



# The Sizewell C Project

## 9.10.19 Initial Statement of Common Ground - Magnox Limited and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

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Revision: 1.0  
Applicable Regulation: Regulation 5(2)(q)  
PINS Reference Number: EN010012

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June 2021

Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Status of the SoCG

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') has been prepared in respect of the application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 ('the Application') for the proposed Sizewell C Project. This version [version 01], dated 28 May 2021, has been prepared following contact and some discussion between NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited ('SZC Co.') as the Applicant and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Magnox Limited (Magnox), together referred to as 'the parties'. While the NDA and Magnox have registered individually as Interested Parties, it is their intention that they will act jointly where practicable, in order to assist the Examination.

1.1.2 The Applicant is continuing to work with the NDA and Magnox to develop this 'live' SoCG to a status where it can be signed and submitted as a jointly agreed statement. It will be amended as the Examination progresses in order to enable a final, agreed version to be submitted to the Examining Authority as soon as it can be settled and in any event by Deadline 9 before the close of Examination.

### 1.2 Purpose of this document

1.2.1 The purpose of this 'live' SoCG is to set out the position of the parties arising from the application for development consent for the construction and operation of the Sizewell C nuclear power station and together with the proposed associated development (hereafter referred to as 'the Sizewell C Project'). This SoCG is being submitted to the Examining Authority in relation to the Sizewell C Project under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.

1.2.2 This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the 'Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent' published in March 2015 by the Department of Communities and Local Government (hereafter referred to as 'DCLG guidance').

1.2.3 The aim of this SoCG is, therefore, to inform the Examining Authority and provide a clear position on the state and extent of discussions and agreement or otherwise between the parties on matters relating to the proposed Sizewell C Project.

1.2.4 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the DCO application documents. All DCO application and

Examination documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website.

### 1.3 The role of the NDA and Magnox

1.3.1 The NDA is a statutory corporation established by the Energy Act 2004. The NDA is responsible for ensuring that the UK's legacy nuclear sites are decommissioned and cleaned-up safely, securely, cost-effectively and in a manner that protects people and the environment.

1.3.2 The NDA's principal function, as established by Designating Directions made by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 3 of the Energy Act 2004, is to secure the decommissioning and cleaning-up of those nuclear sites and installations for which it has designated responsibility.

1.3.3 On 3 December 2004, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry made Directions to the NDA in respect of the existing Sizewell A Nuclear Site (the "Sizewell A Directions"). The Sizewell A Directions give the NDA statutory responsibility for the decommissioning and cleaning-up of the Sizewell A Nuclear Site, the geographical extent of which is more particularly defined in Schedule 1 and Annex A to the Sizewell A Directions.

1.3.4 Decommissioning activities at the Sizewell A Nuclear Site are carried out on behalf of the NDA by the site tenant, Magnox, being a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA, in accordance with detailed lease and contractual arrangements with the NDA. Magnox is also the holder of the nuclear site licence for the Sizewell A Nuclear Site, granted pursuant to the Nuclear Installations Act 1965.

### 1.4 Structure of this Statement of Common Ground

1.4.1 **Chapter 2** provides a schedule which details the position on relevant matters between the parties, including any matters where discussions are ongoing.

## 2 POSITION OF THE PARTIES

2.1.1 **Table 2.1** provides an overview of the position of the parties and any further actions planned.

2.1.2 The NDA and Magnox require Protective Provisions to protect their statutory obligations and duties and accordingly, do not agree with the powers in the draft DCO that affect their land, interests and statutory interests and responsibilities until the Protective Provisions are agreed.

Table 2.1: Position of Parties

Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
<b>Use of Compulsory Powers over NDA/Magnox land</b>					
1.a	<p>The NDA is a Category 1 person, and Magnox is a Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 person in respect of a significant number of plots of land identified in the Applicant's Book of Reference.</p> <p>The Applicant is seeking the following powers over land in respect of which the NDA and Magnox is a Category 1 or Category 2 person: Class 1 – acquisition of all freehold and leasehold interests; Class 4 – override easements and other rights and extinguishment of all private rights</p> <p>The following plots are included within the DCO of which NDA/Magnox have an interest:</p>	<p>NDA/Magnox oppose the compulsory acquisition of any of this land or the extinguishment of any rights etc, in any of the plots of land which are: (a) within the Nuclear Site Licence held by Magnox for the Sizewell A Nuclear Site and (b) the designated boundary of the Sizewell A Nuclear Site for which NDA has statutory responsibility for decommissioning and cleaning up (operational land).</p>	<p>The applicant does not intend to use compulsory acquisition in relation to interests held by Magnox/NDA within the Sizewell A Nuclear Site and designated boundary of the Sizewell A Nuclear Site for which NDA has statutory responsibility for decommissioning and cleaning up. Further discussions will be had to ensure the draft DCO (dDCO) provides the required protection.</p>	<p>The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.</p>	<p>In Progress</p>

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
	Category 1 – Tenant/Lessee/Occupier in the following plots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDS/02/28</li> </ul>				
1.b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDS/05/02</li> <li>MDS/05/06</li> <li>MDS/05/07</li> </ul> <p>Category 2 – NDA/Magnox has an interest in the following plots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDS/01/01</li> <li>MDS/01/06</li> <li>MDS/01/07</li> <li>MDS/02/03</li> <li>MDS/02/04</li> <li>MDS/02/05</li> <li>MDS/02/10</li> <li>MDS/02/28</li> <li>MDS/04/01</li> </ul>	NDA/Magnox believe that land plots MDS/05/06 and MDS/05/07 should be excluded from the Book of Reference altogether. The inclusion of these is inconsistent with the regulatory regime established by the Nuclear Site Licence and Nuclear Installation Act 1965.	Plots MDS/05/06 and MDS/05/07, which form part of the SZA NSL, are both included in Article 26(2)(a) which precludes SZC Co. from acquiring them compulsorily. They are included in the Book of Reference as they are required for SZB's proposed outage laydown area, which is currently consented under the Town and Country Planning Act relocated facilities planning permissions (Ref. Nos DC/19/1637/FUL and DC/20/4646/FUL). The Applicant is also drafting wording which will fall under Article 26(2)(c) which will also preclude them from compulsorily acquiring any rights required by NDA/Magnox to carry out their	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDS/04/02</li> <li>MDS/04/03</li> <li>MDS/04/04</li> <li>MDS/04/05</li> <li>MDS/04/06</li> <li>MDS/04/09</li> </ul>		regulatory responsibilities and statutory functions in accordance with the Energy Act 2004 which should mitigate the NDA/Magnox's concerns regarding Class 4.		
1.c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDS/04/10</li> <li>MDS/05/02</li> <li>MDS/05/03</li> <li>MDS/05/04</li> <li>MDS/05/08</li> <li>MDS/05/09</li> <li>MDS/05/13</li> <li>MDS/06/01</li> </ul> <p>Article 26(2)(a) of the draft DCO precludes the applicant from acquiring compulsorily any interests in any of the land plots as follows:</p>	The Applicant was informed that Magnox requires plot MDS/05/06 until at least 2026, but discussions have not progressed.	It should be noted that part of plot MDS/05/06 is proposed to be removed from the order limits as part of change application submission. The area of plot MDS/05/06 which remains is that required for SZB's proposed outage laydown area, which is currently consented under the Town and Country Planning Act relocated facilities planning permissions (Ref. Nos DC/19/1637/FUL and DC/20/4646/FUL).	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress
1.d		Neither the NDA nor Magnox have seen any reporting or evidence that the Applicant has	The Applicant has undertaken diligent enquiry to inform the interests included in the Book of	The Applicant will continue	In Progress

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDS/04/09</li> <li>MDS/04/10</li> <li>MDS/05/02</li> <li>MDS/05/03</li> <li>MDS/05/04</li> <li>MDS/05/06</li> <li>MDS/05/07</li> <li>MDS/05/08</li> <li>MDS/05/09</li> <li>MDS/05/13</li> <li>MDS/06/01</li> <li>MDS/06/02</li> </ul>	undertaken diligent enquiry as to why the relevant Class 4 powers are required, or indeed how the compulsory acquisition of Class 4 powers may affect more widely the ability of the NDA and Magnox to carry out their respective statutory functions and regulatory responsibilities. As such, the NDA and Magnox are now carrying out that diligence themselves based on the published application.	Reference and welcome a further discussion on this topic with NDA and Magnox.	discussions with NDA / Magnox.	
1.e	Article 30 of the draft DCO permits the applicant to acquire compulsorily the existing rights, create and acquire new rights and impose such restrictive covenants as are decrobed in the Book of Reference. The power	NDA/Magnox welcome the wording of Article 26(2)(a), however they believe it is open to interpretation and the Explanatory Memorandum offers no assistance in respect of this part of the Article.	Updated drafting has been included in the dDCO at deadline 2 which should address this matter	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress

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1.f	applies to the plots detailed in 4 below.	There are various additional plots that NDA/Magnox wish to see included within the Article 26(2)(a), including MDS/02/28. The NDA and Magnox are also of the view that the protection afforded to the Sizewell B Nuclear Site in Article 26(2)(b) of the Draft DCO should be extended also to the Sizewell A Nuclear Site (e.g. all operational land).	With regards to the additional plots which NDA/Magnox wish to see included within Article 26(2)(a) the applicant will review and consider these requests and discuss with the NDA/Magnox.	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress
1.g		NDA/Magnox wish to have a discussion with the Applicant with regards to those plots which are subject to Article 30 which they are seeking to acquire compulsorily.	The applicant will review and consider these plots and discuss with NDA/Magnox	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
1.f		<p>The NDA and Magnox note Article 26(2)(a) of the Draft DCO which precludes the undertaker from acquiring compulsorily any interests in any of the land plots detailed in column (2) of Part 1 of Schedule 15 of the Draft DCO, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MDS/04/09</li> <li>• MDS/04/10</li> <li>• MDS/05/02</li> <li>• MDS/05/03</li> <li>• MDS/05/04</li> <li>• MDS/05/06</li> <li>• MDS/05/07</li> <li>• MDS/05/08</li> <li>• MDS/05/0</li> <li>• MDS/05/13</li> <li>• MDS/06/01</li> <li>• MDS/06/02.</li> </ul>	Article 26(2)(a) of the Draft DCO precludes the undertaker from acquiring compulsorily any interests in any of the land plots detailed in column (2) of Part 1 of Schedule 15, further clarity can be provided as required	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
		Clarity is required as to why the Applicant may need to acquire the plots detailed in column (2) of Part 1 of Schedule 15 to the Draft DCO, given that Article 26(2) of the Draft DCO does not preclude acquisition of those plots by agreement and commercial discussions are only progressing regarding plot MDS/05/07.			
1.h		The NDA and Magnox note that land plot MDS/02/28, in respect of which Magnox is a Category 1 person, is not detailed in column (2) of Part 1 of Schedule 15 to the Draft DCO. Whilst the interest held by the NDA and Magnox is in the process of being surrendered, this process has not been completed yet.	The applicant will review and consider these plots and discuss with NDA/Magnox.	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
1.i		The NDA and Magnox also note that Article 30 should be made subject to Article 26.	Updated drafting has been included in the dDCO at deadline 2 which should address this matter	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In progress
<b>Protective Provisions</b>					
2.	Protective Provisions not included for NDA/Magnox in the latest draft of the DCO.	NDA/Magnox are of the view that, although they are not statutory undertakers they do have statutory functions and regulatory responsibilities. In particular, the Protective Provisions should be included in the DCO and will need to ensure that access is maintained at all times for all emergency, operational and user purposes and be in accordance with all safety and emergency response requirements in order to satisfy the demands placed upon the NDA and Magnox by the nuclear	The Applicant agrees that protections need to be provided to allow NDA/Magnox to perform their statutory functions and regulatory responsibilities but believes there may be alternative solutions to providing these protections without the need for Protective Provisions.	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
		<p>site licence and wider regulatory regime.</p> <p>The NDA and Magnox are of the view that Protective Provisions are required in the Draft DCO in order to reflect and maintain principles of co-operation and co-existence and preserving and protecting their respective abilities to carry out their statutory functions and regulatory responsibilities.</p>			
<b>Implications for nuclear site licence and ongoing decommissioning and interaction with the Sizewell A Directions and site cooperation</b>					
3.a	<p>Within the Book of Reference there are a number of plots that about the Sizewell A Nuclear Site Licence being plots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDS/05/02</li> <li>MDS/05/13</li> </ul>	<p>The NDA/Magnox are concerned over the implication of the compulsory acquisition powers for those plots that about the Nuclear Site Licence area, being plots MDS/05/02 and MDS/05/13. They would welcome clarification from the Applicant over how the powers in the draft DCO could affect both</p>	<p>The applicant does not intend to use compulsory acquisition in relation to interests held by Magnox/NDA within the Sizewell A Nuclear Site and designated boundary of the Sizewell A Nuclear Site for which NDA has statutory responsibility for decommissioning and clearing up. Further discussions will be had to</p>	<p>The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.</p>	In Progress

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	Also included are plots that fall within land which the NDA has responsibility for decommissioning and cleaning up in accordance with the Energy Act 2004 and Sizewell A Directions. The plots affected are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MDS/05/06</li> <li>• MDS/05/07</li> </ul>	<p>the Nuclear Site Licence and those plots that abut the Nuclear Site Licence area and land which the NDA has responsibility for decommissioning being land plots MDS/05/06 and MDS/05/07.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, the NDA and Magnox are not yet satisfied that the Sizewell C Nuclear Generating Station can be constructed and operated in accordance with the Applicant's application proposals in a manner which adequately ensures the safe, secure and environmentally-sound decommissioning of the Sizewell A Nuclear Site</p>	ensure the dDCO provides the required protection.		
3.b		The NDA/Magnox strongly emphasise the need to ensure that a Nuclear Site Licensees' Co-operation Agreement(s) is	The Applicant and NDA/Magnox are continuing discussions to agree a	The Applicant will continue discussions	In Progress

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
		entered into between the NDA, Magnox, the Applicant and EDF NGL in order to ensure that there is in place a contractual framework which seeks to avoid conflict between the Sizewell A Nuclear Site, the Sizewell B Nuclear Site and the proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Generating Station, and to ensure that the relevant legal obligations of all parties are not compromised.	suitable co-operation agreement to address these concerns.	with NDA / Magnox.	
3.c		The proposed compulsory acquisition of any NDA / Magnox land interests or rights must not override the provisions of this Co-operation Agreement, and indeed any future acquisition (including voluntarily) of land or interests by the Applicant must be conditional upon compliance with it, and such principles	The Applicant and NDA/Magnox are continuing discussions to agree a suitable co-operation agreement to address these concerns.	The Applicant will continue discussions with NDA / Magnox.	In Progress

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Ref.	Matter	NDA and Magnox position	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed/ Not Agreed/ In Progress
		should be reflected in the Protective Provisions.			