

## **IMC 8 April 2020, Chairman's Urgent Business – Sizewell C roundup**

### **Status of Planning Application for SZC**

### **FOR INFORMATION**

EDF's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build Sizewell C was due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of March 2020. **Given current circumstances, EDF has decided to defer submission by a few weeks.** EDF will also allow more time for people to register as participants for the public examination phase of the DCO process. This will help to ensure local communities have enough time to review the application and participate. EDF is liaising with the Planning Inspectorate to discuss how normal arrangements can be flexed so that communities are not disadvantaged by the current difficult circumstances.

### **Post-Application stage(s) of the NSIP Planning Process**

### **FOR INFORMATION**

**Acceptance Stage** - When EDF submits its application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate, there will follow a period of up to 28 days for the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to decide whether or not the application meets the standard required to be examined.

**Pre-Examination Stage** - If the application is accepted, the Examining Authority can be appointed. At this stage, the public will be able to register with the Planning Inspectorate and provide a summary of their views of the application in writing by submitting a 'Relevant Representation' in order to become an Interested Party.

**Examination Stage** - The Examining Authority has a maximum of 6 months to carry out the examination.

**Decision** - The Examining Authority must make the recommendation to the Secretary of State within 3 months of the close of the examination. Following receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary of State has 3 months to make the decision to grant or refuse development consent.

### **Correspondence on EDF lacking a culture of Quality**

### **FOR DECISION**

As per my e-mail of 10 March, I am suggesting that we bring together all the relevant letters/replies, and front them with a brief note explaining what we have done and why; then insert the set of documents into the "Sizewell C" section of our website. This would:

- Bring together all the relevant information, making it easier to grasp the whole story and track progress on responses;
- Provide a convenient means by which this package of information could then be communicated to others, for example to: other councils and partner organisations; interest groups; our residents; and, last but not least, the Planning Inspectorate/Examining Authority

**Secretary of State's letter of reply and possible response**

**FOR DECISION**

It is impossible to know whether our correspondence with the Sec of State has had any impact. The only thing I would say is that if the BEIS people were previously not very aware of the French audit report on EDF, they certainly are now. It is also just possible that the ONR has been prodded into being more proactive in liaising with other regulators but that just be in my imagination. The SoS's reply (see William's email dated 31 March, 11:06) doesn't tell us much new but it is a well-researched letter and would accompany all the other EDF correspondence on our website, if IMC so agrees.

Once we publish all letters, the target audience for this correspondence shifts from the SoS to the public, partner orgs and the Planning Inspectorate/Examining Authority. With this in mind, I think it would be worthwhile to send a "closing off" letter to the SoS. I really didn't want to write another letter but the more I thought about it the more I felt it was needed to nail down the lid on this block of work. I therefore attach a brief draft reply to the new SoS, for consideration.

WB

6 April 2020