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3 April 2020

Dear Parish Councillor,

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. This is a difficult time for the local community in East Suffolk and throughout Britain. We want you to know that EDF continues to operate Sizewell B every day through this crisis in order to help keep homes supplied with electricity. The station employs hundreds of people, all of whom live within a 25-mile radius. There will be many who live in your parish and as key workers, they are working hard and within the guidelines of social-distancing to keep the station operating.

The public consultation on Sizewell C has been going on for many years. Throughout the consultation process we have endeavoured to put the tools and services in place to enable parish and town councils to engage meaningfully in the process and influence the plans. That commitment to communicating and working with the parishes in East Suffolk is as firm today as it was throughout the formal stages of public consultation.

EDF's decision to delay the submission of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build Sizewell C was taken in recognition of the need for people to adapt to new ways of working in the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in. We did so in an effort to reassure local residents, communities and town and parish councils that we want everyone to have the opportunity to be able to read, understand and register their interest in the proposals – whether supportive of Sizewell C or not. It also is giving us time to make sure we provide the best opportunities we can for people to engage with the application when it is submitted.

We would like to set out some points about the timing of the submission of the DCO application for Sizewell C, which may help clarify the timing and activity around the process.

- First and foremost, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) have confirmed they have the resources to process the application. The process of considering whether to accept the application is largely an internal one for PINS. The views of the public are not invited by PINS until the time that the application is accepted.
- We discussed the approach to submitting the application with the district and county councils at length. Their feedback was helpful in our reaching a decision to delay submission. Engagement with the councils will continue to inform the timing of submission.
- After submission of the application and acceptance by PINS it will be available online for parish and town councils to read and review. PINS has been encouraging all applicants to move towards digital platforms. The application runs to many thousands of pages and there is no expectation that it would be printed. This is an online exercise. If we submit in a few weeks, the process for reading the application online and registering your interest in the application will run through the summer months. We recognise that it would be helpful to have some maps and plans made available in hard-copy. We will look at the practicalities and try to put in place a process where a reasonable number of plans can be printed on request. We are also discussing with Planning Aid England how their independent service could help.

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- Throughout the last eight years we have worked with groups representing the elderly, the vulnerable and communities who find it challenging to engage in public consultation programmes. We will continue to do so and will alert them as soon as we submit the application so they can update their networks.
- We have discussed with PINS that we would like to extend the normal periods for public comments and for the period up to the start of the Examination, to make sure that no-one is disadvantaged.

In terms of the timing of submission, PINS have confirmed that these normal periods of the process can be extended:

- **Acceptance phase:** When the application is submitted PINS has a 28-day period to assess whether or not it should be accepted. This is an internal process for PINS and takes place before the application is published on its website. So to be clear, in line with the normal process, the planning application is not made available to the public for about a month after we submit it to PINS.
- **Pre-examination phase:** The pre-examination phase follows the 28-day period for PINS to complete the acceptance phase. Should the application be accepted, all of the documents and plans will be published on the PINS website for public scrutiny – including the Report on Consultation, which addresses all of the issues raised during the public consultation on Sizewell C. This period can last for 28 days but we will ask for it to be extended. This will allow everyone more time to read the documents through the summer months and then register their interest and submit their views for the examination phase.
- At this time, EDF will also distribute a newsletter to 40,000 homes and businesses in the local area to inform residents that the application is ready to be viewed online.
- Crucially, we will also discuss with PINS that the examination phase itself should not start until they are happy that no parties will be disadvantaged. There is no prospect of the examination commencing even in normal circumstances for approximately 5-6 months.
- The process of relevant representations, of course, principally involves parties such as parish and town councils registering their interest in the examination and there will be multiple opportunities for parties to make their case to the Planning Inspectorate once the examination commences.

This will therefore allow home-based working on the application. It also takes place over the course of many months, allowing ample opportunity to align responses amongst members of groups such as parish councils. In this context, the sooner we submit the application, the more time all parties will have to review it – in the knowledge that the Examination itself won't start until PINS are satisfied that it is appropriate.

When we come out of this period, the UK Government, and we as a nation, face the task of engineering an economic recovery and remaining on track with reducing our carbon emissions. There is a widespread consensus that nuclear is an important part of reducing our carbon emissions while ensuring an affordable system for

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consumers. The Government regards construction as key to our economic recovery and we have enclosed a copy of a letter from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for your reference. We want to play our part in the recovery of Suffolk's economy at the end of this crisis.

We have always been concerned to ensure fairness in our consultation. It is important we proceed with clarity and facts. We would therefore encourage you to approach us directly with any questions and concerns at this time. Our Team is available, our Freephone community line is 0800 197 6102 and you can email us at info@sizewellc.co.uk and we will be on hand to help.

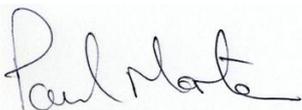
We will notify you when the application has been submitted so you are aware that PINS have started the internal process of reviewing the application.

In the meantime, stay safe and well and we look forward to meeting you and your fellow parish councillors when Government guidance permits.

Yours sincerely,



Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson, Managing Director – Nuclear Development



Paul Morton, Director of Regional Development and Chief Nuclear Officer



Julia Pyke, Director of Sizewell C Financing & Economic Regulation



Tom McGarry, Head of Stakeholder Engagement – Sizewell C