



Date: 04 Feb 2016  
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Mr Stephen Walls  
Deputy Project Development Director  
NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd  
The Qube  
90 Whitfield Street  
LONDON  
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Dear Stephen,

### **Sizewell C: Consultation on the Updated Statement of Community Consultation**

Thank you for inviting our input into the updated Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which was received by us on the 13 January 2016. In accordance with the statutory requirement to respond within 28 days to that request, this letter constitutes the formal response of both Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council.

The SoCC is very similar to that which we have seen in draft and commented on previously. The major change since the currently agreed SoCC (published November 2012) is the addition of a third stage of consultation into the process.

The reference to co-ordinating with other consultation activities to avoid public confusion and consultation fatigue is noted and appreciated and we would be happy to help co-ordinate this should any potential conflicts be identified.

The SoCC states that EDF Energy is committed to carrying out in-depth consultation and considering all the feedback received – therefore taking the necessary time to do this – this indicates that there should be a decent interval of time between stages of consultation and this is welcomed.

On page 12, reference is made to Planning Aid England involvement in support for town and parish councils – we are happy to see this incorporated given our support for such a proposal and previous requests for a form of support to be included.

Our single and substantive area of dissatisfaction is therefore the time proposed for public consultation at Stages 2 and 3. EDF is proposing an 8 week period for the consultation, only to be extended if this falls over Easter or Christmas. The SoCC does not specify by how long the consultation would be extended in this scenario but it is noted that the Stage 1 took place over Christmas and ran for 11 weeks.

As we have indicated previously, we strongly believe that Stage 2 should be a minimum of 10 weeks, 12 if over a (defined) major public holiday and that Stage 3 should be a minimum of 12 weeks, 14 if over a (defined) major public holiday.

As the SoCC fails to incorporate guarantees that an adequate period of time will be available for consultees to respond, regrettably we cannot support the SoCC as drafted and strongly urge EDF to reconsider its position on this matter so that an appropriate period for engagement during the public consultation stages of the pre-application process is provided.

Yours sincerely

**Deborah Cadman OBE**

Chief Executive Suffolk County Council

**Stephen Baker**

Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal and  
Waveney District Council