

Query:

I have just read the National Infrastructure Commission 'National Infrastructure Assessment' published in July 2018, as background reading to submitting a response to the Sizewell C stage 3 consultation

I realise that questioning the need for, or the siting of, Sizewell C is outside the scope of the consultation because these were decided in accordance with NPS (EN-1) and NPS (EN-6) which envisaged an energy policy based on a raft of new nuclear power stations. However, I see from the National Infrastructure Assessment that the more recent advice from the National Infrastructure Commission is that only one more new nuclear power station be constructed after Hinkley Point C. The government has committed to respond to the Commission's recommendations and to adopt agreed recommendations as government policy within a year of the publication of the assessment, so in theory by July 2019

Please can you explain to me how the policies of EN-1 and EN-6 which are being used to justify the construction of Sizewell C marry up with the recommendation on nuclear power contained in the National Infrastructure Assessment which will hopefully be adopted by the government later this year. They appear to be directly opposed, so which takes precedence, and do the Environment Agency and other statutory consultees have a duty to take into consideration the recommendations of the National Infrastructure Commission when responding to the application for the nuclear new build.

S51 Advice:

We note that the Government has committed to making a response in 2019 to the recommendations outlined in the National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) dated July 2018, this will be ahead of an application being made by EDF Energy for the Sizewell C New Nuclear Power Station, which is due to be submitted in Q1 2020.

In the meantime, ahead of the Government's response to the NIA, it is for the Environment Agency and other statutory consultees to decide how they wish to consider the NIA recommendations within their responses.

As you may be aware, the Government is working to produce a new National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power, and in December 2017 it published a 'consultation on the siting criteria and process for a new national policy statement for nuclear power with single reactor capacity over 1 gigawatt beyond 2025' which can be found on this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/666057/061217_FINAL_NPS_Siting_Consultation_Document-1.pdf

In July 2018, the Government published its response to this consultation, which can be found on this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727628/NPS_Siting_Criteria_Consultation_-_Government_Response.pdf on page 40 of this document it states:

'3.9 Government continues to believe nuclear has an important role to play in the UK's energy future as we transition to the low-carbon economy. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the ongoing need for nuclear as part of the consultation on the draft new nuclear NPS.'

Continuing application of EN-6

3.10 EN-6 remains in force in its entirety for use in development consent applications for new nuclear power stations on sites listed in EN-6 that are capable of deployment before the end of 2025. Sites listed in EN-6 on which a new nuclear power station is anticipated to deploy after 2025 will continue to be considered appropriate sites and retain strong Government support during the designation of the new NPS.

3.11 The owners of such sites are able to make development consent applications, and a decision on whether to grant consent will be made under section 105 of the Planning Act 2008. Government is confident that both EN-1 and EN-6 incorporate information, assessments and statements which will continue to be important and relevant to the Secretary of State's development consent decision for projects which will deploy after 2025. This includes statements of the need for nuclear power, as well as environmental and other assessments that continue to be relevant for projects which will deploy after 2025. As such, in deciding whether or not to grant consent to such a development the Secretary of State would, under section 105(2)(c) of the Planning Act 2008, have regard to the content of EN1 and EN-6. Where there is no relevant change in circumstances it is likely that significant weight would be given to the policy in EN-1 and EN-6.

3.12 When designated, the new NPS will have effect for the purposes of section 104 of the Planning Act 2008 for listed sites capable of deploying between 2026-2035. Furthermore, a published new NPS in draft form would be an important and relevant consideration under section 105(2)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 in relation to any a decision is taken on an application for Development Consent before the new NPS is designated.'

From: Kathryn Dunne

Sent: 10 April 2019 16:55

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: SizewellC <sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: EN-6 and EN-1 in conflict with National Infrastructure Assessment

Dear Ms Bateman

Thank you for your email I apologise for the delay in our response.

We note that the Government has committed to making a response in 2019 to the recommendations outlined in the National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) dated July 2018, this will be ahead of an application being made by EDF Energy for the Sizewell C New Nuclear Power Station, which is due to be submitted in Q1 2020.

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I hope you find this information to be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Kath

Kathryn Dunne MRTPI
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Web: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate (The Planning Inspectorate)

Twitter: @PINSgov

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From: Emma <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 11 March 2019 20:32
To: sizewellc@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: EN-6 and EN-1 in conflict with National Infrastructure Assessment

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Thanks,

regards Emma Bateman

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