



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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24 December 2021

Dear Kath

Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2021 containing a request that the Secretary of State should extend the Reporting stage of the application process for development consent for the proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station by six weeks from 14 January 2022 to 25 February 2022.

The Secretary of State has now considered the request. He has decided to grant the extension of six weeks to the Reporting stage for the project as requested. The Examining Authority's Report must be submitted, therefore, by no later than 25 February 2022.

While acknowledging the current difficult circumstances facing the Examining Authority at the Reporting stage of this project, the Secretary of State is keen that the Planning Inspectorate should ensure that future timetables, including the Reporting stage, are adhered to so that developer confidence in the certainty of timings under the Planning Act process for Nationally Significant Energy Infrastructure Projects is not eroded. He would be grateful, therefore, if you could reflect on the circumstances that led to this request for an extension in order to ensure as far as possible that they do not reoccur including how to build greater resilience into the Examining Authority process so that it is better able to cope with unexpected circumstances such as illness; and how to cater for situations that can be anticipated, such as very large volumes of documentation, strong and divided views, and some material changes for a nuclear project, all of which we have also seen in previous nuclear applications.

We will arrange for a statement to be made to Parliament at the earliest opportunity to announce the Secretary of State's decision on the extension to the Reporting stage. I would be grateful if the banner for the project web-page could be amended accordingly. We would be happy to consider any drafting if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

GARETH LEIGH
Head, Energy Infrastructure Planning