



SIZEWELL PARISHES LIAISON GROUP

SPLG AND SIZEWELL C AND D: COUNCILS CONCERN LOOKING AHEAD

May 2014

With the announcement by EDFE of their intention to construct two new nuclear power stations at Sizewell, the SPLG was formed in 2008 to coordinate the liaison between local Parish and Town Councils around Sizewell with EDFE, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council. SPLG was never an 'anti-nuclear' organisation and its primary concern has always been to advise on local concerns, gather information and attempt to coordinate and encourage infrastructure investment and mitigation measures, to help reduce the impact of this major industrial project. Six years has now passed, The Stage 1 Pre-Application Consultation Document was published in November 2012, since when there has been very little hard information released by EDFE. However, the lack of any positive progress in providing information on transport issues, jetty design, alternative multiple accommodation locations such as adopted at Hinckley, has become very worrying. Indeed, there seems to have been a retreat from some of the original commitments outlined by EDFE, possibly as a result of financial restrictions. In addition, the few proposals that seem to have been suggested as likely to happen (or not to happen) seem to have completely ignored local consultation, wishes and advice. The siting of an accommodation centre for 3,000 workers at Eastbridge is an example of this.

Many local people are now truly alarmed at the direction the project seems to be taking, with the prospect of massive environmental damage, no meaningful infrastructure investment and an apparent contempt for the local environment and the concerns of its people. The feeling that the whole project is to be 'imposed' on the locality without proper influence from local people or their representatives in the District and County Councils, is rapidly increasing. There is a very worrying lack of any specific figures or proposals relating to a wide range of issues. This is a massive engineering project in a unique, fragile and beautiful natural environment and there are now well founded fears that its planning is woefully inadequate. Bearing in mind the lead in times of many of the desired and essential infrastructure schemes, the lack of information and uncertainty is a matter of great concern. Some of the major areas that seem to have not been addressed satisfactorily are listed below. Numbers in brackets refer to the Stage 1 Pre-Application Consultation Document, November 2012.

Road links. There is a huge lack of decisions regarding the B1122, the 4 Villages by-pass, a possible new Sizewell Relief Road from the A12 direct into Sizewell, which would greatly assist in vehicular access and emergency evacuation. To date there are no real figures on traffic volumes by road. There is increasing evidence of property blight as a result of the uncertainty.

Rail Links. Improved rail infrastructure for freight and travel for public and construction workers. No information on this or the quantities of construction materials that will be transported by rail.

Transport by Sea. There are as yet no figures of the proportion of building materials that will be brought in by sea. Estimates of 60% of materials being brought in by sea were mentioned in the stage 1 Consultation document but there has been no further detail since then. The design of the jetty is still awaited.

Flooding. Serious concerns regarding the increasing possibility of flooding of the site and the local area.

Health Facilities. These are already under severe pressure and the influx of thousands of workers will be impossible to accommodate without major investment.

Worker Accommodation. The imposition of the whole workforce of 3,000 thousand workers living in one location just outside Eastbridge would be a catastrophe. There are far less damaging possibilities. Hinckley has had the worker accommodation split up. Why are 3000 workers required at Sizewell, when, for an identical power station at Hinckley, only 1500 are required?

Emergency Planning. No realistic planning for an emergency, evacuation or access for emergency vehicles.

Education. There has been no detail on the proposed educational opportunities outlined in the Consultation Document. (4.3-4.4). These would obviously need a considerable lead in time if they were to be relevant.

Job Opportunities for local people. There is considerable scepticism that there really will be significant employment for local people during the construction of the proposed power station. The fact that the workforce of 3,000 needs accommodation would seem to reinforce the view that most of the workforce will be brought in from outside.

Proposed that SPLG request an urgent meeting with our elected members- MP, District, County & MEP who cover communities around Sizewell, to formally raise again the concerns outlined above. Also to consider a petition of all residents in the area.