

Gareth Leigh

Our Ref: 20026727

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
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Your Ref: EN010012

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By email only

Dear Mr Leigh

Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Comments on questions from the Secretary of State Application by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sizewell C Project

On 16th May, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy invited further comments on additional information regarding air quality. Whilst this question was directed towards Natural England, we wish to comment in our role as an environmental regulator.

BEIS Question:

6. With regards to the Applicant's updated air quality assessment (see Annex B), which presents the results of modelling the combined emissions from diesel generators for the temporary desalination plant and other sources¹, Natural England is invited to provide advice on whether an adverse effect on site integrity due to the impacts of changes in air quality can be excluded for the qualifying features of the following sites: • Sandlings SPA; and • Minsmere-Walberswick SPA, SAC and Ramsar.

An Environmental Permit - for emissions to air - will be required for any diesel generators associated with the operation of the proposed desalination plant. No applications have been received to date, and no pre-application advice has yet been sought from us. As part of the permit determination, compliance with the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) will be considered and an appropriate assessment may well be required to determine any impacts alone, or in-combination with other activities on site, and nearby projects.

Therefore there remains a regulatory step that will consider, in detail, the impacts associated with the operation of the generators identified in your question and a full and thorough assessment of all impacts will take place at that time.

Yours sincerely



Simon Barlow - Project Manager
Sizewell C Nuclear New Build
Environment Agency

