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The Sizewell C Project Case Team
National Infrastructure Planning
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(By email only)

20 May 2022

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010012
Our Identification Number: 20025459

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station (“the proposed Development”)

Thank you for your letter dated 25 April 2022 addressed to all Interested Parties. In this letter the Secretary of State invited all Interested Parties to comment on the responses received to the earlier letters of 18 March 2022 and 31 March 2022.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has the following comments:

1. Department for Transport response to Secretary of State’s letter dated 31 March 2022

In its letter to the Planning Inspectorate dated 27 April 2022 the Department for Transport (DfT) made the following comment:

“DfT wishes to highlight that the entry in the Statement of Common Ground at page 4 under Ref 3 (made by the MMO) should refer to Article 53 and not Article 50 of the DCO, as it is Article 53 which deals with CHAs, not Article 50. Once corrected, the DfT agrees to the status for each aspect of the unsigned Statement of Common Ground [REP2- 099] relevant to the DfT.”

The MMO agrees that the correct reference is now to Article 53 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). “Application of Pilotage Act 1987” was at Article 50 of the original draft DCO, but in the latest version of the draft DCO it can be found at Article 53.



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2. Applicant response to Secretary of State's letter dated 18 March 2022 (Main Report)

Temporary desalination plant

We note that at paragraph 2.2.1 the Applicant has stated in response to Question 3.3 from the Secretary of State that *"There is no 'in principle' difficulty with the supply of water from desalination being made permanent."* The Applicant has acknowledged at paragraph 2.2.2 of their response that *"the environmental assessment of the plant was only prepared to consider its effects through construction and no assessment was undertaken of it operating in combination with the operation of SZC."*

However, the Applicant goes on to suggest in the remainder of section 2.2 of their Report that a permanent desalination plant would be unlikely to generate any materially new or materially significant environmental effects in relation to the marine or terrestrial environment. They also refer to alternative marine outfall infrastructure solutions and alternative marine intake infrastructure options associated with a permanent desalination plant.

As far as the MMO is aware, no assessment has been undertaken in relation to any proposals or options in relation to a permanent desalination plant, and no assessment has been undertaken of any desalination plant operating in combination with the operation of Sizewell C.

The MMO notes that Natural England, in their response to the letter dated 18 March 2022, made the following related comments:

"Natural England advise that any previous advice we have provided following Change 19 relating to the desalination plant effects were explicitly made on the assumption that the desalination plant would only be temporarily in operation during the construction phase of the project (maximum period of three years). As such, any further change to the project to extend the operational lifespan of the desalination plant or to translocate the desalination plant to another location during the operating phase of Sizewell C lifespan would likely require a significant amount of additional assessment of impacts to statutorily protected sites, landscapes and species, including of additional cumulative and in combination impacts."

The MMO concurs with Natural England's comments in this respect.

CORMIX modelling

Regarding the Applicant's comments at section 2.5 of their Report, the MMO reiterates the comments stated in its letter dated 8 April 2022:

"The MMO previously commented on report TR552 in relation to impacts on marine ecology and fisheries at examination Deadline 10, specifically paragraphs 3.4.13 to 3.4.17 inclusive. These comments remain."



“The MMO is aware that the proposed discharge activity falls within the remit of the EA and their relevant environmental permitting regime. The MMO therefore defers any further comment to the EA and their permitting process and assessments on this matter.”

This remains the MMO’s position that further information should be provided to validate the CORMIX modelling (paragraph 3.4.17 REP10-195).

3. Maritime and Coastguard Agency response to Secretary of State’s letter dated 31 March 2022

The MMO concurs with the comments made by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in relation to the Applicant’s proposal to remove Articles 58, 59 and 60 of the draft DCO, that they should not be removed from the harbour powers within the draft DCO. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency’s comments in this respect are consistent with those made by the MMO in its response to Secretary of State letter dated 31 March 2022.

4. MMO response to Secretary of State’s letter dated 31 March 2022

The MMO notes that the articles numbering in the draft DML has been updated and that the references made by the MMO in its letter of 12 April 2022 should be read with this in mind.

The MMO has no further comments at this stage beyond those set out above.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Graham Richardson
Marine Licensing Case Officer

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