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Dear Richard

Response to Sizewell C Consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation

The Chief Executives of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council have asked me to respond on their behalf to your draft SoCC. The response set out below provides general and specific comments on the SoCC and hopefully these points will assist you when finalising the document for publication.

General Points

Length of Consultation

A key issue raised by the local authorities and town/ parish councils within the vicinity of the proposed development is the length of the Stage 1 Consultation. The proposed length of a minimum of eight weeks is viewed as too short for the following reason:

- Anything less than 12 weeks makes it very difficult to make a considered response and for this response to be taken through the democratic processes of both local authorities and other bodies
- Stage 1 consultation is due to straddle the Christmas period therefore 8 weeks effectively become 6 weeks
- Stage 1 will involve the assessment of options for the location of associated development sites whereas Stage 2 will be consulting on preferred sites. This coupled with the likelihood that a number of people will be coming to the

project 'cold' means that we believe Stage 1 should be the same length of time as Stage 2.

In the context of a 3 to 4 year pre-application phase we believe that an extension of 4 weeks is reasonable.

Role of the local authorities

In order to provide the public with appropriate context it would be useful if the role of the local authorities in the consultation process was set out in the document. Our role as statutory consultees and to represent the views of local communities is a vital element of the pre-application phase and as such it warrants an explanation within the SoCC.

Specific Points

Off-site Emergency Planning Consultation

There is a concern that the potential exists for consultees to confuse the terms inner zone and outer zone with emergency planning zones. In order to avoid such potential confusion it is suggested that EDF refer to their consultation geographies as inner and outer areas throughout the SoCC.

The timing of consultation on off-site emergency planning in relation to Sizewell A and B has now changed and in the light of this the following amendment to the SoCC is suggested to the end of the first paragraph on page 5:

“and the Suffolk Resilience Forum is proposing to consult on emergency planning arrangements for Sizewell A and B early in the new year”.

Extension of outer consultation zone

It is suggested that the outer consultation zone be extended to include the major settlements of Ipswich and Felixstowe. The construction of Sizewell C will have potential impacts (negative and positive) on these areas in terms of transport, environment and socio-economic issues and therefore it is reasonable that these communities, who are currently on the edge of the zone, receive adequate consultation.

Furthermore the SoCC states that community meetings will take place in Woodbridge and Ipswich but there is no reference to Kesgrave, a town with a major population situated between these two settlements. In light of this it is requested that similar engagement is afforded to the residents of Kesgrave.

It is also requested that a public exhibition takes place in the village of Wenhaston. This settlement has a younger age profile in comparison to surrounding villages and as result it would improve the robustness of EDF's public consultation to include this village particularly since young people are identified as a 'hard to reach' group.

Consultation for Associated Development site options

It is likely that a number of the site options for proposed associated developments may fall outside the inner and outer consultation zones. Since these elements are significant development in their own right, we feel it is appropriate that communities that are within the influence of these structures receive the same intensity of consultation as those communities within the inner consultation zone.

EDF Leiston Office

EDF have stated that their Leiston office will not be open to the public during the initial period of the Stage 1 consultation. We believe that this office should be open as soon as public consultation begins to enable members of the local community to view the proposals and discuss them with EDF staff.

Consultation timetable

The SoCC states that EDF will confirm dates for public consultation at least 10 days ahead of the start of each consultation period. The local authorities consider this a very short period of time bearing mind the preparation and democratic processes involved in providing EDF with a considered consultation response. It is requested that EDF provide the local authorities with dates for public consultation at the earliest possible opportunity and significantly earlier than the 10 days stated in the SoCC.

Consultation with schools

EDF are encouraged to broaden their consultation so as to include schools within the inner and outer zones. This is seen as particularly important since it will allow young people (one of the hard to reach groups) to engage with the consultation process.

Community Forum

It is suggested that the proposed composition of the Community Forum should be set out within the SoCC. Local authority members are keen to understand how the forum will be representative of the local area.

Seeking views of wider public

On page 7 a sentence within the second paragraph states:

“...EDF Energy will also seek the views of the wider public...”

Local authority members are keen to understand how EDF will specifically meet this commitment.

If you require clarification on any of the points listed above please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to receiving your comments on our response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Wood". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely".

Paul Wood