



RT HON DR THERESE COFFEY MP

Member of Parliament for Suffolk Coastal

Sent by email to the Planning Inspectorate

23 September 2021

Re: Sizewell C DCO, Written Representation at Deadline 8

Dear Mr Humphrey,

In my submission at Deadline 2, I outlined the case for a short extension to the examination period to give sufficient time to our environmental regulators such as the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and, crucially, the Environment Agency to respond to the relatively late changes that EDF made to the Development Consent Order. As I set out at the time, conditioning these elements in the Inspectorate's recommendation to the Secretary of State rather than scrutinising them as part of the examination process would not be acceptable.

Now EDF have submitted further changes, most notably on water supply and the requirement for a temporary desalination plant because the pipeline from Barsham cannot be guaranteed before December 2024, I feel my request for a short extension should again be considered. In fact, the issue has now been compounded by the assertion from Essex and Suffolk Water that the pipeline may not be able to be provided at all.

The Issue Specific Hearing last week heard that the Environment Agency expect further modelling from the water company by Friday the 24th of September, but it will take them two weeks minimum, perhaps more, to assess that modelling. Considering the examination process is due to end on the 14th October this will come very late in the day. Perhaps an indicative view might be available but nothing substantial.

I am concerned that we won't have clarity on water supply by the end of the examination period and the Environmental Agency, therefore, won't have time to assess that or indeed the environmental impact of the desalination plant. Bearing in mind they will have a much more robust threshold if it was to be made permanent.

Given there is a precedent for an extension. I previously referenced the Scottish Power Renewables' EA1 & EA2 wind farm applications, which allowed all interested parties, including regulators, additional time to engage properly in the process, I believe a short extension here would be wise. Indeed, my representative made that point at the Issue Specific Hearing.

I firmly believe that this additional time now – to ensure all the evidence is considered as part of the examination process – will help the project in the longer term and avoid any unnecessary legal challenge.

Yours sincerely,