



Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG) Update

June 2020

Cllr Richard Rout

Chair of JLAG

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Vice-Chair of JLAG



EDF Energy's Development Consent Order application accepted

1. On 24 June, the Planning Inspectorate accepted EDF Energy's application for Development Consent Order (DCO) for a new nuclear power station, Sizewell C. The DCO documentation has been published on the Planning Inspectorate website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sizewell-c-new-nuclear-power-station/>
2. Our Councils, as host authorities, were asked by the Government's Planning Inspectorate to provide their views on the adequacy of EDF Energy's consultation so far. In our 'Adequacy of Consultation Response', the Councils conclude that EDF Energy has complied with the legal requirements of the Planning Act 2008. However, the lack of a comprehensive set of documents up to this point had compromised the engagement that had taken place, and the Councils had not been able to complete their pre-application work with EDF Energy to the extent we would have liked. We would like to thank the many town and parish councils that shared with us their concerns about the pre-submission consultation; we took this feedback into account and made reference to town and parish councils and statutory consultees who had raised similar concerns about the level and quality of information that had been made available throughout the consultation phases.
The response is published at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/sizewell-nuclear-power-station/development-consent-order-dco/>
3. As you will be aware, the decision on the DCO application will be made by the Government's Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, having regard to national policy which supports the principle of new nuclear development with Sizewell C a nominated site for consideration. If it is consented, we need to ensure we have achieved the best outcome for the communities of Suffolk during construction, during the station's operation for the next 60 years, and during decommissioning. The role of the Councils is hugely important in securing the best outcomes. We know that there are many in our communities who have significant concerns on aspects of the proposal that will affect them, and some object to the proposal in principle. Be assured that those concerns are understood.
4. Our officers will go through the 56,000 pages of DCO documents in detail to assess the information and evidence provided to enable us to determine whether the submission is acceptable. This will include a review of the many concerns raised during the four stages of consultation, and we will again speak to our town and parish councils in order to seek your views on the key topics and issues remaining for you.
5. EDF Energy has announced that the Section 56 engagement period will commence on 8 July to run for 84 days until 30 September 2020. As you are aware from previous newsletters, given the ongoing lockdown restrictions relating to Covid-19, the Councils made our concerns clear to EDF Energy that they should carefully consider how and when the engagement period on the DCO submission documents

should take place. Whilst we welcome EDF Energy's extension of the Section 56 period to 84 days, we have stressed that it is especially important that EDF Energy gives the local communities the fullest opportunity to ask relevant questions and understand plans for the new development at Sizewell C, particularly in the light of the ongoing Covid-19 restriction. We note the additional engagement measures EDF Energy will put in place including the agreement to engage Planning Aid England to support and advise Town and Parish Councils. If the Covid-19 situation worsens during this period, we will make representations to EDF Energy to extend the period further.

6. As part of the Section 56 engagement, the Inspectorate will be inviting people to register as Interested Parties on their website and to submit a Relevant Representation summarising their views and opinions on the Sizewell C project. You can register as an individual or on behalf of a town or parish council or another organisation. Registering as an Interested Party will ensure that you are kept up to date by the Inspectorate on progression of the project and will enable you to take part in the Examination stage of the project's assessment. The process is predominantly a written process, so it is important to use any opportunity to provide detailed written responses to the Inspectorate in relation to the project. You will have to do this during the Section 56 engagement period, between 8 July and 30 September 2020. Further advice on this is available on the Planning Inspectorate's website: (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>)
7. We are committed to continue our engagement with town and parish councils during the Section 56 period and we need to ensure that this can be carried out safely for all and without risking the health of any party. Therefore, we are proposing a JLAG virtual engagement event for our town and parish councils on the afternoon of 29 July 2020. This will be held on the Zoom virtual platform and will be a mixture of plenary presentation and break-out sessions, not dissimilar to the face to face events we have held for previous rounds of consultation. Invitations will be issued to town and parishes in due course, but please reserve the afternoon of 29 July 2020 in your calendars; as for previous events, towns and parishes will be limited to two members per parish to ensure the break-out sessions can be appropriately facilitated.
8. We will maintain up to date information with regards to the Councils' submissions to the Inspectorate on the DCO page of our website <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/sizewell-nuclear-power-station/development-consent-order-dco/> . However, full up-to-date documentation of the project will only be available through the Planning Inspectorate's web pages <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sizewell-c-new-nuclear-power-station/> .
9. Both Councils have teams working on the project and we are always available to answer questions at our joint email address sizewellc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
10. We will publish information of interest including the dates of our Cabinet meetings when they are available on <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/sizewell-nuclear-power-station/development-consent-order-dco/> .