

THE ALDE AND ORE ASSOCIATION

Dear Members

This email is to alert you to the final days for consultation responses on the DCO application for the construction of Sizewell C. It is important to have as many voices as possible contributing to the consideration. Details on how to make comments are given at the end of this message.

The planning application for Sizewell C continues onwards, despite requests from many to hold off until Covid restrictions are lifted to make a proper consultation possible. The only way forward is simply going to the many documents on line, sending in comments by 30 September 2020 after which there will be detailed consideration by the National Planning Inspectorate, PINS, who will make recommendations to the Secretary of State who will decide. Were approval be given, work could start in 2022.

The Association takes no stand as to the principle of having nuclear power. Nor do we comment on those many aspects of the proposals which do not directly affect the estuary: e.g. accommodation, car parking, level crossings etc.

The main angle which falls to the Alde and Ore Association is the possible long term impact of the Sizewell C construction on the coast to the south including Aldeburgh and the shore bounding and forming the lower Alde and Ore Estuary.

The Association will be submitting comments, along with SCAR, on behalf of members but with an application such as this, but we hope that many of you will also make your voice heard. The only way to do so is to register and send a summary, even just a bullet point list, of your concerns set out in 500 words.

You all are likely to have your own views on the many possible aspects of the proposals depending on your view of nuclear power, and impact of the development on the area in terms of transport, business and area of outstanding natural beauty. But the following are the key points the Association is considering making:

If constructed *Sizewell C will be in place for over 100 years* and more but on the edge of what is a *very dynamic and fragile coastline*. Even before the plant has finished its 70 year operational life, it would be *jutting out into the sea*, because of the long term an overall inland migration of the coastline, and will do so increasingly year on year. This is likely to *affect the very long term coastal erosion and deposition pattern* seen along this coast from over 5000 year ago when the Alde flowed into the sea at Slaughden to the formation of the Orfordness Spit *and the estuary behind it*.

Our concerns are that

i. *the extensive papers submitted by EDF do not begin to address the issue of coastal erosion* outside the narrow Sizewell Bay. The proposal assumes that nothing will change south of the Great Sizewell Bay. There is no evidence to explain this assumption despite what must be the obvious- the long term and integrated evolution of entire the coast, including Dunwich losing its port and the Alde and Ore Estuary being formed.

ii. *the EDF plans on the exact construction of Sizewell C and its sea defences are incomplete*. It is not possible to assess the likely impact on coastal flows when the plans for hard core construction are not given.

iii. the plant will be in situ for not only its 70 or so years of operation but many decades longer possibly in perpetuity. Yet, *the plans propose ceasing to monitor the impact of the installation* and any coastal defence works on front of the plant around *10 years before it ceases operations*. This is mistaken as the physical plant, operating or not, will affect coastal erosion indefinitely.

iv. were the plans to go ahead, there needs to be a *serious legally watertight plan for monitoring* the impact on the coast, not only for plant safety but for the impact on the area which would otherwise not have happened. Such a plan also needs strong clauses should any mitigation be necessary because of any adverse effects of the impact of the construction. *The complete monitoring and mitigation plan must be properly funded*: if the coast south of Sizewell C does get adversely affected, long term funds must be kept available for coastal defence works, including for Aldeburgh to at least Shingle Street.

v. Despite the plans being submitted in 2020, *the latest information on climate change, sea level rise and*

coastal evolution has not been taken into account, undermining the soundness of any assessments. The application uses the UK CCRA report 2018 estimates, not those of the IPPC in 2019: the developers must be aware that latest information showed that the impact of these factors would be far greater than previously thought.

vi. Finally, you might state that you consider the Sizewell C application to be totally unsuitable for a digital examination process.

We understand that EDF have said that it can extend the life of Sizewell B for another 20 years. This would take us beyond the period during which the government had said there could be a power deficit.

How to register your views

The only way comments can be submitted is by registering on the National Planning Inspectorate website (some of you may have already done this for the ScottishPowerRenewables application which is going on in parallel) To access the PINS web site please go to <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/> or www.bit.ly/SCZRegister

If issues are not registered now they will not be included in the Inquiry deliberations

Members may wish to raise other issues - The Stop SZC web site at https://docs.google.com/document/d/15MmLCTfjIAX_1LCdka9_Tt4eL0rAJbn6Ui_ZOsd0xgk/edit# provides a list of areas which may be of concern.

This needs to be done on line by 30 September 2020

Whatever your views, this proposed construction will affect the Suffolk coastal area for several generations. Please have your say. The Association will seek to ensure the coastal considerations are not ignored.

Alison Andrews

Chairman, The Alde and Ore Association