



STOP SIZEWELL C

EDF is submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build Sizewell C's two nuclear reactors, which will take 10 - 12 years to build and cost at least £16 billion. Our groups did not start out opposing Sizewell C but have been brought to this point by EDF's destructive proposals and failure to address our concerns. **Our case against Sizewell C (SZC) is outlined below.**

1. Destructive impacts on the local area

The Wrong Project in the Wrong Place: SZC is too big for a small site - 32 hectares to Hinkley Point C's (HPC) 45 - and surrounded by internationally-protected habitats like RSPB Minsmere. The RSPB believes "*Sizewell is not a suitable location for a new nuclear power station*". The Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be cut in two. EDF will move Sizewell B facilities to make space for SZC, destroying 100 year-old Coronation wood. There are no fewer than ten other uncoordinated energy projects, in Friston and nearby. Together with SZC they will swamp the area.

The Environment Agency has expressed major concerns over **flooding**. The site, in Flood Zones 2 & 3, could be cut off in storm surges, and ultimately become an island if sea levels rise to predicted levels. The effect of SZC on coastal processes is still unclear and its proposed rock armour defences are inadequate.

Traffic: EDF has abandoned both a jetty and extensive use of rail, so wants over 1,000 lorries daily at peak, plus thousands of vans, buses and cars, on Suffolk's A12 and inadequate road network. The B1122 will have to carry 2-3 years of traffic before a relief road is built, and even this uses a poor route parallel to the B1122 instead of a much better one from south of Saxmundham that would have genuine legacy value.

Damaging Suffolk Coast Tourism: Road congestion, eyesores, noise, dust, beach and footpath closures and will drive visitors away. The Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation has found that tourism could lose up to £40 million a year, with the potential loss of up to 400 jobs.

Doubtful Economic Benefits: EDF is double-counting the claimed economic benefits of SZC as it plans to use its HPC supply chain. Low unemployment and the wrong skills locally means employment is likely to be in lower-skilled jobs and can result in other businesses losing staff. EDF has underestimated the number of workers to complete HPC. EDF consultation documents state that if that happens here, almost all extra workers will be from elsewhere. We oppose a multi-storey campus for 2,400 workers close to Minsmere.

No solution in sight for nuclear waste: Spent fuel from SZB & SZC must stay on the eroding coastal site until at least 2135, even if a 'permanent' (100,000 yrs+) waste facility is created one day.

EDF's "disdainful" consultations: PINS will have 28 days to decide whether to accept the DCO application. Suffolk MP Dan Poulter described EDF's consultations as "disdainful". County and District Councils agree that EDF has provided very little in the way of detailed information, including on

environmental and community impacts. For this reason, **campaigners and residents call on PINS to reject the application.**

2. A bad project by a company with a poor track record.

Overruns and Overspends: SZC's EPR reactors will be the same as at HPC, currently £2.9bn over budget and 15 months late; in fact HPC's DCO had a 'start generating date' of 2019. SZC is already 3 years late - when EDF began public consultations it wanted to start the build in 2018. The EPR is described by Paul Dorfman of UCL as "too complex to build to time and budget". The EPR build at Flamanville in France has been plagued by problems and is a decade late and 4 times over budget. All UK nuclear projects have stumbled, and globally the number of nuclear units under construction has fallen for the 6th year in a row.

Dependent on a 'Nuclear Tax': EDF has asked the government for a 'Regulated Asset Base' (RAB) model for financing SZC. Electricity bill payers would have to pay this 'nuclear tax' and the risk of overruns and overspends would fall on the consumer. Meanwhile EDF could be split in two by the French government, and the troubled nuclear business re-nationalised. EDF's partner at SZC, China General Nuclear, has been blacklisted by the US, just like Huawei, over security concerns.

3. It won't meet government climate objectives

Not a solution for net zero: EDF says that SZC is necessary to meet the UK's net-zero targets, but it is too slow to build and expensive, and not flexible enough to fit well with renewables. The Committee on Climate Change has said renewables would likely fill the gap more quickly and cheaply; Lord Deben, describes nuclear as a "transitional" energy source whose need reduces as grid-balancing improves. Sir John Armitt, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission told Utility Week: *"don't put all your eggs in the nuclear basket. There's no need to yet. Renewables policy in the long-run could be more effective."*

Every pound invested in SZC - whatever the source - is a pound that could have been spent on cheaper, faster renewables like wind and solar, energy efficiency measures, new battery and hydrogen-based storage, Carbon Capture Storage, tidal, vital adaptations to the grid, home heating and many more. EDF now wants HPC and SZC to make hydrogen. They are clutching at straws; big nuclear remains too expensive and hydrogen could as easily be made from renewables.

SZC will not help the UK government's stated objectives of 'levelling up' the country, and will undermine the Conservative manifesto pledge not to allow domestic energy bills to rise.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Take Action! Ask the Planning Inspectorate not to accept EDF's application for consent to build Sizewell C.** Ask family and friends to join in too: www.stopsizewellc.org/action
- Ask EDF not to **submit its application during coronavirus** restrictions: info@sizewellc.co.uk and ask Therese Coffey MP to support this message: therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk
- **Follow us on social media**, and watch and share our videos and other content.



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