



EDF Energy: Consultation Plans for a New Nuclear Power Station at Hinkley Point C

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Statement of Community Consultation

[Published under section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008]

About this Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC)

This document updates and replaces the SOCC published by EDF Energy in February 2011.

It sets out how NNB Generation Company Limited whose registered office is at 40 Grosvenor Place, London SW1 7EN (referred to in this document as 'EDF Energy') intends to consult local communities affected by a potential material change to its proposals for a new nuclear power station, known as Hinkley Point C.

EDF Energy is considering replacing one of its proposed sites for a park and ride and freight management facility, a greenfield site near Junction 24 of the M5, with an alternative facility on the brownfield 'Somerfield' site also near Junction 24 and to include a temporary induction centre and a temporary consolidation facility for courier services. The 'Somerfield' site has the potential for more car and HGV holding spaces than the greenfield site previously proposed and could be operational earlier. We will also be considering potential further highway improvements in the Bridgwater area.

EDF Energy has consulted West Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council about the contents of this SOCC and has had regard to their responses. A supporting document outlining our strategy for consulting the local community about these proposed changes, 'Hinkley Point C: Proposed Changes to the Preferred Proposals including M5 Junction 24 and Highway Improvements in the Bridgwater Area: Consultation Strategy and Revised Statement of Community Consultation', informed the SOCC and is available from the project website, www.edfenergyconsultation.info or by contacting EDF Energy (see Contact Information below).

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 (NPS), laid before Parliament for approval on 23 June 2011, describes the need for new nuclear power stations and identifies Hinkley Point as one of the sites suitable for the deployment of a new nuclear power station by the end of 2025. The House of Commons plans to hold a debate and vote on the approval of the Nuclear NPS in due course. If Parliament approves this NPS, the Government plans to designate it as soon as possible thereafter.

Hinkley Point C Proposals

The aim and objective of the Hinkley Point C proposals is to contribute towards meeting the Government's goal of providing 26 gigawatts of new non-renewable electricity generating capacity by 2025. EDF Energy plans to build a nuclear power station on land to the west of the existing Hinkley Point A and B power stations. Development on the main site will include: two UK European Pressurised water Reactors (EPRs); supporting infrastructure of cooling water tunnels, fuel and waste management facilities and transmission equipment; a sea wall; National Grid 400kV substation; staff facilities; a public information centre; and temporary accommodation for workers. A separate application for consent to construct a temporary jetty and related harbour works has also been submitted to the Marine Management Organisation, and an application to compulsorily acquire certain land interests required for the jetty has been submitted to the Secretary of State.

The new power station could provide low carbon electricity for approximately 5 million homes, or more than 6% of the UK's requirement, and help to achieve the Government's climate change targets. As a multi-billion pound investment, Hinkley Point C will also create significant economic opportunities for local people and businesses during its construction and operation.

Our aims are to minimise the local impacts of this project, contribute to the strategies of the relevant local authorities and provide sustainable legacy benefits for the local communities.

However, building a new power station at Hinkley Point will potentially affect the lives of those living in communities close to the main site through, for example: construction operations; increased traffic; visual impact; loss of public access to parts of the site; environmental impacts; and pressure on existing community infrastructure.

In addition to construction of the power station, off-site developments are proposed near the M5 (Junctions 23 and 24), in Bridgwater, Cannington, Williton and at Combbich. These developments may include some or all of: accommodation for workers; park & ride; and freight management facilities. People living nearby could potentially be affected by, for example: construction operations; increased traffic; visual impact; environmental impacts; and pressure on existing community infrastructure.

The potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the building and operation of the power station and off-site developments include: potential impacts on local geology; the Somerset coast line; 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 and socio-economic impacts. Full details of the proposals are available on the website, www.edfenergyconsultation.info

The Planning Process

EDF Energy will apply to the independent Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), established under the Planning Act 2008, for consent to construct, operate and maintain the power station and associated development. The IPC's decision must be made in accordance with national policy but will take account of the local impacts of the proposals.

Before the IPC will accept an application, it must be satisfied that EDF Energy has conducted effective pre-application consultation. The pre-application consultation will also be important in relation to the examination process after the application has been accepted by the IPC.

The Government proposes to abolish the IPC and replace it with a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit but the relevant legislation is not expected to come into force until 2012.

Environmental Information

EDF Energy's proposals for Hinkley Point C constitute a development requiring assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment and we have already made available preliminary environmental information in relation to our Stage 2 'Preferred Proposals'. EDF Energy published further preliminary environmental information about the 'Somerfield' site and the proposed further highway improvements in the Bridgwater area on 1 July 2011, which is available to download from the project website (www.edfenergyconsultation.info), in hard copy at EDF Energy's Bridgwater office (14 King Square, Bridgwater TA6 3DG) and at the public exhibitions.

Related Consultations

National Grid has already undertaken consultation in relation to new transmission lines in Somerset and it is likely that it will undertake further consultation during 2011. Sedgemoor District Council consulted on an outline planning application for the 'Bridgwater Gateway' site in early 2011 and this application remains undetermined. West Somerset Council is due to consider EDF Energy's application for site preparation work at Hinkley Point C at Committee on 28 July 2011. Further details are given in EDF Energy's published 'Hinkley Point C: Proposed Changes to the Preferred Proposals including M5 Junction 24 and Highway Improvements in the Bridgwater Area: Consultation Strategy and Revised Statement of Community Consultation'.

Consultation Timetable and Responses

EDF Energy consulted on its Stage 1 'Initial Proposals and Options' for Hinkley Point C from 16 November 2009 until 18 January 2010, in line with the SOCC published in November 2009. Stage 2 'Preferred Proposals' consultation was carried out between 9 July 2010 and 4 October 2010, in line with the updated SOCC published in June 2010. The Stage 2 'Update on and Proposed Changes to the Preferred Proposals' consultation took place between 25 February 2011 and 28 March 2011, in line with the SOCC published in February 2011.

EDF Energy has consulted the local community informally on the plans for the 'Somerfield' site and the proposed further highway improvements in the Bridgwater area since 1 July 2011, in parallel with consultation with statutory consultees under section 42 and with the general public under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

This stage of formal pre-application consultation will start formally on 15 July 2011. Responses should be submitted to EDF Energy by 12 August 2011 using the Contact Information shown below. We may be required to make these representations available to the IPC.

EDF Energy will respond to comments received during all stages of its pre-application consultation in a Final Consultation Report to be submitted to the IPC with the application for development consent for Hinkley Point C.

Scope of the Consultation

EDF Energy's consultation focuses on our proposal to potentially replace the existing proposal of a park and ride and freight management facility on the greenfield site near Junction 24 of the M5 with a similar facility on the nearby 'Somerfield' site, including a temporary induction centre and a temporary consolidation facility for courier services, as well as potential further highway improvements in the Bridgwater area.

We are seeking views only on these proposed changes as set out in the consultation document, 'Hinkley Point C: Proposed Changes to the Preferred Proposals including M5 Junction 24 and Highway Improvements in the Bridgwater Area', first published on 1 July 2011, which is available from the project website, www.edfenergyconsultation.info or by contacting EDF Energy (see Contact Information below).

The principle of whether or not there is a need for a new nuclear power station, and whether Hinkley Point is a suitable site, will be determined by Parliament in accordance with the NPS.

The views of the local community, local authorities, other statutory consultees and members of the general public expressed through this consultation will all be influential in shaping our application to the IPC. However, EDF Energy must also consider what is practical and achievable in terms of delivering a new nuclear power station.

Those living and working closest to the proposed changes (including in the Parishes of North Petherton and Bridgwater), are the focus of this consultation.

We have informed local communities and their representatives about the consultation through the distribution of a newsletter within the previously established Hinkley Point C consultation area, local press advertising, local media coverage and via our project website, www.edfconsultation.info (see 'Hinkley Point C: Proposed Changes to the Preferred Proposals including M5 Junction 24 and Highway Improvements in the Bridgwater Area: Consultation Strategy and Revised Statement of Community Consultation').

Consultation Programme

EDF Energy's consultation with the local community started informally on 1 July 2011 and ran until 14 July 2011. During this informal consultation period EDF Energy has:

- Notified those who responded to our previous consultations about this proposed change to our 'Preferred Proposals' and how they can respond to the consultation;
- Published the consultation document: 'Hinkley Point C: Proposed Changes to the Preferred Proposals including M5 Junction 24 and Highway Improvements in the Bridgwater Area' on the project website, www.edfenergyconsultation.info;
- Made copies of the consultation document available in hard copy form at all public events and in Somerset libraries, as well as Council offices and Tourist Information Centres in West Somerset and Sedgemoor;
- Circulated our newsletter, 'Hinkley Point C: News from EDF Energy', to over 46,000 households and stakeholders;
- Advertised the consultation and the public exhibitions in local newspapers and issued a statement to the local media;
- Held a public exhibition on Monday 11 July 2011 at the Sedgemoor Auction Centre for people living and working in the vicinity of the two possible Junction 24 sites;
- Put the exhibition material on public display from 11 July 2011 at EDF Energy's Bridgwater office;
- Offered to meet with both North Petherton Parish Council and Bridgwater Town Council; and
- Consulted at a meeting of EDF Energy's Hinkley Point C Community Forum.

During the period of formal consultation from 15 July to 12 August 2011, EDF Energy will additionally:

- Hold public exhibitions on Saturday 16 July 2011 at Angel Place Shopping Centre, Bridgwater, TA6 3TQ from 10am to 4pm and on Thursday 21 July 2011 at Bridgwater Town Hall, High Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3AS, from 12pm to 8pm;**
- Advertise these events in advance in local newspapers, through this SOCC and by notifying the local media;**
- Continue to make the exhibition material available for public inspection throughout the consultation period at EDF Energy Bridgwater office, 14 King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3DG, during normal office hours;**
- Continue to make copies of the consultation document available in hard copy form at all public events and in Somerset libraries, as well as Council offices and Tourist Information Centres in West Somerset and Sedgemoor;**
- Offer to meet to with representatives of the business community and housing tenants in Bridgwater; and**
- Consult at a meeting of EDF Energy's Transport Forum.**

Copies of the consultation document 'Hinkley Point C: Proposed Changes to the Preferred Proposals including M5 Junction 24 and Highway Improvements in the Bridgwater Area' will be available at the public events and can be obtained from EDF Energy (see Contact Information below).

The consultation document will also be translated, on request, into minority languages used locally and an interpretation service is available. The document will be available on request in large print format. EDF Energy will also undertake home visits, on request, to those with mobility issues who are directly affected by our proposals.

Next Steps

Following the close of this consultation, EDF Energy will consider the public and stakeholder response before adjusting and finalising its application for submission to the IPC. A detailed Final Consultation Report, explaining how the responses to the consultation have influenced the final proposals, will accompany the application.

EDF Energy will also undertake an information exercise, following acceptance of its application for development consent by the IPC, providing details of its final proposals for Hinkley Point C.

Contact Information

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

- Visit the EDF Energy Bridgwater office at 14 King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3DG, during normal office hours (Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm, excluding public holidays)
- Call Freephone 0800 169 6507* or 01278 444 600
- Website: www.edfenergyconsultation.info
- Email: enquiries@edfenergyconsultation.info *
- Write to FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE (no further stamp or address required)*

*These details will put you in touch with PPS, who are managing the public consultation process on behalf of EDF Energy.

