



The Planning Inspectorate

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Mr John Rea Price
1 Old Store Gardens
Leiston
IP16 4SJ

By email only

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010012

Date: 01 July 2013

Dear Mr Rea Price

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2013. First of all, please accept our apologies for the tardiness of our response; it is our usual aim to respond to correspondence within 10 working days. It is clear that in this case we have not met this standard, and I will personally endeavour to find out the cause of this and ensure that it does not happen again. Please see below the response to your original enquiry.

As you correctly understand, any application for a nuclear generating station must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. Before submitting an application, the developer has the opportunity to ask the Secretary of State for a formal written opinion on the information to be included in the Environmental Statement. This is known as a "scoping opinion" and is produced by the Planning Inspectorate.

The request for the scoping opinion is often called a "scoping report" and it is produced by the applicant.

Before adopting a scoping opinion the Secretary of State must consult the prescribed consultation bodies, who have 28 days to respond. The prescribed consultation bodies are set out in legislation, and include local councils and specialist agencies such as the Environment Agency. We do not consult local residents or community groups on the scoping opinion, because it is a technical document and is not an opportunity to argue the merits of the proposed application.

The applicant is separately required to consult with the local community about their proposals before making an application. If an application is submitted and accepted for examination, it will be possible for the local community to make submissions to the examination on the adequacy of the Environmental Statement that accompanied the application.

The host and neighbouring local authorities are prescribed consultation bodies, and so it is also open to you to make your views known to them. If they wish, they can consider them when they make any submissions in any statement they make to us about the adequacy of the applicant's consultation.

The answers to the questions contained in your letter, therefore, are:

1) We will consult the proscribed consultation bodies if a request is received from EDF for a scoping opinion. The Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group is not a prescribed consultation body.

2) The Planning Inspectorate is responsible for consulting prescribed consultation bodies on the scoping opinion. The applicant is responsible for consulting the local community on the impacts of the proposed scheme.

3) The Planning Inspectorate will have no role in the preparation of the Environmental Statement. The scoping opinion is simply a formal written opinion on what it should contain.

4) We do not know. This question would be best addressed to the applicant; the timetable for any pre-application consultation with the local community is a matter for them.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Baker

Michael Baker
Case Officer
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Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.