



## Meeting Note

<b>File reference</b>	<b>Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station - EN010012</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Jeffrey Penfold</b>

<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>EDF; Suffolk County Council; and Suffolk Coastal District Council.</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>24 April 2012</b>
<b>Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)</b>	<b>Mark Wilson (Principal Case Manager – Sizewell C Project) Jeffrey Penfold (Case Officer)</b>
<b>Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)</b>	<b>Paul Wood (Sizewell Project Office) Angela Pearce (EDF Nuclear New Build) Tim Norwood (EDF Nuclear New Build) Ian Bryant (EDF Nuclear New Build) Kate Stinton (EDF Nuclear New Build) Bob Chamberlain (Suffolk Coastal District Council) John Pitchford (Suffolk County Council)</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>EDF Offices, The Qube Building, London.</b>

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	<b>EDF to give a project update on the proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station and proposed consultation techniques with an opportunity to discuss lessons learned from the Hinkley Nuclear Power Station application.</b>
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p>EDF welcomed attendees and confirmed meeting objectives.</p> <p>EDF confirmed its proposed strategy for pre application consultation as required by the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act).</p> <p>Two rounds of community consultation (s47) are proposed by EDF: round one is expected to be launched by Q4 2012 and will involve consultation on both the main development site and any associated development. EDF confirmed that the community consultation will be an iterative process.</p> <p>EDF enquired whether it was necessary from a procedural perspective to make Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) available at the SoCC stage? The Inspectorate said clarification would be sought about this matter and would provide advice in due course.</p> <p>A period of reflection of the round one consultation responses will be undertaken before commencing the second stage of community consultation.</p>
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EDF commented that project proposals will be refined as a result of stage one. Dates concerning the latter round of s47 consultation are yet to be confirmed.

Suffolk Coastal District Council supported the iterative approach to consultation.

EDF have begun monthly meetings with the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation in respect of Sizewell C which are expected to continue. The meetings act as forums for discussion.

#### **Hinkley Point C – Lessons Learned:**

Main areas of discussion were:

- consultation under s47 of the 2008 Act;
- the drafting and publication of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC);
- engaging and consulting with local authority consultees on the SoCC; and
- the compilation of Local Impact reports (LIR) and Statements of Common Ground (SOCG).

#### **Consultation**

The Inspectorate advised both local authorities to engage fully with the developer when undertaking its duty under s47 (1) of the 2008 Act which requires the developer to consult local authority consultees on the content of the SoCC. Engagement within this process is of particular importance to each local authority in ensuring its views on how and where s47 consultation should take place, and also the identification of relevant and hard to reach groups.

During the acceptance stage, the Inspectorate will invite the local authorities (consulted under s42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act) to submit an adequacy of consultation representation. The adequacy statement must confirm whether the applicant complied with its duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act. This process should be undertaken objectively by local authorities, regardless of their views on the application.

Suffolk County Council sought clarification, particularly on the level of assessment required by local authority consultees when assessing s47 consultation and committing to an adequacy of consultation representation.

The Inspectorate advised that the Councils could deploy an appropriate level of resource to monitor and assess consultation events. Developing a common assessment template for events could promote consistency and allow results to be easily incorporated into the adequacy reporting process.

EDF propose to draft a SoCC that sets the framework for s47 consultation, rather than a detailed and rigid SoCC. This should negate the need to update the SoCC every time an additional consultation event takes place.

The Inspectorate commented that the SoCC should state clearly whether the development proposed will require an Environmental Statement.

The Inspectorate advised that while it was appropriate, and probably desirable, for local authorities to prepare local communities for the developer's upcoming consultation exercises; once EDF commenced with its pre application consultation there should be no ambiguity about who is running the consultation and where respondents should send their responses to.

If and when the application is accepted, the Inspectorate would undertake outreach events to raise awareness of the need for individuals and organisations to register their interest to become interested parties. In the meantime the Inspectorate would be happy to meet with local members to discuss the process and the Councils' role in it.

The Inspectorate gave mention to the amendments made to the definition of a 'statutory party' of The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties) Regulations 2010 by The Localism Act 2011 (Infrastructure Planning) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012.

**LIR and SOCG:**

The Inspectorate provided advice about producing a LIR and SoCG; the receipt of both is requested by the Examining Authority during the examination stage, approximately six weeks after the Preliminary Meeting.

The Inspectorate advised the Councils to carefully consider their role in the process against their available resources. The Councils should note that it is not their role to examine the application. The Councils role is to support communities to engage in the process, rather than to represent individuals and organisations. The process provides opportunities for individuals and organisations to make their representations directly to the Examining Authority.

Preparation of a SoCG can commence prior to an application being submitted to the Inspectorate. EDF confirmed that in light of recent experiences with Hinkley Point C, the SoCG drafting process will commence as soon as practical but timing would be dependent on project definition and supporting assessment information.

Suffolk Coastal Council described a linked approach towards the production of SoCG, LIR and Written representations. This

	<p>involved a filtering process the purpose being to gain common ground on matters such as baseline data, impacts, s106 agreements and requirements. Ultimately, only the matters where agreement could not be reached would need to be the subject of written representations at the examination. The Inspectorate agreed that this was an approach that was worth considering and encouraged EDF and the Councils to consider this further.</p> <p>The definition of an LIR is given in s60 (3) of the Act as '<i>a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area (or any part of that area)</i>'. The content of a LIR is a matter for the local authority concerned as long as it falls within this statutory definition. The LIR needs to be a useful document for the Examining Authority. In this sense the more objective and technical the document can be the better. There is no requirement for local authorities to come to a view on the application in the LIR. This is probably more appropriate for inclusion in written representations. However, the Inspectorate acknowledged that it was inevitable that subjective content would be included, particularly if the LIR was dealing with mitigation.</p> <p>The Councils asked what role The Inspectorate would play at the pre application stage. The Inspectorate commented that the pre application stage was led by the developer. The Inspectorate's role would be to support and advise all participants but not to take a leading role.</p> <p><b>Future Meetings:</b>  Future tripartite meetings will be held on a quarterly basis. The next meeting is expected to be held in Autumn 2012. A meeting with Councillors is also anticipated with the Councils to advise when ready.</p>
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<b>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</b>	PINS to provide advice regarding the SoCC and PEI Councils to advise about future meeting the Councillors. EDF to arrange next tripartite meeting.
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<b>Circulation List</b>	Meeting Attendees.    
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