



Meeting Report

Regarding:

EDF Energy Hinkley Point: Community Forum

Date:

30 September 2010

Attending:

Alan Ladd *Chairman*
 Christopher Durham *RAC Foundation for Motoring*
 Cecily Collingridge *Ashley Avenue Residents Association*
 Jenny Lawrence *Somerset Racial Equality Council*
 Alyn Jones *Somerset County Council*
 Stephen Bray *HSE Nuclear Directorate*
 Anne Fraser *North Petherton Town Council*
 Julie Cooper *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Mike Fackrell *Cannington CofE Primary School*
 Lynne Fackrell *Cannington CofE Primary School*
 Lesley Flash *Stogursey Parish Plan*
 Peter Malim OBE *Stogursey Parish Council*
 Sue Goss *WHAG/Stogursey Primary School*
 Christopher Morgan *West Somerset District Council*
 John Roberts *Nether Stowey Parish Council*
 Malcolm Hogg *Nether Stowey Parish Council*
 Trevor Howes *Civil Nuclear Constabulary*
 Ivan Stone *National Grid*

John Stuckey *Bridgwater Civic Society*
 Sheila Stuckey *Bridgwater Civic Society*
 Sue Webber *Planning Aid*
 Lynda Laird *Cannington Parish Council*
 Colin Allen *Cannington Parish Council*
 Gareth E Lewis
 Ian Liddell-Grainger *MP*
 Crispin Aubrey *Agenda 21*
 Allan Jeffery *Stop Hinkley*
 Andrew Goodchild *West Somerset Council*
 Rachel Davies *Somerset College*
 Keith Cattell *Mendip Society*
 Nigel Knee *EDF Energy*
 David Eccles *EDF Energy*
 Gordon Bell *EDF Energy*
 Charles St George *PPS*
 Andrew Smith *PPS*

Item**1. Introductions**

Alan Ladd (AL) welcomed those attending and asked those around the table to introduce themselves and the organisations they represent. He also reminded participants of the terms of reference of the Forum.

2. Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the previous 8 July meeting were circulated (to those who did not have copies). No other matters were raised.

3. Matters arising

Actions in the previous meeting report:

- Item 4 – page 7. Nigel Knee responded to the question over the route of the Emergency Access road, confirming EDF Energy’s preferred proposal is part of the consultation process, so views are welcome.
- Item 4 – page 7. EDF Energy provided an answer to the question about bus traffic from Williton Park and Ride to the main site. Nigel Knee reported that traffic modelling in the Stage 2 preferred proposals assume a maximum of 18 bus journeys each way at the peak of construction in 2016. Concerns were raised about size, frequency and routes; Nigel Knee said EDF Energy will continue to work with the highways authorities and that the dialogue with the community will continue.
- Item 4 – page 7. Footpath to join up both parts of Kilve village. Nigel Knee commented this is not currently part of the Stage 2 preferred options, but the suggestion would be considered and a response provided through the final consultation report.
- Item 4, page 8 – telephone call centre staff unaware of Hinkley Point C plans. PPS’ Charles St. George confirmed EDF Energy call centre staff have now been briefed; all calls will be re-directed to the Bridgwater office or the dedicated freephone number publicised on all project literature.

No further comments.



Item

4. Update on investigative works

David Eccles provided an update on EDF Energy's programme of investigative works on the main and associated development sites, specifically the Cannington Park & Ride site and proposed bypass route.

He reported plans to start investigative works in these areas in Cannington in early October, assuming clearances and permissions. He highlighted that the acoustic shrouding on other investigative works sites had been very successful, resulting in low levels of noise disturbance.

He also said EDF Energy will write to all residents of Cannington aiming to give a week's notice before work begins.

Asked if there would be bore-hole drilling on the current preferred route for the bypass, he confirmed it that this was the case.

5. Preliminary Works applications

Nigel Knee gave an update on preliminary works applications, specifically:

- Onshore - main site preparatory works application to be submitted to West Somerset Council (WSC)
- Offshore - an application for the temporary jetty to be submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

He explained what the applications cover and which authorities they will be made to. He explained that these applications were being made in advance of the main IPC application and reiterated that – in the event of refusal of the preparatory works application – the main site would be reinstated.

The onshore work would include site clearance, creation of level platforms in the construction area and a temporary sea wall. This application will go to WSC through the normal planning process. WSC's Andrew Goodchild explained that – as the application was "significant" – the Council would consult widely, probably including public meetings. He also said dates for public consultation would be dictated by the timing of submission of the application.

The offshore work, Nigel Knee explained, was to seek an early start on the construction of the temporary jetty for bulk material handling. This, he said, was a key strategy for minimising goods vehicles on local roads. The application goes to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), a new body established nine months ago. It is a different process and the MMO will undertake its own consultation.

WSC's Andrew Goodchild clarified the application goes to the MMO with WSC as a consultee.

Concern was expressed over the jetty design coming before the road strategy has been concluded – as the total volume of goods being moved by sea would not be known at application stage. It was hoped the IPC application gave design details. Nigel Knee responded by saying these were valid points, but these would be addressed later in the process. Disappointment was expressed that at this late stage that EDF are still not able to tell the Forum what capabilities the jetty will have, despite the imminent application to MMO.

Concern was also raised about the volume of goods delivered by sea, and whether the jetty would be used for the delivery of all bulky goods as well as aggregates. Nigel Knee said the MMO would need full details of its proposed use in the planning application

Nigel Knee also clarified that 'temporary', means the duration of construction.

6. Presentation on Stage 2 Consultation Process

PPS' Charles St. George presented the outcome of the Stage 2 consultation, which closes midnight October 4th.

He outlined what was involved in the consultation; the levels of response and involvement; and that the process still has more work. He reiterated that the final numbers would include questionnaires still coming in, but presented the most recent figures at the time.

He offered to forward copies of his presentation to anyone interested. He also said channels would remain open and that a newsletter would report back on the process. A question was raised about the benefit of responding after the



Item

deadline; he said it meant people would be able to seek answers to questions or clarifications. David Eccles extended an invitation to contact him with any questions.

A discussion followed about the robustness and weighting of the data. In particular concerns were expressed that views of people closer to the site should be weighted; that the views of the statutory bodies had more weight than local residents; that some of the sample numbers were statistically insignificant; and that focus groups lacked structure.

David Eccles and Charles St. George responded to these concerns. The process is one of consultation, which is qualitative by definition, not quantitative; the facilitated sessions were led by PPS, but the purpose is a dialogue to glean participants' views. There were mixed views about the focus group sessions, with voices expressed both against and in favour of how they were handled. Nigel Knee robustly denied any data will be manipulated, stating EDF Energy will 'report back in an open and honest way' and that the IPC will decide if the consultation meets its requirements. When asked what of the consultation the IPC will be able to see, Nigel Knee said 'it can have it all; it is up to the IPC what they do with it'.

Charles St. George offered to share the findings of the independent market research study by MSS on exhibition participant's views on the consultation; he offered to circulate in advance of the next Forum meeting and to have a further discussion at the meeting. **ACTION - PPS.**

7. Next steps in the planning process

Nigel Knee outlined the next steps in the planning process and clarified the current planning reforms. Specifically:

- What happens next for the Hinkley Point proposal?
- Changes to the National Policy Statements
- Abolition of the IPC

On Hinkley Point he said it was a long engagement process starting in 2008; EDF Energy had made significant revisions to its plans following the Stage 1 consultation, but when the Stage 2 consultation closes, the process will not end and there will be on-going discussions with all relevant bodies.

Will EDF Energy have to consult further? EDF Energy can't say now, he stated. The timetable depends on what people have said, but the application is not the end of the process; there will be further opportunities for people to have their say with the IPC. He was asked if there will be a Stage 3 consultation; EDF Energy is 'not envisaging one' he replied, though it may have to re-consult on specific points.

Concern was expressed that there were many issues left unresolved; Nigel Knee said EDF Energy will work with the local authorities to address any perceived deficiencies. He confirmed that further work was being undertaken on transport and accommodation plans.

A question about IPC hearings was raised; Nigel Knee explained interested parties might want to read the IPC document called 'How to have your say', which explains the process.

WSC's Andrew Goodchild said that if further work was required, the Council would work with EDF Energy in a transparent and open way. Somerset County Council's Alyn Jones said the Council would work collaboratively with EDF Energy, but wanted further engagement with the community. He reassured the Forum the Council would not reach an agreement with EDF Energy at the expense of community engagement. He said both County Council and District Councils would continue to assess how consultation has been executed and would report to the IPC.

Asked if local councillors would be made aware of any transport issues arising from these further discussions and negotiations, David Eccles said EDF Energy will work with all local authorities and keep people informed of significant developments. The Chair noted that EDF Energy needed to explain how it will continue to communicate with communities prior to submission of the IPC application. **ACTION EDF Energy**

Asked how long the IPC would take to determine the application, Nigel Knee said EDF Energy expected that the whole process would take about 12 months.

**Item**

After this conversation, Nigel Knee went on to outline impending re-consultation on the draft National Policy Statements on energy, and referred to the fact that the new Government had already made its position on nuclear power clear. On the IPC's future (to be abolished through primary legislation) he said it was unlikely to be a radical change, stating the process will remain but that final decisions on applications will be made by the Secretary of State rather than IPC Commissioners.

8. AoB

EDF Energy's Gordon Bell reported that Reactor 4 at Hinkley Point B would be offline for planned maintenance; and that a large load was due to arrive via Combrich Wharf on 6th October, pending tidal conditions.

A discussion followed about the safety of nuclear power. The Chair explained this was outside the remit of the Forum, but asked for views from the participants about whether the points raised should be debated and/or distributed to Forum members. Mixed views were expressed, but the majority felt that this was not the purpose of the Forum and that this subject was better discussed in other Forums.

9. Future meeting dates

Two dates were proposed for future meetings:

- Thursday 9 December, 7pm at Cannington College
- Thursday 3 March, 7pm at Hinkley Point B Training Centre.

These dates have now been confirmed and the appropriate venues booked.