

# Sizewell C update to JLAG members, July 2021

## **DCO Examination Period**

The Examination formally commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 following two Preliminary Meetings. The Examination period is due to run for 6 months from this date, ending on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The Examining Authority (ExA) have not currently identified any requirement to extend the Examination period beyond this date (however, as with the recent Scottish Power Renewables EA1N and EA2 Examination, we acknowledge that there is always that possibility).

The current timetable for the examination is available here: [The Sizewell C Project | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/the-sizewell-c-project/)

## **Deadline 4 (1 July 2021)**

This deadline was introduced in to the DCO Examination calendar by the ExA after the Examination had started. This provided an additional opportunity for the Applicant to respond to any further information requested by the ExA. Only a relatively small number of technical papers were submitted at this additional deadline.

Additional materials submitted can be viewed at: [The Sizewell C Project | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/the-sizewell-c-project/)

## **Minor Changes Consultation (11 June – 12 July 2021)**

Due to SZC Co.'s on-going engagement efforts and design refinements, a range of 'minor changes' to the DCO application have been proposed. A public consultation was held in June/July 2021 on the proposed changes prior to the Applicant submitting a formal request to the ExA to accept the changes as part of the DCO process. SZC Co. confirmed that the proposed changes would not result in any new or materially different 'likely significant effects' on the environment from those already presented in the most up to date Environmental Statement (ES).

The proposed minor changes were in relation to the following:

- Lover's Lane and Main Development Site Access Works (including a minor change to Bridleway 19 and relocation of Pegasus crossing, the removal of trees from the tree belt adjacent to Bridleway 19, and repositioning of the mammal culvert);
- Two Village Bypass (including changes to flood relief culverts, removal of a proposed upgrade for PRow to bridleway, and a change to the PRow at Friday Street roundabout);
- Sizewell Link Road (including changes to the Pretty Road bridge, becoming a vehicular bridge, changes to ensure the PRow provides safe crossing, revisions to drainage designs to allow gravity drainage, highway works at B1122 Brown's Plantation, B1122/25 link, Hawthorn Road, Middleton Moor roundabout and minor revisions to the limits of deviation).

SCC and ESC have submitted a response to the consultation; in general, neither Council had particular concerns about the changes, and the responses were of a very technical nature.

Further details of the minor changes consultation can be found at: [EN010012-004876-D2 - Sizewell C Project - Other- Second Notification of Proposed Project Changes.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/en010012-004876-d2-sizewell-c-project-other-second-notification-of-proposed-project-changes.pdf)

## **Water supply – new change consultation**

In SZC Co's Deadline 5 submission, it is noted that the proposed new potable water transfer main by Northumbrian Water Limited won't now be available until December 2024 at the earliest. This is approximately 2 years after the assumed start of construction. Therefore, SZC Co. proposes a temporary desalination plant to meet the project's potable water needs for part of the construction period before the transfer main is available.

As this necessitates a change to the application for development consent, SZC Co will publicly consult on that change during August, before submitting a change application.

Information will be available at the Sizewell C website <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/sizewell-c/proposals>.

## **Issue Specific Hearings (6-16 July 2021)**

Issue Specific Hearings were held by the ExA over the course of 8 days in July. The views of the Councils were each represented by Legal Counsel, at the direction of supporting Technical Officers. The hearings covered the draft DCO and Section 106, Traffic and Transport, Socio-economic and Community, Landscape and Visual Impact, Coastal Geomorphology, Biodiversity and Ecology. Each Hearing provided Interested Parties (IPs) with an opportunity to air any views or concerns that they may have in relation to the specific topic area, in response to the pre-determined questions set by the ExA.

Recordings and transcripts of the hearings can be found on the examination web page below:

[The Sizewell C Project | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/the-sizewell-c-project/)

## **Deadline 5 (23 July 2021)**

This deadline provided an opportunity for post-hearing submissions to be received by the ExA, this included written post hearing submissions including summaries of oral cases as discussed at the hearings, as well as comments on any of the Deadline 3 and Deadline 4 submissions.

This material will be available on the Infrastructure Planning website within a few working days after the deadline, at [The Sizewell C Project | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/the-sizewell-c-project/)

## **Upcoming dates in August:**

### **Publication of second round of Examination Questions (3 August 2021)**

The ExA will issue further Written Questions which will include a mop up of any matters raised but not yet discussed in detail at the Issue Specific Hearings. The Examining Authority will also publish their proposed commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the dDCO and s.106 documentation (if required).

### **Deadline 6 (6 August 2021)**

This deadline provides an opportunity for further submission materials and comments to be received by the ExA for consideration as part of the DCO Examination. This includes comments on the Applicant's revised draft DCO, comments on any revised/updated SoCG, comments on Written Representations received at Deadline 5 from additional Interested Parties, Interested Parties and additional affected persons, an updated NPS tracker, Navigation Document, an updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (BoR), an updated Statement of Reasons

(SoR) Appendix B 'Status of Negotiations with Owners of the Order Land', an updated SoR Appendix C 'Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers', comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 5 and responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this Deadline.

**Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (17-20 August 2021)**

Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH) are being held because the application includes a request for an Order granting development consent to authorise Compulsory Acquisition (CA) of land or CA of an interest in or right over land. Further details can be viewed at: [EN010012-006038-SZC-CAH notification-FINAL.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

**Reserve dates for Issue Specific Hearings, Open Floor Hearings, Accompanied Site Inspections, Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (24-27 August)**

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PINS announced on 27 July that the dates reserved in the examination timetable will be used as follows:

24 August – Open Floor Hearings.

25 August – Issue Specific Hearing 8 on noise, air quality, vibration

26 August -Issue Specific Hearing 9 on policy and need

27 August – Issue Specific Hearing 10 on biodiversity, ecology and HRA matters

If you wish to speak at the Open Floor Hearings (or the Issue Specific Hearings), you need to let the case team know by 6 August 2021. See

[SZC Bk9 9.55 SZC Co Comments on Responses to ExQ1s Submitted at Deadline 3 Part4.docx](#)