



Meeting note

Project name	Hinkley Point C New Nuclear Power Station Material Change 1
File reference	EN010102
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	18 May 2022
Meeting with	NNB Generation Company HPC Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Environmental Permits

The Applicant advised they are waiting for a decision from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) regarding the environmental permit appeal.

The Inspectorate queried whether this would impact the submission date for the application. The Applicant advised that the project programme will be reviewed again in July and consultation will not commence until at least September 2022, with the possibility to be delayed further if no decision from the Secretary of State is received by the end of July. The Applicant advised the material change application submission is likely to be delayed to Q1 2023.

The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant had considered following a derogation route under the Habitats regulations due to potential opposition to the project. The Applicant advised that while it is an option, they do not currently believe it is necessary.

Scoping

The Applicant advised that the scoping opinion was helpful. They may wish to scope out further topics, but they understand that they will need to provide the evidence in order to do so.

The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant will need to understand the zones of other projects and any potential for transboundary issues. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant only highlighted major applications/projects rather than highlight all applications/projects.

The Applicant stated following this advice that they will acknowledge all relevant projects rather than just major projects. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant would need to note how this changes the existing Environmental Statement.

The Inspectorate queried whether there are any changes to non-material changes. The applicant advised that there are no updates on non-material changes.

The Applicant has been preparing a Radioactive Substances Regulations permit variation application to change the fuel storage type (wet to dry) of the interim spent fuel store. This will not change the previously permitted discharge limits. The Applicant also confirmed that there will be no change in radiological impacts associated with discharges related to the change in technology. The Applicant advised they are in pre-application discussions, with the intention to submit the variation in May or June of 2022. The Applicant indicated the consultation period for this will run for 28 days. They also informed the Inspectorate that the Environment Agency (EA) have indicated that they are likely to reach a conclusion by September.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that they should be aware that arbitration is not for the examining body so they will need to communicate directly with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The Applicant advised that they are talking to the MMO and that they do not have a deemed marine license but a separate marine license instead.

The Inspectorate advised that they had received contact from the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) regarding scoping and have advised them to contact the Applicant directly.

Application documents

The Applicant advised that they do not have a specific list of documents and would discuss this in the next update meeting.

The Inspectorate advised that the Relevant Representation (RR) period will not be opened in unison with the submission due to the time to upload all of the documents to be reviewed. The Inspectorate would like 28 days to review and process the submission prior to the relevant representations opening.

The Applicant advised that there will be a high level of detail regarding marine aspects of the application so the Inspectorate may want to consider the level of detail they'd like to review during any draft documentation reviews.

Consultation

The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant would need to get elements of the application, such as Statements of Common Ground, progressed as far as possible prior to submission.

The Applicant has advised that while initial discussions have been made with local authorities, the project has changed since and they will therefore require further discussion. The Applicant also advised that there has also been regular dialogue with the Environment Agency.

The Applicant is aware of upcoming changes to Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) due to the creation of the new Unitary Authority for Somerset in April 2023 because of local government reorganisation.

Examination and Blended Events

The Inspectorate advised that many examinations have been held virtually, however there is scope for holding blended examinations, so the Applicant should be prepared for either scenario. The Inspectorate advised that the Examining Body (ExB) will make the final decision whether a blended event is required, but the applicant and IP's can advise on their opinion.

The Applicant confirmed they will discuss internally potential venues that would be most appropriate to support a blended event; in the event one is required.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant suggested they may find a meeting just after consultation beneficial. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant contacts the Inspectorate when they are ready to suggest dates for the next project update meeting.
- The Applicant advised that a potential site visit by the Inspectorate is possible if required. The Inspectorate advised that they would discuss this further internally and get back to the applicant.