

The Barn,  
Wood Lane,  
Henstead,  
Beccles,  
Suffolk.  
NR34 7NY

1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

### Sizewell C Consultation Stage 2

I have attended various road shows and public meetings in relation to the construction of Sizewell C. The EDF presentations and exhibitions have been more PR and promotional rather than active listening to points made by those, attending. Putting that to one side, there are, I believe, a number of unanswered questions and points I would wish to make.

Need: we are told that Sizewell C is necessary to provide the “baseline level” of electricity in the absence of coal and other fossil fuels as the “lights will go out without it”. Sizewell C will not start to be built for a number of years, and only if the decision by the then Secretary of State agrees to its construction. The Summary Consultation Document’s timeline on page 1 loses any specificity after this Stage 2 consultation. The construction period given to me at the consultation meetings varies but there is a minimum estimate of 10 years with other estimates adding 5 or more to that. Any general large-scale civil engineering project over-runs in terms of time, and thereby cost, and EDF’s track record in constructing other stations is poor. Again, a conservative projection is 12-15 years from the start to completion of construction. The construction of Sizewell C is hardly a timely response to a crisis as it will not come on stream for a considerable period.

The Economics: Representatives at the public meetings could offer an approximate cost of construction – billions of pounds sterling – but could not give me a figure of the benefits in terms of electricity produced, nor a figure for decommissioning and storage of waste, whilst acknowledging that it would be “significant” and amount to some further “billions of pounds” (sterling). One is

left with a likely negative cost/benefit balance and one which all the businessmen I've spoken with would avoid at all costs. And that's without the spiraling costs resulting from over-runs seen with other construction projects, The Alternatives: Back in 2008, when the government was consulting on "new nuclear in the UK" (Consultation summary p1) the picture for energy supply might have looked more restricted. Since then technological developments in the areas of alternative means of supply, more varieties of addressing need through smaller, more localized approaches, creating local employment and business opportunities rather than focusing on one area of the UK seems to be a much more favourable option. Locally we have seen the benefits of Offshore windfarms boosting the local economy and employment.

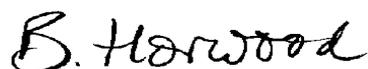
Environmental Impacts: These have been well represented by local groups. There is no point in re-iterating the excellent points made by such groups as TEAGS (Theberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell) which now appear to have been supported by Suffolk County and Suffolk Coastal District Councils. The significant impacts of such a huge project and over such an extensive period cannot be under-estimated and EDF really do need to properly assess them and explain clearly and comprehensively how they will respond, should construction go ahead. The responses to what can be equated to a form of environmental disaster must not be driven by economics but by what is in the population's best interests. The experience of the construction of Sizewell B was that the environmental impacts of its construction took a long time to play through after completion with a concomitant impact on local tourism and revenue resulting from that. One of the major environmental consequences of nuclear power is nuclear waste. That will need management into the fore-seeable future and there seems to be a lack of clarity at a National Level about how to do this safely and securely. This has implications for the local population now and for many future generations.

Employment: There is a degree of disingenuity at play with the numbers claimed for local people who will find employment via the construction of Sizewell C. The experience of the construction of Sizewell B was that the sub-contracted and other companies brought their own work-force with them. It is hard to see how the companies involved in the construction of Sizewell C

could be required not to do that, even harder to envisage compliance even if there were to be a parity of skill level with local potential recruits. Any company would want to continue with their own work-force that knows how that company operates. A 90 minute one-way journey provides a huge catchment area – one begins to wonder what local really means. The construction of the equivalent of a small town close by (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – how can that happen?) the site to house workers seems to further undermine the case for local employment prospects. All that supposed benefit is going to be off-set by the dramatic impact on tourism which benefits the area. Places that attract those wishing to enjoy the peace and quiet of the area plus the benefits of an AONB, one of the major Bird Reserves, a prestigious music festival, summer recreational activities will be hard hit economically, Within the local area there will be job losses as a result which need to set against the much trumpeted job opportunities.

I believe the decision to build Sizewell C is a political, not a practical one. There are alternatives which offer a wider range of employment prospects, do not cost anywhere near as much, do not have the long-lasting legacy of nuclear waste management for generations and do not equate to an environmental disaster for a beautiful area of Suffolk which generates revenue which supports the local economy.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Horwood". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Ben Horwood