

Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson
Nuclear Development Managing Director
ED Energy

By Email:
Humphrey.cadoux-hudson@edf-energy.com

Your ref:
Our ref: LC/PJR
Date: 9 April 2020
Please ask for: P. Ridley/B. Griffiths
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bryn.griffiths@suffolk.gov.uk

Dear Humphrey,

Sizewell C application

We welcomed your pause in the submission of proposals for Sizewell C to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) while we all took stock of the implications of the Covid-19 emergency. Since then the impact of the restrictions and social distancing has become clear. Many of our staff are at risk of being redeployed to deal with the consequences of the virus and maybe at risk of sickness from the virus. We have seen your letter of 3 April 2020 to the town and parishes and we welcome some of the points that you make in that, but for the sake of clarity, we have set out our view of the current situation and our ask of you in your discussions with the Planning Inspectorate on the next steps in the process.

We are mindful of the need for progress to be made on major infrastructure projects where possible but are concerned about being able to ensure the fairness of the process to all parties including the Councils. As such, we would like to suggest:

1. That we are supportive of you submitting your application for the Development Consent Order (DCO) in the next few weeks and commencing the initial 28-day period for PINS to assess whether to accept your application.
2. At that point, PINS will ask the Councils to comment on the adequacy of consultation, for which we will need to review carefully the consultation process to date and your submitted Consultation Report. As has been discussed with your team, what would greatly help us with meeting this timescale is if we could have early sight of the Consultation Report. Both Councils are mindful that our staffing position is very dependent on the impact of illness and redeployment possibilities to meet urgent responses to the Covid-19 emergency and although we do not expect there to be an issue, we would ask that you contact us immediately prior to submission to check that this remains the case.
3. The Councils would like it to be known that we have significant concerns regarding the public engagement element of the Section 56 consultation period. Given the current

Government guidance on social distancing, social isolation and public gatherings, we ask you to delay the Section 56 consultation until such time as all parties, including EDF Energy, PINS and the Councils are satisfied that appropriate public engagement can take place. In particular, there are certain areas within the Councils including the Fire Service, Public Health and Housing who are under significant resource pressure currently. If we have staff shortages, we may be able to instruct consultants but that would be dependent on the availability of core staff to instruct them.

4. On the basis that PINS accept your application after the initial 28 days, we are content and keen to be involved in ongoing conversations with yourselves and PINS on the start date for the Section 56 engagement period. We welcome that you are proposing a minimum 12 week period for the Section 56 consultation, however, we do not know what the overall situation will be at that time so we would like to be involved in discussions prior to commencing the Section 56. To aid this discussion we have written to PINS asking them to proactively publish guidance on how the DCO process during this time can be maintained to ensure that it is fair and open to all to engage. We would suggest, if you haven't already, to do something similar which will significantly help our respective local engagement during this period.

As we have discussed with your team previously, we want you to use this delay to engage with us, as far as our staffing position allows, to seek to achieve statements of common ground and to seek to address the Councils' previously raised concerns in the prior rounds of public consultation.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Gallant | Leader
East Suffolk Council



Matthew Hicks | Leader
Suffolk County Council

Cc. By email:

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