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23 May 2022

**To The Secretary of State (BEIS) The Rt Hon Mr Kwasi Kwarteng MP**

Dear Secretary of State

**Application by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: 20026146**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the responses received to your letters of 18 and 31 March 2022 to the Applicant, EDF.

### **1. General**

Sizewell C is the wrong project in the wrong place, EDF know that and surely you do too by now.

For years EDF have 'consulted' with local communities but have taken little notice of responses received, adhering to their own agenda, riding roughshod over issues raised, only introducing late changes when virtually forced to, for example the very late Sizewell Link Road and the contentious route it will take. They care nothing for the local communities, the environment and the disastrous cumulative impact the construction of Sizewell C will bring.

### **2. Water Supply, Desalination Plant & Siting**

Only near the end of the Planning Inspectorate's examination of EDF's application for a DCO was it made obvious that EDF do not have a water supply for the project and subsequently introduced the need for a temporary desalination plant to supply potable water during construction.

Northumbrian Water can't absolutely commit to being able to supply water during operation so it is quite possible a permanent desalination plant may be required during operation of the reactors. EDF say there's no problem with that but there is no agreed plan. The site is already too small for two reactors and siting of a permanent desalination plant impinges more on the limited space. EDF cannot sensibly fit a desalination plant into that space without causing more damage to the environment.

Abutting Minsmere and other protected sites, EDF now suggest they could bury a permanent desalination plant north west of the SSSI Crossing (2.2.9). That would further erode biodiversity, which will already be permanently damaged by other infrastructure in the area following devastation during construction. The idea is deplorable and must not be permitted.

Alternatively EDF say they could site a permanent desalination plant on Sizewell A land earmarked for Sizewell B Relocation Facilities. That would mean using Pillbox Field as a Sizewell B outage carpark. Pillbox Field is now being used for tree and other planting in compensation for felling Coronation Wood.

EDF intend to cause as much damage to the environment as possible without mitigation.

### **3. Traffic & Transport – Two Village Bypass & Sizewell Link Road**

EDF respond to your question as to whether these roads could be completed prior to commencement of construction by stating this would delay completion of the power station by two or three years.

This project has already been delayed by EDF for years. Sizewell C is not going to do anything for the current energy crisis so delaying it for a few more years will make no difference to EDF or the planet or government energy targets but would make a huge difference to our communities. It's extremely unlikely that EDF could deliver Sizewell C within their projected time frame anyway, considering their track record and the unreliability of EPRs. Hinkley C again just delayed by yet another year (and costing a whole lot more....).

Allowing construction traffic to use our current roads during the 'early years' when vehicle movements are likely to be as heavy as at any time will badly damage roads and likely people's homes as well as congesting the roads intolerably and unnecessarily for local people.

It's not good enough for EDF to say to those living alongside the B1122 (paraphrasing) "we'll survey your home before we use the road, you tell us if you have a problem, we'll survey it again and pay to rectify damage if we've caused it". Those poor people will have had to put up with hundreds of huge vehicles passing noisily a stone's throw from their front doors, shaking their properties every day, causing immense distress. Then, to have to have remedial work done to their homes and the addition stress that will cause – we know what that's like, it won't be quick, it won't be made as good as it was and people may even have to move out of their houses temporarily. Their homes will be forever broken.

The Sizewell Link Road (SLR), mooted very late by EDF and only in response to local outcry, is a waste of resources, CO2 and money. The route will divide communities and farms and provide no legacy value, thus, in the eyes of Suffolk County Council (SCC) and our MP, Therese Coffey, it should be removed when construction is complete – yet more resource and CO2 wasted. What a green project this is.....

If EDF used Route W as an SLR, preferred by SCC, it would benefit local communities long term as well as relieving the B1122 and those living in Theberton and Middleton Moor.

There are many flaws in EDF's hastily 'planned' routing and mitigation measures for the B1122 and the SLR. We wholly endorse the points Stop Sizewell C has made regarding these on pages 7, 8 and 9 of their letter of 23 May 2022.

EDF must build the Two Village Bypass and Sizewell Link Road (in whatever guise) before any construction work or preparation for Sizewell C takes place.

#### **4. Coastal Defences**

In responding to you, the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, in point 1.16 of their letter state *"It is our view currently the only known method for maintaining dynamic shingle features of high conservation value is non-intervention and the ability for the features to move as required in relation to coastal processes."*

EDF's proposals for the Soft Coastal Defence Feature (SCDF) and Hard Coastal Defence (HCDF) are vague and based on many unknowns, not least sea level height by 2040, after which there is no certainty. Any interference work EDF do on the coast line will of course have effects on the landscapes to the north and south. We fully endorse the points made by Stop Sizewell C in their letter of 23 May 2022.

We also endorse the points made in Mr Nick Scarr's multiple submissions relating to changing coastal processes and the view that Sizewell C could become an island – which of course is a ridiculous and unsafe position for a nuclear power plant and the spent nuclear waste which is unlikely to have been removed by 2040 as EDF purport.

#### **5. Conclusion**

EDF have not thought this project through properly and given important issues scant attention.

There are many unresolved problems as detailed by Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council, Stop Sizewell C and the Minsmere Levels Stakeholder Group, Together Against Sizewell C, the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the Destination Management Organisation, the AONB Partnership, Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth, the Alde & Ore Association, the Aldeburgh Society, many Town and Parish Councils, other organisations and individuals.

EDF are incapable of building nuclear power plants on time and on budget. EDF have made unrealistic and dangerous proposals in an attempt to persuade you to grant permission for this ill conceived project.

You know this is the wrong project in the wrong place. Please reject the proposals for Sizewell C out of hand.

Yours sincerely

Louise & Derek Chadwick