprehensive answers to any specific questions for Natural England by the following Examination deadline.

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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