



BRIEFING ON THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR SIZEWELL C: UPDATE – October 2021

This is the seventh update to this briefing document on the planning process for Sizewell C since the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the new nuclear power station was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in May 2020.

These updates are sent mainly to parish councils in East Suffolk and aim to provide an explanation on the next steps in the process and signpost interested parties to where they can get answers to any questions.

Since the last update in March 2021, the Sizewell C Project Team has continued to meet parish councils to discuss the key issues for their communities. While many of you who have been active in the recent Examination period will know, this stage of the process ended last Thursday, 14 October. However, we will continue to be available to parish councils and community groups for meetings, presentations, and project updates. This offer is an open one to all communities in East Suffolk.

Steve Henry, Sizewell C Community Relations Manager, retired in June. Many of you will have worked with him. We are very grateful for his years of service to the project. Steve has been succeeded by Andy Mower. Andy takes on the role of Senior Community Relations Manager. If Sizewell C proceeds to construction Andy will lead the recruitment of more colleagues who will work with the local community.

If your parish council is interested in meeting with the Project Team, then please do not hesitate to contact Andy at info@sizewellc.co.uk or call 0800 197 6102.

It is always better to put questions to and receive factual answers direct from the applicant. Town and parish councils can be assured that the Sizewell C Project is available to answer questions, attend council meetings and will continue to send regular planning briefings to parish clerks of all East Suffolk parishes and SALC.

THE PROCESS SO FAR...

Following submission of the application, PINS confirmed that the applicant (SZC Co) had satisfied the legal responsibility to adequately consult the public in advance of submitting the proposals and formally accepted the DCO application in June. The Section 56 (s56) Notification Stage then ran between 8 July and 30 September.

Following the s56 Notification Stage and the relevant representations from stakeholders like East Suffolk Council and parish councils, the Sizewell C Project Team (with the benefit of a

larger group of civil engineers and contractors) identified opportunities to address concerns and reduce the impacts of construction. In advance of seeking approval from PINS to amend the application, the proposed changes to the DCO application were subject to public consultation.

The resulting change application was accepted by PINS and the Examination of the Sizewell C application began in April. During that time, several issue specific hearings and open floor hearings took place and there were also four further changes to the DCO application. These proposed were consulted on and the resultant change applications accepted by the Examining Authority. This includes the last consultation and change application on the construction water supply strategy and minor reductions in land take on some sites

The Examination closed on Thursday 14 October. All documents submitted into the Examination are available on the Sizewell C Project page on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/Eastern/The-Sizewell-C-Project/>

Parish councillors and other stakeholders will be particularly interested in the Statements of Common Ground and the Deed of Obligation.

The Deed of Obligation is a legal agreement between Sizewell C, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and other local stakeholders. If Sizewell C goes ahead, we all want to limit the impacts of the construction of the power station and maximise the benefits of the project to Suffolk. We can help to do that by providing infrastructure improvements, such as temporary park and ride facilities to reduce traffic on local rural roads. Alongside these physical interventions, we will also provide funding for areas that may experience a detrimental impact or could benefit from the project, such as a Housing fund and investment in Employment and Skills initiatives. The Deed of Obligation confirms how we will limit impacts and enhance benefits through targeted investment and the governance arrangements for allocating the funding.

NEXT STAGE...

PINS will prepare a report on the application to the Secretary of State, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of the six-month Examination stage (14 January 2022). The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has a further three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent (14 April 2022).

NEXT STEPS IN THE DCO APPLICATION PROCESS

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The Applicant/Developer: SZC Co. has submitted the DCO application to build Sizewell C to the Planning Inspectorate. SZC Co. is the applicant for the DCO and all environmental permit applications. EDF is the current owner of 80% of Sizewell C Co.

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS): Responsible for examining the application and making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as to whether or not development consent for the Sizewell C Project should be granted.

Statutory Stakeholders: Statutory stakeholders are defined in the Planning Act 2008 as having a key role in the consultation and examination of a DCO application. Some have particular responsibilities during the process, such as the local authorities (Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council) who will be asked by PINS if the applicant’s pre-application consultation was adequate.

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS): After receiving the recommendation from PINS, the Secretary of State has three months to announce the decision.

WHAT HAPPENS AND WHEN?

There are six stages for the application process:

DCO PLANNING STAGE	COMPLETED
Pre-application consultation	
Submission of Application for a Development Consent Order and Acceptance of Application	
Pre-examination / Section 56 Notice Period	
Examination	
PINS Recommendation to the Secretary of State / Decision	January 2022 / April 2022
Post-Decision	

Once the Secretary of State has issued a decision, there is a six-week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court. This process of legal challenge is known as Judicial Review.

Should you have any further questions or would like to discuss any aspects of the planning process, please call the Sizewell C Community Freephone line on 0800 197 6102 or email us at info@sizewellc.co.uk.