



Plans for Nuclear New Build at Hinkley Point, Somerset

Statement of Community Consultation

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

November 2009

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1. This Statement of Community Consultation

EDF Energy is proposing to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a new nuclear power station, to be known as Hinkley Point C, with two nuclear generating units and associated on and off-site development. This application will be made under the Planning Act 2008.

The Act requires us to undertake public consultation in advance of submission of the DCO application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). A Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) must be prepared, setting out how we propose to consult people living in the vicinity of the land about the proposed DCO application.

As required by the Act, we consulted West Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council about this SOCC during July - October 2009. Their responses have been taken into account in this published document. In addition, we will be consulting these authorities and other statutory consultees on our proposals in parallel under a separate process.

We have also entered into a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with these local authorities, which will enable them more effectively to assess our proposals and to facilitate the consultation process.

EDF Energy will carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this SOCC and is committed to being open and transparent in all its dealings with the local community and key stakeholders throughout the pre-application consultation process.

2. Proposal Summary Document

Full details of the first stage of public consultation and of EDF Energy's initial proposals and options for the Hinkley Point C development will be published on 16th November 2009 in a Proposal Summary Document (PSD) that will be available, without charge, from the following sources:

- All 34 public libraries and 6 mobile libraries in Somerset
- West Somerset Council offices at: West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, TA4 4QA; Harbour Masters Office, The Esplanade, Watchet, TA23 0AJ; and Harbour Masters Office, Quay Street, Minehead, TA24 5UL
- Sedgemoor District Council offices at Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR
- Somerset County Council offices at County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY
- Tourist Information Offices at: Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 9ZY; South Esplanade, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 1BU; Sedgemoor Services, M5 South, Rooksbridge, Axbridge, BS26 2UF; and Warren Road, Minehead, TA24 5BG
- EDF Energy's office at 14 King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3DG
- Downloadable from the project website at www.edfconsultation.info
- By email, enquiries@edfconsultation.info
- By calling our freephone information line on 0800 169 6507
- By writing to FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE (no further address or stamp required).

A similar document will also be produced for the second stage of our consultation process. Consultation events will be advertised in local newspapers and copies of the PSD will be available to the public at all these events.

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3. EDF Energy and Hinkley Point

EDF Energy nominated land at Hinkley Point, close to the existing B power station, for new nuclear power development in March 2009.

Extensive public consultation was undertaken during 2008 about this proposed nomination of land at Hinkley Point. The consultation process provided EDF Energy with valuable feedback on its proposals, highlighted key issues and options to be considered and helped with the design of the next phase of the consultation as set out in this SOCC.

Further details of the new build project, the previous consultation process and information about the European Pressurised Reactor technology that is proposed for Hinkley Point, are available on the website, www.edfconsultation.info

4. Context of the consultation

EDF Energy is aware of a number of related consultations to be undertaken by the Government, local authorities, statutory agencies and other organisations that will have a bearing on our plans for Hinkley Point C.

EDF Energy recognises the importance of ensuring that the timing and content of our consultation has due regard to other related consultation events to avoid confusing the public and local stakeholders and to minimise the risk of “consultation fatigue”.

For example, consultation on a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on nuclear power is expected during the autumn of 2009 and this will specify where new nuclear power stations may be located. Assuming the Government sticks to this timetable, we expect to start our consultation events after local consultation events on the draft NPS have taken place.

Other relevant forthcoming consultations that EDF Energy is aware of include:

- Somerset County Council’s consultation with the local community on its waste strategy, including nuclear waste, during autumn of 2009.
- The Environment Agency’s consultation, from October 2009, on the draft North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan and on the realignment of the Steart Peninsula near Hinkley Point.
- National Grid’s first and second stage of public consultation on plans to reinforce and upgrade power lines between Bridgwater and Avonmouth, to accommodate a new nuclear power station and other planned new power generation facilities, during the autumn of 2009 and the winter of 2010.

A full list of consultations notified to EDF Energy is shown at Appendix 1.

EDF Energy will work closely with the three Somerset local authorities and other organisations to ensure that our consultation programme on future plans for Hinkley Point C is carefully co-ordinated with relevant local consultations.

5. What the consultation is about?

We will report the views of the public and stakeholders, whether or not these are within the scope of our consultation exercise.

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Scope of the consultation

This consultation will be about EDF Energy's site-specific plans for Hinkley Point C and directly related associated development including, for example: proposed highway improvements; campuses providing accommodation and facilities for construction workers; potential park and ride sites; and freight concentration depots.

The consultation will cover all of the issues required by the Planning Act 2008 and its supporting regulations and guidance.

We will therefore be seeking the views of the public and key stakeholders on the following:

- Proposals for the main power station development at Hinkley Point
- Infrastructure proposals away from the main site considered necessary to support the construction and operation of the power station.

We will be seeking public and stakeholder comment, first on our 'Initial Proposals and Options', and, at a later stage, on our 'Preferred Proposals'.

We will be seeking views on ways of ensuring that the local community makes the most of the social and economic benefits from the development of new nuclear power at Hinkley Point, if permission is granted, including, for example, inward investment into Somerset.

The consultation will also invite views on related community benefits, for example support for local infrastructure such as schools, medical and social facilities, and how these benefits might be channelled to the affected areas.

The Act specifies that we must consult on our proposals for a minimum of 28 days. We believe that this period of time is insufficient given the scale of our plans and we will therefore allow a formal period of approximately seven weeks for each stage of our consultation process.

EDF Energy will continue to engage with the community, local authorities and other key stakeholders both before and after this formal consultation period.

Environmental information

EDF Energy's proposed DCO application is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development.

As part of the pre-application consultation process, we propose to make available to the general public and stakeholders the preliminary environmental information that we have available in relation to the proposals. EDF Energy will publish an Environmental Status Report as an appendix to its stage one consultation document on "Initial Proposals and Options." This report will summarise the environmental work undertaken to date, further studies proposed, and our preliminary view of the key issues. A draft Environmental Statement (ES) will be published as part of EDF Energy's stage two consultation on our "Preferred Proposals".

Once we have submitted our DCO application to the IPC, we will consult the public and statutory consultees on all application information, including the ES.

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Preliminary works

EDF Energy expects, entirely at its own risk, to submit planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and related marine legislation to prepare the site ready for the main development. West Somerset Council will consider these applications, which are outside the scope of this SOCC.

We have, however, agreed with West Somerset Council that we will consult the affected local communities and take their views into account before we finalise these preliminary works applications.

This consultation will be undertaken in parallel with stage one of our consultation on the main proposals to be considered by the IPC but will be clearly identified as part of a separate planning process. We will submit a Statement of Community Involvement with our preliminary works applications and this SCI will also be appended to our Consultation Report (CR) to be submitted to the IPC with the main application.

Other issues

The principle of whether or not there should be a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point and health and safety issues are outside the scope of our consultation process.

The Government will specify which sites are suitable for new nuclear power stations when it publishes its NPS on nuclear power, which will be subject to public consultation and detailed Parliamentary scrutiny under sections 5-13 of the Planning Act 2008.

The safety and security of the European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR) that we are proposing to build at Hinkley Point C will be considered under a separate approval process – the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) and the nuclear site licensing process. The GDA is currently being undertaken jointly by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency (EA).

6. Consultation strategy

Our pre-application consultation programme will be undertaken in two stages:

- *Stage One:* We will consult first on our 'Initial Proposals and Options'. We will set out our broad plans for the new nuclear power station and associated development, identifying for public comment our preferred proposals and highlighting options on which we will be seeking views.
- *Stage Two:* Having considered the response to public consultation on our 'Initial Proposals and Options', we will then publish our 'Preferred Proposals' for consideration.

We will allow a period of time at the end of each stage of the consultation process to consider the responses received before moving onto the next stage of the process.

EDF Energy plans to submit its DCO application for Hinkley Point C to the IPC in July 2010.

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7. Who will we consult?

EDF Energy is required, under section 47 of the Act, to consult people living in the vicinity of the land we propose to develop, both at Hinkley Point and other land further away that may be required for associated development.

In order to fulfil this duty, we will consult the public in three broad geographic zones around Hinkley Point C, shown on the map at Appendix 2. These public consultation zones are defined approximately as follows:

- *Inner zone:* within approximately a 5-mile radius of Hinkley Point C including the West Somerset parishes of Holford, Kilve, Stogursey and Strington, and within Sedgemoor District the parishes of Cannington, Fiddington, Nether Stowey, Otterhampton and Stockland Bristol
- *Middle zone:* encompassed by Burnham-on-Sea in the north, the M5 to the east (but including Puriton), south of Bridgwater and along the Quantock hills as far as Williton/Watchet
- *Outer zone:* stretching around Taunton to the south, Minehead to the west, Weston-super-Mare to the north and to the west of the M5.

The most intensive public consultation will be within the 'inner zone' in the area immediately surrounding Hinkley Point C, with slightly less intensive consultation in a 'middle zone' encompassing Bridgwater, and predominantly stakeholder events further away in the 'outer zone' covering Taunton, Minehead and Weston-super-Mare.

Our proposals may include some associated development outside the 'inner zone'. We will hold public consultation events in the vicinity of these sites.

In line with published government guidance, we intend to take a broad view of our duty to consult under section 47 of the Act and will, therefore, also consult with:

- Parish and Town Councils, particularly within the 'inner' and 'middle' consultation zones defined above
- Hard to reach groups including those in wards identified as having very high levels of deprivation, young people (via local educational establishments) and key ethnic minorities highlighted by the local authorities
- Organisations representing the business community, local tourism industry and visitors to the area
- Other relevant community groups or organisations with an interest in our plans.

Although outside the scope of this SOCC, we are also required to consult the following under section 42 of the Act:

- Statutory consultees as specified in regulations, including regional stakeholders such as the Government Office for the South West (GOSW), the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) and South West Councils (SWC)
- The three relevant local authorities – West Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council – within whose boundaries our development proposals fall
- All neighbouring local authorities that share a boundary with these three local authorities including Exmoor National Park authority
- Owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of land within the areas we propose to develop.

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We also intend to consult with:

- Other key stakeholders including the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) teams for the Quantock and Mendip hills, the Somerset Strategic Partnership and Local Strategic Partnerships, the existing Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group (SSG), business groups, including IntoSomerset, and environmental groups.
- Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, local authorities who do not have adjacent boundaries but who may be indirectly affected by the proposals.

A map showing the local authorities we intend to consult is shown at Appendix 3.

8. How will we consult?

EDF Energy will hold a range of consultation events and use a variety of communication techniques to ensure that the public and stakeholders have an opportunity to comment on proposals for the development of Hinkley Point C.

We will also work closely with the relevant local authorities and other organisations, such as Planning Aid South West, to identify and engage with those whose voices are rarely heard in the planning process using techniques that don't rely solely on the written word.

Consultation methods

We are planning the following consultation methods for engaging with the public and stakeholders:

- *Residents meetings:* where appropriate we will invite people living in the immediate vicinity of the site, or near major infrastructure works to meet with our project team to discuss the plans at times and locations to suit their needs
- *Parish/Town council meetings:* we will offer to attend meetings of Parish Councils near the site (i.e. within the 'inner zone') and selected parish and town councils within the 'middle zone' (including Burnham-on-Sea and Bridgwater). We will also offer to meet with West Somerset's Area Panels and Sedgemoor District's Parish Cluster Areas
- *Council/stakeholder meetings:* we will offer to attend meetings of local authorities including the three relevant Somerset councils, Exmoor National Park and local strategic partnerships
- *Public exhibitions:* we will hold public exhibitions at appropriate locations during both stages of our consultation process. These exhibitions will take place over an afternoon/evening, or on a Saturday, and will be staffed by members of the project team. We will also send invitations to these events to representatives of the business community, the tourism industry and 'hard to reach' groups.
- *'Drop In' centre:* we will open the EDF Energy office in Bridgwater to the public during the whole consultation period so that people can 'drop in' during specified office hours to view and comment on our proposals
- *Stakeholder meetings and workshops:* during stage two of our consultation, we will invite key stakeholders to meetings and workshops to discuss in detail, with members of the project team, our 'Preferred Proposals'
- *Community Forum:* we have established a Community Forum to consider issues relating to the development of new nuclear power at Hinkley Point. Local community leaders and other key stakeholders are invited to attend its meetings and we will ensure that the Forum reviews and responds to our consultation process

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- *Focus groups:* during *stage two* of our consultation, we will arrange focus groups to discuss the plans with 'hard to reach' groups identified by the relevant local authorities and other organisations with experience in this area.

Other communication techniques

We intend to use the following communication techniques to explain our proposals to the local community and stakeholders, advertise the consultation events, obtain feedback and publicise the outcome of the consultation process:

- *Newsletters:* we will distribute our newsletter 'Hinkley Point – News from EDF Energy' to the community and key stakeholders during both stages of the consultation process. The newsletters will summarise EDF Energy's proposals, set out the scope of the consultation, advertise the main consultation events and report back on the outcome of the process. Distribution will be by post to households within the 'inner zone', by insertion in local newspapers in the 'middle zone' and by post to all the local stakeholders we have identified. The newsletter will also be placed on our website and we will arrange distribution through council offices and tourist information points
- *Website:* we will continue to provide information about Hinkley Point C on our website, www.edfconsultation.info The website will explain what we are consulting about, advertise the consultation events and allow people to submit their comments on-line via an enquiry form or questionnaire linked to the public exhibitions
- *Questionnaire/comments form:* we will provide a questionnaire or comments form for the public to record views when they attend our exhibitions or visit the 'Drop In' centre. They will be able to complete the questionnaire/comments form by hand at the exhibitions, return it to a 'Freepost' address, fill it out at a computer terminal at the exhibitions, or complete it on-line via the website
- *Direct communications:* we will send information directly via post and email to key local stakeholders we have identified and to members of the public who have asked to be kept in touch with our plans
- *Summary documents:* we will prepare non-technical summaries of what we are consulting about at the beginning of each stage of the consultation process. We will distribute these documents to key local stakeholders, make them available at all our consultation events and ask for copies to be displayed at public libraries, council offices and tourist information centres. They will also be available to download from the website.
- *Media and advertising:* we will advertise public exhibition dates, times and venues for both stages of our consultation process in local newspapers and seek media coverage of the main public consultation events. We will also advertise details of the proposed DCO application in local newspapers
- *Freephone and freepost:* we will provide a freephone information line during normal office hours to allow members of the public to find out more information and make their views known. A freepost facility will also be provided.

9. How will we respond to the consultation?

EDF Energy and its project team will consider carefully and respond to all issues raised during the pre-application consultation period.

We will publish a Consultation Report (CR) at the end of the process that will:

- Provide a general description of our consultation process
- Set out how we have complied with the Act and its related guidance

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- Explain how we have taken into account any response to consultation with the relevant local authorities about the SOCC
- Summarise the responses to the consultation
- Describe how the DCO application has been influenced by these responses and any changes we have made as a consequence
- Explain why any changes haven't been made in response to significant and relevant comments
- Explain where and why we have not followed the advice of the relevant local authorities or specific guidance published by the IPC.

EDF Energy acknowledges the importance of giving feedback to those who have contributed to the consultation. We will ensure that the outcomes of the consultation process are fed back to the local community, key stakeholders and statutory consultees by:

- Publishing the CR and submitting it to the relevant local authorities
- Providing a downloadable copy on the website
- Providing copies to public libraries and council information points in Somerset
- Communicating directly with identified local stakeholders and statutory consultees to notify them of publication of the CR
- Notifying the local media of publication of the CR
- Producing and distributing newsletters that summarise and report back on the consultation process
- Holding meetings of our Community Forum and meeting, if required, with local residents, Parish Councils and other local authorities.

10. Consultation timetable

A planned timetable for the two stages of the consultation is shown below. No major public-facing consultation events will be held during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Month/period	Consultation activities
November - December 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal start of <i>stage one</i> consultation process on 16th November • Publication of 'Initial Proposals and Options' summary document • Publication of 'Hinkley Point – News from EDF Energy', publicising the <i>stage one</i> public consultation programme • Meetings with local residents, Parish/Town Councils, key stakeholders and community groups • Public exhibitions at relevant locations • Community Forum meeting
January – February 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal close of <i>stage one</i> consultation process on 11th January • Consideration of response to <i>stage one</i> consultation • Publication of 'Hinkley Point – News from EDF Energy', reporting back on outcome of <i>stage one</i> consultation process • Meetings with local residents, Parish/Town Councils, key stakeholders and community groups
March – April 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal start of <i>stage two</i> consultation process in mid March • Publication of Proposal Summary Document • Publication of 'Hinkley Point – News from EDF Energy', publicising the <i>stage two</i> consultation programme • Public exhibitions in 'inner' and 'middle' consultation zones • Stakeholder workshops

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups • Community Forum meeting
May – June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal close of <i>stage two</i> consultation process in mid May • Consideration of responses to <i>stage two</i> consultation • Publication of 'Hinkley Point – News from EDF Energy', reporting back on outcome of <i>stage two</i> consultation process • Meetings with local residents, Parish/Town Councils, key stakeholders and community groups • Community Forum meeting
July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Consultation Report (CR) and submission of application to the IPC taking into account responses to consultation.

The dates of consultation events will be publicised at the start of each stage of the consultation process and will, wherever possible, be co-ordinated with other relevant local consultation activities.

11. Further information

Further information on EDF Energy and our pre-application consultation process on plans for Hinkley Point C can be obtained:

- From the EDF Energy office in Bridgwater: 14 Kings Square, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3DG, Tel: 01278 444600, Fax: 01278 445983
- On the website www.edfconsultation.info
- By calling our freephone telephone 0800 169 6507 (during normal office hours)*
- By writing to Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or full address is required)*.

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

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Appendix 1: Related Consultations

The table below shows related consultations that EDF Energy is aware of and will take into account in the detailed planning and presentation of its pre-application consultation for the DCO application for new nuclear development at Hinkley Point C.

Dates	Consultation subject	Who is being consulted?	Consultation owner
To November 2009	Sedgemoor District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options	Public/stakeholders/statutory consultees	Sedgemoor District Council
To November 2009	Waste Strategy Preferred Options (including nuclear waste issues)	Public/stakeholders/statutory consultees	Somerset County Council
To December 2009	National Grid Consultation on Route Corridor Options for Overhead Line Connection between Bridgwater and Avonmouth	Public/stakeholders/statutory consultees	National Grid
To December 2009	North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan	Public/stakeholders/statutory consultees	North Devon and Somerset Coastal Advisory Group/Environment Agency
To February 2010 (estimated)	The Government's Nuclear National Policy Statement	Public/stakeholders/statutory consultees	Department of Energy and Climate Change (Office for Nuclear Development)
January-March 2010	National Grid Consultation on Preferred Route Corridor/Route Alignment for Overhead Line Connection between Bridgwater and Avonmouth	Public/stakeholders/statutory consultees	National Grid

Appendix 2: Hinkley Point Consultation Zones



