

Dr Daniel Poulter MP
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Central Suffolk and North Ipswich



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sarah Richards
Chief Executive
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3 O/P
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Wednesday 27th May 2020

Dear Ms Richards,

I am extremely concerned to learn that EDF Energy has today submitted a Development Consent Order (DCO) application in respect of their proposed nuclear power station, 'Sizewell C' in Suffolk.

Although I welcome the communication which I received this morning from EDF Energy's Managing Director for Nuclear Development, Mr Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson, I continue to have significant concerns about the impact that the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions will have upon the ability of local communities to engage in the relevant processes.

I have been contacted by a great many constituents who have raised their ongoing concerns regarding this application. It is my opinion that opportunities for genuine public consultation on the DCO will be greatly curtailed as public meetings are not currently permitted. Due to the significant local and national impacts of an application of this scale, it is vital that sufficient time and resource is made available to properly and fully consider the Sizewell C DCO application.

It is also important to consider that many organisations, including the Planning Inspectorate and County and District councils, are most likely currently operating with reduced staffing and remote working practices in place. As the DCO application must be considered within 28 days, in which time County and District councils are mandated to respond to questions about EDF's community consultation, the reduced capacity of all organisations due to COVID-19 raises significant concern. It is imperative that local councils are not distracted from delivering essential frontline services during the battle against COVID-19.

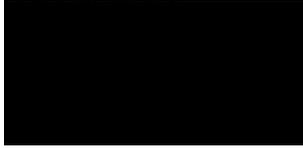
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All correspondence should be addressed to the House of Commons
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I would therefore be grateful if the Planning Inspectorate will ensure that full and proper consideration of this important application takes place. I would welcome clarification from the Planning Inspectorate and EDF Energy on how full and proper process and due diligence will be adhered to during these exceptional circumstances of COVID-19.

I look forward to receiving your urgent response.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Daniel Poulter MP
Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

**cc: The Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government**
Cllr Matthew Hicks; Leader of Suffolk County Council
Cllr Steve Gallant; Leader of East Suffolk Council
Lord Marlesford

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