

THE ALDEBURGH SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 262239 www.aldeburghsociety.org.uk



PLANNING INSPECTORATE EXAMINATION OF THE SIZEWELL C APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT BY EDF

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO SIZEWELL C's TEMPORARY DESALINATION PLANT PROPOSAL

The Aldeburgh Society is the civic society for the historic coastal town and cultural centre of Aldeburgh. The objects of the Society are to encourage public interest in and care for the character of the town and its surroundings, and the preservation, development and improvement of general public amenity in the area. EDF's proposals conflict with the fulfilment of these objectives.

The Society has already expressed its opposition to the application by EDF for Development Consent for the construction of two new nuclear reactors at Sizewell. The Society is not opposed to nuclear power, and it supports the Government's net zero target for energy production. However, it views with great concern the damage to the Suffolk Heritage Coast, including the important nationally and internationally protected sites RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve and Dunwich Heath, which the construction of this very large industrial project would entail. If there were no existing nuclear power station on this coast, the proposal to develop one here would be unthinkable in today's heightened awareness of environmental issues.

We write today to express our dismay at Sizewell C Co's attitude towards the supply of potable water over which it has spent at least a decade dithering and obfuscating. Back as far as 2010, it was clear that to secure sufficient potable water supply for such a huge project as Sizewell C in the most arid of all areas in the UK would be a mammoth task beset by difficulties.

Eleven years later, well into the DCO process, and the Applicant has come up with a temporary proposal for a desalination plant given that Northumbrian Water Ltd has advised that it cannot meet the Applicant's water requirements.

We are opposed to these proposals for the following reasons:

1. The plant will take 4 – 6 months to build and be brought in by road, but because it cannot be installed at the very beginning of construction, drinkable water will need to be brought in by tanker for the first 9 -12 months of construction, up to 40/day (80 truck movements). EDF claims tankers and plant transport will not raise HGV "caps" but we remain sceptical and apprehensive about this extra proposed burden on our already busy roads.
2. The plant would operate 24/7 using diesel generators until onsite power is available. This will contribute to significant CO₂, Nitrogen Oxides, and PM 10s and 2.5s. Atmospheric Ozone will also increase as a result of the combination of NO_x and volatile organics which have health impacts.

THE ALDEBURGH SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 262239 www.aldeburghsociety.org.uk



3. Water discharged will be 1.6 times more (brine) concentrated than natural seawater and may exceed screening thresholds for zinc and chromium. Impacts on marine life from this and the water intakes are unclear,

The absence of a water strategy on the part of the Applicant at this late stage is but another clear example of the unsuitability of this project.

The creation of a vast industrial site in a 'nationally protected' Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, adjacent to an internationally important nature reserve and between two historic small coastal towns of great cultural significance, would be an abomination. It is a wrong project, based on an out of date technology, on an eroding coast, in a fragile area of great landscape and ecological significance.

The Aldeburgh Society remains firmly of the view that EDF's proposed development - whether or not combined with the cumulative effect of SPR's proposed onshore installations and numerous additional grid connections - would be excessively damaging to our area, its natural and built environment, its inhabitants, its businesses, and its visitors. Green energy cannot be allowed to wreak such seismic trauma in our collective march towards net zero.

September 2021