

22/05/22

Unique Reference: 20026281

Dear Gareth Leigh,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond, yet again, to the proposed Sizewell C twin reactor on the Suffolk coast.

We have been extremely concerned about this project since it was, in our view, mistakenly put forward as a potential site, many years ago. Time and time again, it has been pointed out, by numerous Interested Parties, that the site is too small for two reactors, but still EDF pushed forward with these plans over the last 10 years, knowing that there were immeasurable problems with the project. EDF appears to have the Governments, somewhat premature backing, with investment of £100m. We find this very concerning as we have yet to hear the Inspectors conclusions as to the suitability of the site, yet the Government seem hell bent on approving SZC.

As someone who has given considerable time and effort, over many years, attending all local consultations and participating in the ISH's, it seems very disrespectful for the Government to splash the cash before the recommendations of the Planning Inspectorate are known.

Concerns:

Lack of Potable water and Desalination Plant.

We acknowledge EDF are working with Northumbrian Water (NWL) to resolve this crucially important issue but, EDF have known for many years there would be a problem with potable water, for building and post construction, and it regrettable that it only became apparent near the end of the examination. The

applicant stated during the Examination that a desalination is not an appropriate solution for potable water, either for construction or operation so it is of great concern that they have changed their mind so late in the day. As you will be aware, East Anglia is one of the driest parts of the country, we have had very little rain over the last few months and farmers are becoming increasingly worried over their own supplies and water companies have a duty and priority to supply the public with water, in the first instance.

To have a permanent desal plant for over 60yrs, with the pollution it causes, is quite unacceptable, Sizewell beach is very popular during summer months for swimming and I for one would not want my children or Grandchildren swimming in sea, that is likely to be contaminated with brine and chemicals. Our oceans are under pressure as it is, so this must not be allowed to happen.

We would be worried that if SZC is given permission for a temporary desal plant for construction and still NWL has been unable to guarantee a permanent water supply, the applicant will apply for a permanent desal plant and by that time it will be too late to refuse permission. The suggestion that the plant be sited underground is totally unacceptable, again proposals coming so late in the process. We are relieved the Secretary of State has shown concern. The issue of a permanent supply must be addressed before any planning consent is given.

Another other concern is that Pillbox field would be used as a carpark for the SZB outage, when it had been agreed that it would be planted up with trees and hedgerows for wildlife, as compensation for the felling of Coronation Wood. Again, after all the years of planning, EDF have changed the goalposts, yet again. It is of our opinion that if a permanent, non-environmentally damaging solution cannot be found, then the project must not be allowed to commence.

B1122 Mitigation

The B1122, the narrow country road, frequently used by the local population and visitors alike, to get to Leiston and surrounding villages, where doctors, banks etc are located, is totally unsuitable for the huge number of lorries and associated traffic needed for the construction site in the early years. We cannot imagine the misery on residents, from noise and pollution plus

potential damage to buildings and yet still the applicant wants to press ahead, with little thought to residents.

The B1122 is not the only road that will suffer from the proposed construction. The A12, which seems to get busier by the year, will soon become gridlocked from all the extra HGV's and I fear our thriving tourist industry will bear the brunt and visitors may be forced to revise their holiday plans. The A1120, a designated tourist route and although not the proposed lorry route, will become the chosen route for workers to access the northern Park and Ride from the West. This road is already plagued with speeding vehicles and motor bikes and will only get worse. Unacceptable for residents and hardly acknowledged in the DCO. I would also like to add, that hardly a week goes by without, either the A12 or the A14 being closed with accidents, resulting in long tailbacks.

Coastal defences and process.

It is very disappointing that there is still a lack of detail on the Hard Coast Defence Feature, again after years of planning the applicant has not provided the SoS with the final details, which at this late stage is quite unacceptable. These hard defences will destroy such a popular stretch of land, used regularly by the public. We thoroughly endorse the report from Mr Nick Scarr entitled "Sizewell C-coastal considerations and TR553" which calls into question the adequacy of the assessment of coastal processes and associated flood risks.

There has been significant erosion on this coastline over the past few years and the local community of Thorpeness is under particular threat. Locals who know the coast well are often shocked at the continual shifting shingle and sands. The applicant has always underplayed the potential erosion that could well occur over the lifetime of the plant and with expected sea rise, seem quite prepared for the site to become an island, hence the huge sea defences needed to keep the nuclear site safe, if this will indeed be possible. Not something that should be left for future generations to deal with.

Spent Fuel and storage

I was always under the impression that, from the Sizewell B inquiry, there would never be radioactive waste stored on site, yet here we are nearly 40

years on, with the prospect of yet more waste to be stored on both sites for generations ahead. Already Sizewell B has problems with a pinhole in one of the casks in the SZB dry fuel store. I believe this is a problem that has not occurred before and will take some time to find a solution. There is always the comment 'waste will eventually be sent to a Geological Disposal Facility' which of course is many years ahead, if indeed a suitable, safe site can be found.

Cumulative effect from energy projects.

The cumulative effects from all the energy projects in this area is particularly concerning. Communities will be hugely impacted from all the traffic and workforce arriving in the area and although I fully support the Governments push for wind, again the infrastructure for the substations is totally in the wrong place.

We do realise the need for a secure energy supply but the siting of these energy projects must be in the right place and the chosen site for Sizewell C is not one of them. Local employment at SZC may be attractive to some but it is the drain on the local workforce that really worries me. The local towns of Aldeburgh and Southwold are already suffering from staffing problems as is the Care sector.

We can only hope that the SoS will see sense and come to the same conclusion as so many in the area, demonstrated by the large crowds attending a peaceful demonstration on the 15th of May, that this is the wrong place for such a huge infrastructure project, with so many seemingly unsolvable problems and the application should not be approved.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer and Peter Kirtley.