



Meeting note

Project name	Sizewell C New Nuclear Power Station
File reference	EN010012
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	17 April 2020
Meeting with	NNB Nuclear Generation (SZC) Limited
Venue	online
Meeting objectives	Submission logistics
Circulation	All attendees
Summary of key points discussed and advice given	

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Programme

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that in light of the uncertainty with the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation, the Applicant has decided to further delay submission of the application until May 2020.

The Inspectorate referred to correspondence it had received from Local Authorities, Suffolk Constabulary and the local community in relation to their ability to review the Application documents during the current Covid-19 outbreak. The Applicant confirmed that following its decision to defer submission of the application it has continued to engage with Local Authorities, Parish Councils and other stakeholders and were aware of concerns raised.

Whilst the Applicant is keen to submit the application for development consent in the interests of economic development, it is committed to enabling interested parties the ability to meaningfully participate. Therefore, should the application be accepted for examination, the Applicant is proposing to extend the relevant representation period to allow more time for parties to review the application documents and register their interest before the start of the six-month examination period. The Inspectorate confirmed that it was capable of receiving applications at this point and would operate business as usual throughout the Acceptance period.

The Applicant said it would provide a copy of the Consultation Report to the Local Authorities in advance of submitting the Application to the Inspectorate so that they had longer to consider its contents before submitting their Adequacy of Consultation response. In addition, the Applicant stated it was keen to explore opportunities of additional ways to help parties engage in the PA2008 application process and would welcome any advice or guidance from the Inspectorate on what is considered reasonable.



The Inspectorate noted the Applicant's decision to further defer submission of the application and acknowledged their reasons for doing so. Noting the Applicant's commitment to progressing the application for development consent, the Inspectorate reiterated that it is still processing Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project applications and is currently assessing an application which was submitted during the Covid-19 outbreak on 7 April 2020.

The Inspectorate explained whilst it was aware of the current difficulties' Applicants are experiencing in seeking to discharge some of its duties, particularly in relation to making documents (hard and electronic) available at public deposit locations, the Regulations remain in force and the Applicant was advised to seek its own legal advice about the effect of the current public health situation on its respective programmes.

Depending on when the application is submitted, and if it was accepted for examination, the Inspectorate highlighted it may be that the Preliminary Meeting is held when social distancing measures were less restricted although given the current situation, this is still unknown. Whilst each application is submitted on its own merits, the Inspectorate encouraged the Applicant to monitor progress of other projects that have already been submitted. There are projects currently in pre examination and examination stages of the PA2008 process that will be considering how to approach the holding of Preliminary Meetings and Hearings under current circumstances.

The Applicant stated it will continue to monitor the ongoing Covid-19 situation when making its judgement on submission of the application and will provide the Inspectorate with an updated programme for submission within the next few weeks.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that it hopes to be able to provide more detailed advice as the situation develops, and in the meantime, to regularly check the guidance on the Inspectorate's website which is available in relation to Covid-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Next meeting to be arranged in a few weeks' time for the Applicant to provide an update on likely submission date of the Application. *Post meeting note: meeting scheduled for 28 April 2020.*