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Mr Liam Fedden
Case Officer
Sizewell C Case Team
National Infrastructure Planning
Sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Our Ref: DC/CM

Direct Dial: 01473 613567

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Dear Mr Fedden

As set out in our previous correspondence and demonstrated through our actions throughout the ongoing consultation process, Suffolk Constabulary is keen to engage with EDF on the development of the Sizewell C (SZC) DCO Application.

We have ensured timely responses to formal consultation and have been engaged in significant analysis and planning activity over the last twelve months. In expectation of the DCO application, we have also been considering the future requirements of the force in order that we would be in a position to receive, analyse and respond to the information contained within the DCO.

The restrictions placed on the UK by HM Government on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March have been significant and as with every organisation we have needed to adapt and make changes to how we continue to provide our core policing duties and how we will ensure we do so as we progress through the peak of the pandemic in the county.

As I have stated above, Suffolk Constabulary has been extremely proactive in its efforts to engage with both EDF and PINS regarding the proposed SZC development. However, it important that the effect of the current unique operating environment resulting from the Covid-19 national emergency, and its impact on policing, that the Constabulary's capacity for engagement moving forward is understood.

Whilst it is acknowledged that EDF has already delayed the submission of the DCO, and the proposed period of the Section 56 engagement is extended to 12 weeks, it is clear that there is still an intention to submit the DCO by the end of April 2020.

The core duty of Suffolk Constabulary is that of protecting the safety and wellbeing of Suffolk's communities. The current environment of the Covid-19 emergency is placing unprecedented demands on the police and, as such, we have established a command structure focussing all available resources into front line and essential services. In order to achieve this, we have made risk-based decisions to suspend a number of other workstreams and areas of our 'business as usual' activity.

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At this time, the focus of our organisation and its Executive is that of keeping communities safe and supporting the wider national response to Covid-19. The longevity of this position is unknown. Even after restrictions are relaxed, policing will need time to make the move back to 'business as usual'.

To this end, in the current environment, the Constabulary are not able to guarantee the resource or level of scrutiny and analysis which we feel is essential to effectively to review the SZC application that would otherwise have been in place. The timing of the application, in the context of this national emergency, places increased pressure on Suffolk Constabulary and negatively impacts on our ability to maintain the level of evaluation and planning that we have had in place up to now.

Should EDF choose to continue with this application, then to ensure Suffolk Constabulary is able to continue to positively engage in the SZC DCO Application process, we request that:

- as per other Statutory Consultees, we are provided a copy of the DCO documentation prior to acceptance by PINS (allowing the Constabulary an additional 28 days to view these documents) and,
- the appropriate financial reparation is made to the Constabulary from EDF for, where required, utilisation of external consultants to act on the Constabulary's behalf. Such payments would be invoiced as per the agreed funding through the current PPA mechanism.

The Constabulary look forward to engaging with you to discuss the issues raised in this communication and working together throughout the future stages of this project.

Please direct your communications to our Business Liaison Manager, Leigh Jenkins who can be contacted on <a href="mailto:leigh.jenkins@suffolk.police.uk">leigh.jenkins@suffolk.police.uk</a> or 01473 782725.

Stay Safe.

Kind regards,



David Cutler
Assistant Chief Constable
Suffolk Constabulary