

JOINT LOCAL COUNCIL PROPOSAL URGING DELAY OF SIZEWELL C DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER (DCO) UNTIL CORONA-VIRUS RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Dear Town & Parish Councils,

We apologise for having to contact you again but given the continuing actions of EDF we could see no option.

Subsequent to the joint Town & Parish Councils letter to EDF that 54 of you signed, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk District Council published their own joint letter outlining their position on EDF's Sizewell C Development Consent Order (DCO) application (see attached). It is deeply disappointing that they state they are "supportive" of EDF making their DCO submission when they choose, which we are now expecting any day. Once the application is made the councils have only 14 days to respond to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on the adequacy of EDF's consultation. This at a time when all councils are already really stretched.

Instead of saying that EDF should not submit its DCO, the County and District Councils are saying they wish to have a conversation with EDF after the application is accepted by PINS (assuming it is, ie after 28 days) about whether it is appropriate to start public consultations. However, EDF has suggested this period could begin and be extended to 12 weeks...!

We believe it should not start at all, and the whole DCO process be paused, just as Scottish Power Renewables' DCO has been.

AEPA would like to send out a follow up letter (see text below) on behalf of Town & Parish Councils by Monday 4 May urging ESC and SCC to take a firm line and tell EDF that the DCO process should be halted until the Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted entirely. Please could you let me know as soon as possible if you are happy for us to proceed on your behalf.

Best wishes.

Graeme Murray
Chair - AEPA

PROPOSED LETTER TEXT

Dear Cllr Hicks and Cllr Gallant,

We are writing in response to your letter to EDF of 9 April concerning its Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Sizewell C.

We are very disappointed that your Councils state they are "supportive" of EDF submitting the DCO at this time. Just knowing the Sizewell C application is about to be submitted is creating additional anxiety in our communities at a very difficult time. We do, however, note and appreciate that the Councils are questioning whether the public consultation period should start after the application is accepted. We urge you to strongly hold the line that it would be completely inappropriate for this period to start unless coronavirus restrictions are entirely lifted. It would be unfair to begin for example while libraries remained shut and public meetings prohibited. We recognise that EDF is proposing this period could be extended. However, time is not the main constraint for those who would struggle to access EDF's proposals online, or would be unable to get together with others to discuss the implications of EDF's plans. We are depending on you to be extremely robust on this point when EDF will be applying considerable pressure to proceed.

We further note that the Planning Inspectorate still does not know how examinations would work for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. We understand PINS will likely issue more guidance on this, but their representatives have repeatedly stated that digital examinations will not be suitable for all projects. Given its scale, it is vital that you uphold the view that the Sizewell C DCO would be totally unsuitable for a digital examination process.

Yours etc. *(The intention is for the same lead signatures as previously - subject to the usual process)*

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Suffolk County Council, Sizewell C lead Cllr Richard Rout richard.rout@suffolk.gov.uk and Planning Officer Bryn Griffiths bryn.griffiths@suffolk.gov.uk. Copy your own County Councillor.
East Suffolk Council, Sizewell C lead Cllr Craig Rivett craig.rivett@eastsoffolk.gov.uk and Planning Officer Philip Ridley Philip.Ridley@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.