

22 May 2022

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Re: Sizewell C Development Consent Order Application

Unique Reference: 20025562

I am writing in response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information and am grateful for the opportunity. I welcome the Secretary of State's further questions to the Applicant and have been dismayed at the Applicant's responses that once again provide evidence of the failure of the Applicant to engage with the local communities and consider their concerns or to have properly prepared the way for this massive scheme.

We are all of us only too aware of the energy crisis and the need to move away from fossil fuels and be as self-reliant as possible in the future. IF I thought this project to be for the general greater good I would not feel the need to be a voice against it. However, the advances in green, renewable technologies such as wind, solar and hydrogen and battery storage (for when the wind doesn't blow or the sun doesn't shine) surely make them a speedier and cost-effective alternative and render large-scale EPR nuclear plants technologically out-dated.

COST & EFFICACY

The Applicant's record with EPR projects does not instil confidence. Finland's Olkiluoto-3 nuclear reactor connected to the power grid for the first time in March this year, 12 years later than planned vastly over budget and I understand the start of energy production has been delayed from July 2022 to September due to needed repairs.

At the Taishan, China nuclear plant one of the reactors was shut down in July 2021 with fuel rod issues and is yet to restart.

The fuel loading date for the reactor at the plant in Flamanville, France has been put back from late 2022 to the second quarter of 2023, with the estimated cost at completion increased by €300 million.

I read this week that Hinkley Point 3 will now start operating a year later than planned and will cost an extra £3 billion.

With this information alone it begs the question why we would ever risk going forward with another large-scale EPR plant.

SSSI, AONB, MARINE LIFE, COASTAL EROSION

The SZC project would encroach on SSSI and AONB causing damage to rare bird habitats and marine life at a time when protection of our environment is a key national concern. The RSPB has stated that the proposals would see a breeding site the size of eight football pitches lost as well as an estimated 3 million fish. No doubt you are aware of the RSPB's "once in a generation" protest against the plans that they claim will endanger more than 6000 species.

The East Anglian coastline is the most vulnerable in the country and I remain unconvinced by the Applicant's attention to considerations of flood and coastal defences over the full development lifetime, especially to considering a climate change provision and lifetime monitoring plans to mitigate the impact.

I understand that whilst there are on-going discussions between the Applicant and Northumbria Water there is no agreed potable water supply plan for the operational phase of the Sizewell C & D reactors. IF a permanent desalination plant is needed it will have a further detrimental impact to the biodiversity in the Sizewell Marsh SSSI adjacent to RSPB Minsmere SSSI. It is also beyond understanding how the Applicant could have reached this stage of the application without securing a viable water source.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MITIGATION

As the Secretary of State has noted, residents living adjacent to B1122 (in Yoxford, Middleton Moor and Theberton) will be faced (particularly in the 'Early Years') with an estimated daily influx of 600 Heavy-Duty Vehicles, as well as private cars and Park and Ride buses heading to site early in the morning and late evening with the ensuing noise, air and light pollution and traffic congestion. All of which is in addition to the usual traffic that already includes a high volume of HDVs and farming vehicles. The Applicant has to date failed to offer any meaningful mitigation. The route of the Sizewell Link Road was always the wrong choice and will have a devastating impact on local residents.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to reiterate concerns and trust, for everyone's sake, that the application for a Development Consent Order is not approved.

Kind regards

Marie Curtin