

## Statement of Community Consultation

Prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008.

## About this Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC)

This SOCC sets out how EDF Energy<sup>1</sup> proposes to consult local communities about its plans for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell in Suffolk.

EDF Energy took into account the views of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council about what was to be in this document before finalising it and making it available for inspection by the public.

## Government Policy

The Government has decided that new nuclear power stations should play a significant role in the future generation of electricity for the UK.

The National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6), which was designated by Government in July 2011, describes the need for new nuclear power stations and identifies Sizewell as one of the sites potentially suitable for the deployment of a new nuclear power station by the end of 2025.

## Sizewell C Proposals

EDF Energy plans to build a new nuclear power station on land to the north of the existing Sizewell A and B power stations.

Development on the main site would include: two UK EPR units (a type of Pressurised Water Reactor); supporting cooling water infrastructure, fuel and waste storage facilities, ancillary, training and office buildings; transmission infrastructure; National Grid 400kV substation; sea protection; access and parking arrangements including a new access road to the power station and permanent bridge.

To support the construction of the power station there would also be construction working areas and other temporary facilities including a marine offloading facility and temporary bridges. We are also proposing to build a visitors' centre near the site.

In addition to the construction of the power station, associated development is proposed, which would be necessary to facilitate the building and operation of Sizewell C. This development may include proposals for accommodation for workers; parking facilities; freight holding facilities; and other transport infrastructure.

Building a new power station at Sizewell C would potentially affect the lives of those living in communities close to the main site and associated development sites through, for example: construction operations; increased traffic; visual impact; loss of public access to parts of the site(s); and environmental impacts.

<sup>1</sup> NNB Generation Company Limited, whose registered office is at 40 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1X 7EN (referred to in this document as "EDF Energy")

The potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the building and operation of the power station and associated development could include potential impacts on: local geology; the Suffolk coastline; water and air quality; drainage and flood risk; local ecology and wildlife; landscape and visual amenity; archaeology and cultural heritage; rights of way; noise and vibration; and transportation.

The new power station would however, also bring significant benefits and provide low carbon electricity for approximately five million homes, which in turn would help to achieve the Government's climate change targets. As a multi-billion pound investment, Sizewell C would also create significant employment and economic opportunities for local people and businesses during its construction and operation.

## The Planning Process

EDF Energy will apply to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 for development consent to construct and operate the power station and associated development. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS), acting as the examining authority on behalf of the Secretary of State, will examine EDF Energy's application and seek the public's views on it. PINS will then submit its recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State who will make the final decision on it. The Secretary of State will make his decision in accordance with national policy, taking account of the local impacts of the proposals.

Before PINS will accept an application on behalf of the Secretary of State, it must be satisfied that EDF Energy has conducted adequate pre-application consultation. The pre-application consultation will also be important in relation to the examination process after the application has been accepted.

Local authorities also have an important role in this process. In addition to considering this SOCC, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council will act as statutory consultees, they may comment upon the quality of EDF Energy's consultation, make their own representations on the application once submitted, produce a local impact report and work with EDF Energy to produce a statement of common ground.

## The Consultation Process

EDF Energy considers it likely that the pre-application consultation on the proposals for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and associated development will take place over two main stages, which may be supplemented by further stages of limited, focused consultation if considered necessary. The first stage of consultation will consider the 'Initial Proposals and Options' for Sizewell C. Where possible it will set out options for development so that the views of consultees can be taken into account in drawing up more detailed plans. Following Stage One consultation, the responses and feedback gathered will inform the development of the plans, ahead of a second round of public consultation which will focus on the 'Preferred Proposals' for Sizewell C. Again, feedback from this, and any supplemental stages of consultation, will be considered prior to submitting EDF Energy's application to the Secretary of State.

EDF Energy intends to publicise each stage of consultation well in advance of the start of the process and this document explains how we will do this.

## Environmental Information

The Sizewell C proposals constitute a development requiring assessment of likely significant effects on the environment. EDF Energy will therefore carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and will submit a full Environmental Statement as part of its application for development consent. The Environmental Statement will be informed by the consultation process.

The main consultation document published for the Stage One consultation will include summary preliminary environmental information in respect of the initial options and proposals. EDF Energy will also publish a separate Environmental Report as part of the Stage One consultation, which will provide more detailed preliminary environmental information.

Members of the local community and other interested parties will have access to both the main Consultation Document and the Environmental Report. The detailed information in the Environmental Report could be used alongside the main Consultation Document to inform feedback to the consultation.

A further environmental report, presenting the initial findings of the EIA, will be published as part of the consultation on the preferred proposals for Sizewell C at Stage Two.

These documents will provide information on the main environmental issues arising from the development. This will include the scope for any associated land restoration, landscaping and other mitigation or compensatory measures for any impact on natural habitats.

## Related Consultations

EDF Energy is aware of various consultations relating to the energy sector which have taken place over the last two years in the local area and further activity is likely to take place in the future. Examples include National Grid, consulting on Bramford to Twinstead Tees; Galloper Wind Farm Ltd's consultation in respect of its proposals for the Galloper Offshore Wind Farm, which is now in the examination stage of the development consent process; Scottish Power Renewables and Vattenfall Wind Power's consultation for the East Anglia ONE Offshore Windfarm, for which the development consent application is currently expected to be submitted in November 2012; and the Suffolk Resilience Forum is proposing to consult on emergency planning arrangements for Sizewell A and B early in 2013.

We will attempt to co-ordinate our consultation activity with any further related events to avoid public confusion and consultation fatigue.

## Consultation Timetable

EDF Energy will endeavour to confirm dates for all stages of consultation and publicise these dates at least ten days in advance of the start of each consultation period. EDF Energy will do this in a number of ways which could include: publicising the consultation in local media and publishing advertisements in local newspapers; writing to the county, district, town and parish councils and other key stakeholders; and circulating a newsletter to all homes and businesses within a 10-mile radius of Sizewell. Details of the consultation activities involved will be included in this publicity including dates and venues of public exhibitions.

Responses to the consultation should be submitted to EDF Energy by the end of each stage of consultation using the contact information shown below in the 'Contact Information' section. We may be requested to make consultation responses available to PINS.

Stage One consultation on initial proposals and options will involve consideration of our early proposals and we have therefore set a period of eleven weeks for formal consultation.

EDF Energy will then consider the feedback received. We cannot pre-empt what issues and opportunities will arise from the responses to our consultation so it is not possible to forecast when the second stage of consultation will begin. EDF Energy is committed to carrying out in-depth consultation and to consider all the feedback received. We will take the time necessary to do this and will develop our preferred proposals informed by the feedback from the Stage One consultation.

After the Stage One consultation, EDF Energy will summarise the main issues raised during the consultation and present this in a newsletter which will be circulated to all homes and businesses within a 10-mile radius of Sizewell.

Stage Two consultation on our preferred proposals will cover our more detailed plans taking into account responses received at Stage One. We may therefore set a longer period for formal consultation.

We will continue to engage with consultees in between the stages of consultation, including any further stages of focused consultation, up to and beyond the submission of the application.

EDF Energy will report on the responses received during its pre-application consultation in a Consultation Report, which will be submitted to the Secretary of State with the development consent order application for Sizewell C.

## Scope of the Consultation

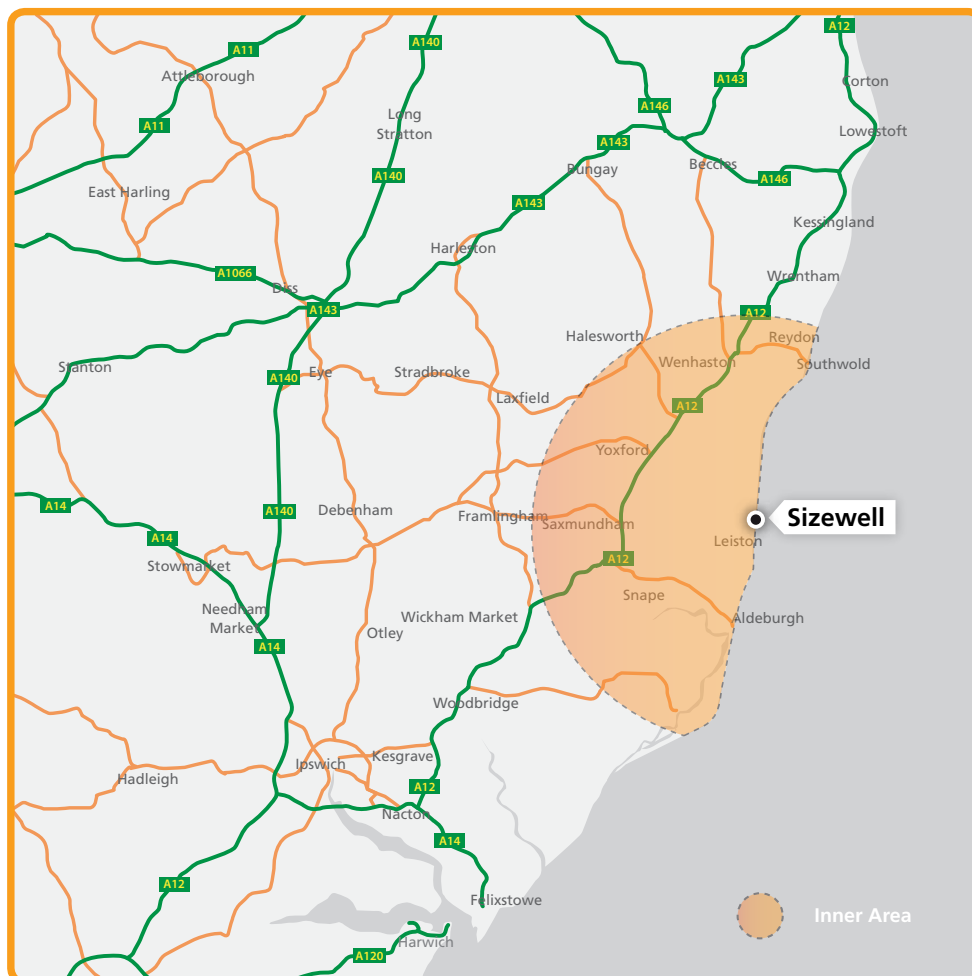
As part of the consultation, we will be seeking views on the proposals as set out in the published consultation documentation. The principles of whether or not there is a need for a new nuclear power station, and whether Sizewell C is a potentially suitable site, have already been determined by Parliament.

While the views of local communities expressed through this consultation will be influential in developing our proposals, EDF Energy must also take into account the views of local authorities and other statutory consultees, and consider what is practical and achievable in terms of delivering a new nuclear power station.

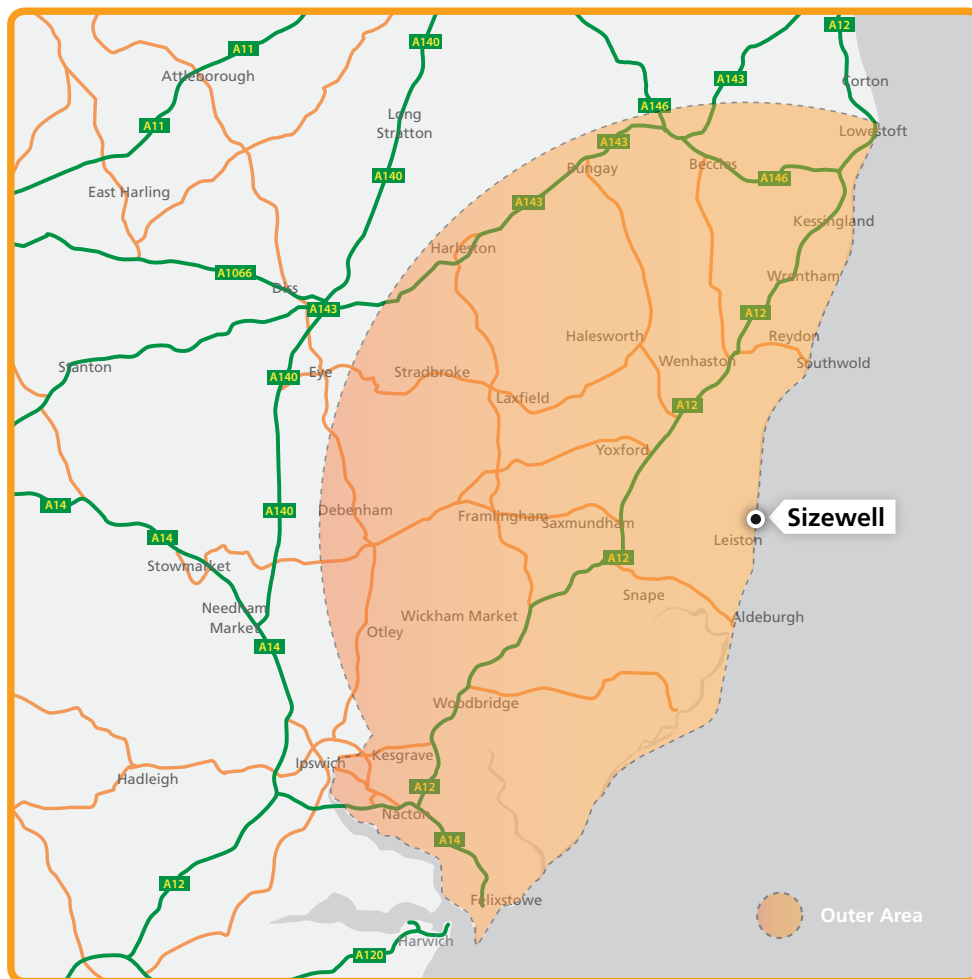
Those living, working or otherwise using the local areas closest to the proposed Sizewell C site and any associated development sites, along with the statutory consultees, are the focus of the consultation exercise. However, EDF Energy will also seek the views of the wider public and will have regard to all consultation responses received.

Community consultation will be undertaken within two geographic areas as identified on the following plans:

- Inner area: covering communities within an approximate 10-mile radius of Sizewell and in the vicinity of proposed associated development sites (this includes any potential associated development sites beyond the 10-mile radius of Sizewell).
- Outer area: a 20-mile radius which would include Lowestoft to the north, the east of Mid Suffolk to the west but stretching further to the south to incorporate the A14 corridor from the east of Ipswich to Felixstowe.



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Due to the focus on those living, working or otherwise using the local areas closest to the development sites, consultation will be focussed within the inner area, with public events near locations where development is proposed. Public and stakeholder engagement will also be undertaken in the outer area to help facilitate feedback from the wider public.

## Consultation Activity

**Consultation Materials:** EDF Energy will produce the following documents for the Stage One Initial Proposals and Options consultation:

- Consultation Document
- Consultation Document Summary
- Environmental Report
- Transport Strategy and supporting information

EDF Energy currently intends to produce a suite of documents, including a summary document, for the Stage Two consultation.

The Stage One documents listed above will be available to the local community in the manner described below.

Hard copies of all of the documents will be available to view at the EDF Energy Leiston office (address and opening hours below), at public exhibitions, in selected libraries and council offices in Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Ipswich. Copies of the documents for consultees to take away with them will be available upon request and may be subject to reasonable copying charges.

The documents will also be available at all of these locations on DVD and to download from the project website:

<http://sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info>

The Stage One consultation and summary documents will be accompanied by forms to assist the local community in completing and submitting their feedback to EDF Energy's proposals. If requested, we will commission translation into any minority languages used locally (such as Polish, Lithuanian and Portuguese).

**Newsletters:** EDF Energy will publicise the consultation programme, including information on how people can respond and reports on key project milestones, in its 'Sizewell C' newsletter. The newsletter will be distributed to all homes and businesses within a 10-mile radius of Sizewell.

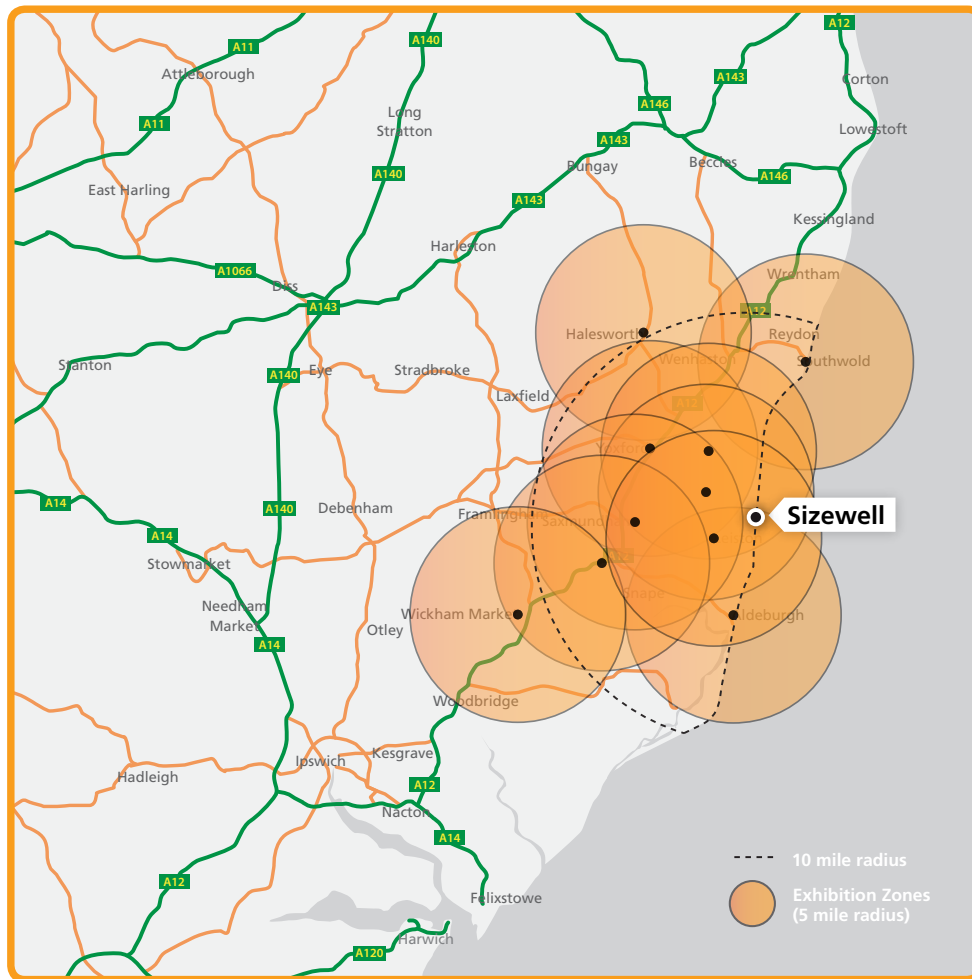
**Local Media:** EDF Energy will publicise the consultation and associated activities in the local media ahead of the formal public consultation stages and will update local media channels on its consultation activity.

**Public Exhibitions:** We will hold exhibitions and events throughout the consultation period. An early event will be held with the Sizewell Residents' Association. The following locations in and just beyond the inner area are likely to host staffed exhibitions, which will use presentation boards and literature to explain the proposals:

- Leiston
- Aldeburgh
- Theberton
- Saxmundham
- Westleton
- Stratford St Andrew
- Yoxford
- Southwold
- Wickham Market
- Halesworth



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Hosting events in these areas means that the majority of people living within the 10-mile inner area will be no more than five miles from a Sizewell C consultation exhibition or event.

In the outer area, and in centres with large populations such as Ipswich, we may hold shorter exhibitions or community meetings at:

- Ipswich
- Woodbridge
- Lowestoft
- Felixstowe
- Framlingham
- Beccles
- Kesgrave

Workplace exhibitions will be held for staff at the Sizewell A and B power stations and for staff of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council. Other public exhibitions and events may be organised if required.

Following the public exhibitions at Stage One, exhibition materials will be on permanent public display at EDF Energy’s Leiston office (address and opening hours below). The exhibition material will remain available for the public to view when the formal consultation stages have finished, as well as being available to download from the project website.



**Presentations:** Town and Parish Councils can request meetings and presentations during the public consultation programme.

**'Drop-in' Sessions:** Some villages or towns which are not locations for exhibitions, or those communities which require more opportunities to engage with the EDF Energy Team, may find 'drop-in sessions' useful. These sessions would operate like surgeries, where local people can have discussions with members of the team.

**Engagement with Hard-to-Reach Groups:** EDF Energy has consulted a number of organisations which represent 'hard-to-reach' stakeholders (i.e. demographic groups that do not usually engage in consultation activity, as well as people with disabilities who may have problems accessing the consultation information). Following the feedback received, home visits, bespoke presentations and advertorials in specific publications are among some of the proposed actions to be considered.

**Project Website:** All consultation material will be available to download from the project website:

<http://sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info>

Consultees will be able to submit their feedback in hard copy by post or via an online form.

**Social Media:** EDF Energy will establish a Twitter account so followers can be updated on the latest events and the milestones achieved during the public consultation.

**Sizewell C Community Forum:** EDF Energy will also set up a Sizewell C Community Forum. It will consider and advise on issues that might affect the local community as a result of EDF Energy's planning proposals, principally those arising from the development of a new power station on land to the north of Sizewell B and any associated development. Consideration of the principle of building new nuclear power stations will not be within the scope of the forum. The membership will be made up of representatives of the local community and local stakeholder organisations.

Other activities and informal consultation may be carried out on specific elements of the proposals between the end of Stage One and the beginning of Stage Two consultation. Additional activities that may be carried out for the Stage Two consultation if considered necessary and appropriate include:

**Workshops:** Community representatives and stakeholders may find workshops useful and the EDF Energy Team will consider helping to organise such workshops on relevant and appropriate aspects of the development.

**Focus Groups:** EDF Energy could commission focus groups, or hold other events as necessary, to engage specific interests or hard-to-reach groups.

## Next Steps

Further details on the timings of the formal stages of community consultation will follow, principally through the media, EDF Energy website, publicity and through direct contact with stakeholders.

Following the end of the consultation exercise, EDF Energy will consider all consultation responses, before submitting its application to the Secretary of State for consent to construct and operate the power station and associated development. A detailed Consultation Report, explaining what consultation has taken place and discussing where responses to the consultation have influenced the final proposals, will accompany the application.

## Contact Information

For further information, please contact EDF Energy in one of the following ways:

- Visit the EDF Energy Leiston office at **48-50 High Street, Leiston, IP16 4EW (opening hours below)**
- Call Freephone **0800 197 6102**
- Email **sizewell@edfconsultation.info**
- Write to **Sizewell Nuclear New Build, FREEPOST LON20574, London, W1E 3EZ**
- Follow us on twitter **@edfesizewellc**

Subject to the closure over the Christmas period mentioned below, during the Stage One consultation, EDF Energy's Leiston office will be open **Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 17:00 (excluding public holidays), and from 15 December 2012 until 2 February 2013** the office will also be open on **Saturdays 09:00 to 12:00**. During the period when public exhibitions are taking place, the office will be open to provide consultation literature only. **The office will close at 12:00 on 22 December 2012 and re-open at 09:30 on 2 January 2013**. Information on the opening hours of the Leiston office during later stages of consultation will be publicised in advance of those stages.