

ISH 9 Policy & Need

Given the applicants oft repeated "emergency", we need some sense of proportion. EDF are trying to panic the UK into agreeing to build Sizewell C.

The U.K. is responsible for 1% of the world's carbon emissions. While the target of zero emissions by 2035 is admirable it's hardly going to make a massive difference to the global problem. We are already making headway with renewables and Hinkley Point C is still to come online. While Sizewell C may ultimately help it's hardly earth shatteringly urgent that it comes online by 2035. Which is just as well given EDF's abysmal record of bringing these plants online!

I am of the opinion that, if we must commit to a second EPR nuclear power plant, it should only commence construction once HPC is successfully up and running. And the EPR technology proven to actually work. OR we consider other nuclear options.

Meanwhile the project timescales are very questionable.

* The sheer volume and scale of infrastructure improvements are surely going to impact on the project timescales. The influx of vehicles, construction materials and workforce is going to swamp the area. The Scottish power project will only exacerbate these problems too.

* Then there is the HGV driver shortage - How will the project timescales, already over optimistic given their track record for building other EPR power stations, be affected by the severe shortage of HGV drivers?

When UK plc does manage to acquire some of the required 100,000 drivers they will surely be prioritised for food deliveries around the country!

* And what about the building material shortages? Not enough cement to satisfy all the house building projects round the country, why should SZC be given priority. Apart from the alleged "emergency".

Any or all of these issues will almost certainly impact on the project completion dates? The alleged urgency fades into the future!..

And this before the applicant discovers at the 11th hour some key element of the plan is missing or needs a radical rethink e.g. a complete rethink on rail strategy or the "unexpected" requirement for a desalination plant.

The applicants track record speaks for itself, would you employ a builder who'd never finished a house? Well actually we have done but do we need to repeat the mistake? HPC is delayed by 2 years and 2 billion over budget because of "unexpected ground conditions". Piss poor planning leads to piss poor performance. And given the two volte face from the applicant so far, SZC is far from well planned.