

Liam Fedden
Case Officer
Sizewell C Case Team
National Infrastructure Planning

Your ref: EN010012
Our ref: LC/PJR
Date: 9 April 2020
Please ask for: P. Ridley/B. Griffiths



By Email:

sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Email: Philip.ridley@eastsuffolk.gov.uk /
bryn.griffiths@suffolk.gov.uk

Dear Liam,

Sizewell C application

Thank you for your letter of 30 March 2020, to which we have given careful consideration.

When we wrote to EDF Energy about the challenges of dealing with a Sizewell C submission in the circumstances of the onset of the Covid-19 Emergency, it was difficult to tell what the impact of this would be on our ability to deal with any responses. However, as we are at the moment, we could consider and respond in the time available if the submission was made in April 2020 but our current staffing position is very dependent on the impact of illness and redeployment possibilities to meet urgent responses to the Covid-19 emergency. This risk could be reduced if we could have a preview of the promotor's Consultation Report, as recommended in PINS Advice notes. It has been confirmed that EDF Energy have agreed to do this which is welcome.

However, the two councils have significant reservations if the Section 56 stage were to commence with the current restrictions on both social distancing and public gathering. We have been copied into letters from Parish Councils and local residents to your organisation and EDF Energy seeking confirmation of an indeterminate delay until such time as the Covid-19 emergency is "over". The government has made it clear that there is a need to seek to continue working on projects that would aid the economic recovery and we wholeheartedly support this. To help on these matters it is for the government and/or PINS to publish guidance on how the DCO process can be maintained and delivered through this period in a manner which allows full and proper engagement.

Furthermore, large parts of our organisations, such as the Fire Service, Public Health and Housing departments are likely to be engaged with responses to Covid-19 and may not be able to fully make their important inputs to the Councils' representations while the emergency continues. We appreciate that the triggering of the Section 56 stage is in the hands of the Promotor we have written the attached letter on the above points to EDF Energy.

In conclusion, as it currently stands, the two councils are able to respond to the initial submission of the Sizewell C DCO with regard to the adequacy of consultation and will work positively with all parties through the S56 process when it is appropriate for it to commence. We will read with interest any advice you publish regarding how best to implement the S56 stage of the process.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Steve Gallant.

Steve Gallant | Leader
East Suffolk Council

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Matthew Hicks.

Matthew Hicks | Leader
Suffolk County Council