

**Response to Secretary of State's Request for Information
25th April 2022**

Interested Party: 20026505

Dear PINS

In the nearly 12 years of development of plans for Sizewell C and public consultation, recognising that the planning started well before that, EDF has shown that they are truly unsuitable to be engaged in a project to build the third and fourth reactors on the Sizewell site. Hinckley C is currently 10 years behind on the latest expectation of a date for generation and the costs are spiralling. Flamenville in France is even further behind with similarly spiralling costs and 17 of the reactors in France managed by EDF are currently shutdown.

In this climate, how can the Secretary of State believe that EDF is a competent recipient of public backing and funds for the proposed Sizewell C project? Even after the DCO process and public examination critiquing, suggestions for more suitable options on aspects of the build, even offers of help to improve their environmental risk assessments – EDF have failed to improve their astoundingly poor submission. To give two clear examples:

Potable Water for Building and Running the Reactors

It was observed to EDF through several rounds of public consultation prior to their final submission last year that they have failed to detail the source of their water for construction and running of the twin reactor site. Even today, despite the criticism and for all EDF's urgency on the project, they still do not know (or publicly state) where the water will come from. They have not submitted, or consulted on, a permanent or even a temporary desalination plant, the suggestion of which which has already been heavily criticised by the competent authorities. So, let me just state this really clearly for BEIS to be in absolutely no doubt:

Without water – there can be no build for the millions of tonnes of concrete required to be poured
Without water – the reactors cannot run to produce power

EDF have failed to provide a solution for the water even at one minute to midnight on their own urgent timeframe – they said they had to have a decision in 2021 to have cost synergies with Hinckley C. So, by their own emissions, with costs now spiralling and the project unable to be run even if it could be built, why go to the huge investment for such a white elephant?

Sizewell Link Road Destroying Communities

Since the first public consultation, EDF have failed to listen or heed communities along the B1122 that the road is not suitable for the huge weight of construction traffic required for the long term build. Rather than build a road with a direct route to the A12, heading south, as promoted by Suffolk County Council and local parishes, EDF are still proposing to build their own solution, heading north, lengthening the route for trucks to their main destination and smashing through properties. EDF propose to start building their relief road after the main work on the construction site has commenced – meaning that at least 3 years (and probably more as there is no guarantee on them delivering) of heavy traffic will plough along the winding B1122 through small villages and past 900 year old churches.

Mitigations proposed along the route for environment and social impacts are inadequate in the views of competent authorities and key stakeholders. EDF's army of researchers along the route, belatedly assessing potential impacts are testament to how little they understand of the route and its impacts.

It is completely within EDF's ability and indeed their interests, as observed by the Secretary of State, to build the road before commencing the main site construction. It will facilitate their traffic access to the site and reduce the impact on locals along the B1122 route. But unless EDF change their plans and adopt the route preferred by Suffolk County Council and local communities, thousands of residents along the B1122 and the part of the A12 that need not be affected will be subject to years of heavy traffic, noise and pollution.

There are many other reasons why as a resident of the area who has nothing to gain from the project and so much to lose in my lifetime and for those who come after. The great public expense, where the burden of cost will be on the population of the UK, even if EDF over-run, over-spend and potentially fail to deliver. The environmental impact on the nature, so rare in the UK which is now such a busy landscape, whilst the expected delivery of nearly 2040 will fail to impact on climate change – being 10 years too late, before it can help generate low carbon power and being a net emitter of carbon before then.

This decision will not impact politicians now. But it will impact generations to come through burdens of tax to pay EDF, wildlife habitat lost and carbon targets missed. Please stop this project now and save the money you pledged to projects which can make a positive impact.

Yours faithfully

Dr David HF Robb