



21<sup>st</sup> May 2022

Sent by e-mail to:      sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk      on 23.05.2022

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010012**

**From Interested Party:                      20026846**

Dear Sir,

**RE:    Application by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station (“the proposed Development”)**

I am writing as an Interested Party in response to the Secretary of State’s letter of April 25<sup>th</sup> 2022, inviting comments on the responses received to questions raised by the Secretary of State in letters of March 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. My comments are as follows:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Whilst I lack the expertise to make my own judgements on the validity of EDF’s responses to the Secretary of State’s further questions on highly technical issues such as coastal defences, I note the responses of those who have specialist expertise and am concerned that a number of EDF’s claims and proposals on this and other areas remain in contention.

It is a matter of great concern to me that such a vast and complex proposal on a highly sensitive site continues to have a significant range of fundamental issues unresolved at this late stage in the development process.

My experience of being involved as a local resident in all stages of consultation on this project has been that EDF has, at every stage, fallen short on providing solutions and has sought to question valid concerns of others, rather than utilise their input to adapt and improve its proposals. It has continued to take this approach with some of the Secretary of State’s concerns. For example, in my view, EDF has failed to define the phrases ‘where practicable’, ‘where possible’ and ‘as soon as possible’ in any adequate way to eliminate doubt in future. Instead, it justifies their retention. I interpret this as creating ‘wiggle room’ for itself for the future. These terms are vague and open to an unacceptably broad range of interpretations at this stage in the drafting of the DCO text.

In particular I remain concerned:

that the **biodiversity** loss caused by the wide range of environmental impacts of the proposed development is not being adequately addressed. I do not think that EDF’s calculations take sufficient account of the exceptionally long construction phase and the loss of connectivity within an area of such significance locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for its natural habitat and species. Specifically, the compensation plans for the loss caused by the development of the Sizewell Marsh SSSI do not meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

that the source of **potable water** for the operational phase of the proposed power station remains uncertain, given the scale of this requirement. This is the driest part of the country where water resources are already under significant pressure. If a desalination plant is required long term, there is no suitable site for this without loss of habitat, either on pillbox field, currently designated for habitat to compensate for other loss, or elsewhere.

that the **Sizewell link road and two villages bypass**, under EDF's current proposals, would not be completed and in use until two years after work is started on the main site of the proposed power station. This would have hugely detrimental impact on the area. Again, rather than responding constructively, EDF has rebuffed the Secretary of State's questioning of this, saying it could not delay the project in order to get the road built first. If EDF had not been so desultory in its approach to the preparations and investigations over the many years since it began this project, this would not be an issue at this stage.

If allowed, this project would have an enormous impact on the area and I do not consider that the applicant's responses provide adequate reassurance that it has a proposal fit for approval. I urge the Secretary of State not to approve this DCO application.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Clarke

Interested Party Reference: 20026846