



The Planning Inspectorate National Infrastructure Directorate 3/18 Eagle Wing Temple Quay House 2 The Square Bristol BS1 6PN	Direct Line:	
	Customer Services:	0303 444 5000
	Fax No:	
	e-mail:	

Project name:	Hinkley Point C
Address/Location:	Hinkley, Somerset
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN010001
Transboundary consultation process:	Regulation 24
Document used for transboundary Screening:	Hinkley Point C- Development Consent Order Hinkley Point C- Environmental Statement October 2011
Date	11 April 2012
Prepared by	FR
Approved by	DP

Screening Criteria	Secretary of State Comments
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<p>Characteristics of the Development</p>	<p>The project will comprise two UK EPR reactor units and shared facilities. The reactor is designed for a lifetime of 60 years. It is anticipated that the first reactor will be operational by the end of 2019 and the second by 2020 subject to the DCO being granted.</p> <p>Generated steam will power two turbines, directly connected to generators capable of producing around 1630MW of electrical power, giving a total site capacity of 3,260MW..</p> <p>New and spent fuel will be handled in the fuel building adjacent to the reactor building. Spent fuel will be moved to an on-site storage facility designed to accommodate the nuclear power station's lifetime spent fuel arisings and capable of storing the fuel for at least 100 years. The spent fuel will be disposed of in a geological disposal facility consistent with the Government's long term strategy.</p> <p>The 'permanent development' site for Hinkley Point C will comprise approximately 67.5ha and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Nuclear Islands each comprising a UK EPR reactor and associated buildings. • Two Conventional Islands, each including a Turbine Hall, located adjacent to the Nuclear Islands. • A Cooling Water Pumphouse for each UK EPR reactor unit with related infrastructure. • Sea bed cooling water intakes and outfall structures together with tunnels connecting these to the cooling water pumphouses and turbine halls. • Fuel and waste management facilities, transmission infrastructure including the National Grid 400kV substation, facilities, administration, storage facilities and other plant. • A Public Information Centre (PIC) to provide education and public information facilities. • A Sea Wall incorporating a public footpath. • Construction areas and facilities including a Temporary Aggregates Jetty (the jetty) for bulk aggregate delivery; • Temporary accommodation for construction workers; • Spoil disposal/landscape integration; and • Access and parking facilities for workers, visitors and deliveries for the main power station and the National Grid 400kV substation. <p>The development will be distributed over level platforms generally at 14m and 20m AOD. Elsewhere, the permanent landform will be in accordance with a landscape restoration proposal documented within the Environmental Statement (ES). All proposed National Grid overhead lines and towers, including the terminal towers and substation connecting downloads, will be subject to a separate DCO application by National Grid following public consultation, but the</p>

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	<p>cumulative impacts are considered within the EIA.</p> <p>Off-site associated development includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a bypass around the village of Cannington; • accommodation facilities for construction workers (campuses); • park and ride facilities; • freight consolidation/storage facilities; • refurbishment of Combwich Wharf and a heavy loads berthing facility; • temporary laydown and storage facilities on land adjacent to Combwich Wharf; • road improvements; and • spoil disposal/landscape integration. <p>In additional to the more conventional building techniques, there will be high tech construction techniques/methods for more sensitive construction and receiving environments, including the construction of cooling water intakes/outfalls in the Severn Estuary and the construction of the reactors and fuel storage facilities.</p> <p>As a result of the development during construction, operation and decommissioning, waste will be generated, and include the following types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radioactive and Non-radioactive waste • Solid radioactive waste • Liquid and gaseous radioactive waste • Spent fuel • Conventional waste –conventional wastes including industrial, inert and commercial wastes, are estimated at 1,200 tpa, of which less than 20% will be classified as ‘hazardous’. • The ES has considered the potential impacts and provided an opinion on why these impacts may or may not be significant taking into account amongst other things the capacity of the natural environment.
Geographical area	<p>The ES states that the distance to another EEA state as 230km (to Irish Territorial Waters) (see sections 7.10 and Table 7E.1 of Appendix 7E of the ES).</p>
Location of Development (including existing use)	<p>The site proposed for the new nuclear power station is located in the South West of England at Hinkley Point on the Somerset coast. It is a predominantly rural location within the parish of Stogursey in the District of West Somerset. The closest settlements to the development site are the hamlets of Shurton, Knighton, Burton, Stogursey and Stolford and the slightly larger settlements of Combwich and Cannington.</p> <p>The majority of the land being used for the main and associated</p>

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	development is agricultural land. Historic land uses include: possible storage and maintenance of vehicles and chemicals within farm buildings, former sewage works, former contractor's accommodation, fabrication compound and associated electrical substations.
Cumulative impacts	<p>Potential cumulative impacts arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decommissioning of the existing Hinkley Point A power station • Hinkley Point B is operational (NB: Hinkley Point B is due for decommissioning in 2016) power station • National Grid Hinkley Point C Connection Project • construction of the Steart coastal realignment • North East Bridgwater urban extension and other residential and commercial developments in the area • Bristol Harbour extension • The decommissioning of the existing, and construction and operation of new Oldbury Nuclear Power Station.
Carrier	<p>The ES contains an assessment of potential transboundary effects at Appendix 7E to Volume 1. Potential transboundary effects are identified as air quality, marine water quality, marine ecology and radiological impacts. Air quality impacts are assessed in Volume 2 Chapter 12 of the ES; marine water quality and ecology are assessed at Chapters 18 and 19 and radiological effects are assessed at Chapter 21. Potential impacts identified are assessed as not extending beyond the county of Somerset and the Severn Estuary.</p> <p>Any residual effects on human beings and sensitive ecological species/habitats would also be minimised and/or controlled through the imposition of appropriate licensing and monitoring conditions by the regulatory agencies.</p> <p>On the basis that licensing and monitoring conditions are effective, impacts will not be significant.</p>
Environmental Importance	<p>A number of internationally designated sites exist that will be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment, including: Severn Estuary SAC, Severn Estuary SPA, Somerset Levels and Moors SPA, Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar Site, Exmoor and Quantocks Oakwoods SAC, River Usk SAC, River Wye SAC, Afon Tywi SAC.</p> <p>The Project Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment submitted by the developer indicates that the extent of impacts in respect of nature conservation sites of European and national importance would not extend beyond the Severn Estuary, with no possibility of any adverse effects having a transboundary impact on another European Economic Area (EEA). An Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations has not yet been adopted by the Secretary of State. At this stage transboundary impacts on internationally designated sites in other EEAs are not anticipated.</p>

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Extent	The extent of impact is controlled through the design measures built into the development, the delivery of mitigation measures, effective control by the relevant regulatory bodies conditions and monitoring, no significant impacts on other EEA States are anticipated.
Magnitude	The magnitude of effects are controlled through the design measures built into the development, the delivery of mitigation measures, effective control by the relevant regulatory bodies conditions and monitoring, no significant impacts on other EEA States are anticipated.
Probability	<p>The probability of a radiological impact is considered to be low on the basis of the regulatory regimes in place.</p> <p>There could be direct impacts related to the discharge of water during normal operational conditions. However, the discharge of water is expected to be controlled by appropriate licensing conditions and regular monitoring, and hence the probability of any adverse impacts is likely to be low.</p> <p>The Developer has indicated that information is included in the Government's submission to the European Commission under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty to show that transboundary impacts from accidents during operation or decommissioning will be so low as to be exempt from regulatory control.</p>
Duration	The duration of any impacts will be minimised given the design measures built into the development, the delivery of mitigation measures, and controlled by the relevant regulatory conditions including monitoring, but could occur over the lifetime of the project, which would have an operational life of approximately 60 years, and would be decommissioned over 20 years. The Interim Fuel Store would be retained on site until a Geological Disposal Facility is able to accept the spent fuel for disposal.
Frequency	The frequency of any impacts will be minimised given the design measures built into the development, the delivery of mitigation measures, and controlled by the relevant regulatory conditions including monitoring.
Reversibility	The Developer has indicated that information is included in the Government's submission to the European Commission under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty to show that transboundary impacts from accidents during operation or decommissioning will be so low as to be exempt from regulatory control.

Conclusion

Under Regulation 24 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) and on the basis of the current information available from the Developer, the Secretary of State is of the view that the proposed development is **not likely** to have a significant effect on the environment in another

EEA State.

In reaching this view the Secretary of State has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in Secretary of State Advice Note 12 Transboundary Impacts Consultation); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the developer.

Action: No further action at this stage.

Note: The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2009 (as amended) continues throughout the application process.

Note:

1. The Secretary of State's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in Annex 4 to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 12 (see attached).

PLANNING INSPECTORATE Advice Note Twelve: Development with significant transboundary impacts

Annexe 4: Screening Matrix for likely significant effects on the environment of another EEA State

Criteria	Relevant considerations
Characteristics of the development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the size of the development? Use of natural resources Production of waste Pollution and nuisances Risk of accidents Use of technologies
Geographical area	What is the extent of the area of a likely impact under the jurisdiction of another country?
Location of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the existing use? What is the distance to another country? (Name country(ies))
Cumulative impacts	Are other major developments close by?
Carrier	By what means could impacts be spread?
Environmental importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are particular environmental values (eg protected areas – name them) likely to be affected? Capacity of the natural environment Wetlands, coastal zones, mountain and forest areas, nature reserves and parks, Natura 2000 sites, areas where environmental quality standards already exceeded, densely populated areas, landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
Extent	What is the likely extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population)
Magnitude	What will the likely magnitude of the change in relevant variables relative to the status quo, taking into account the sensitivity of the variable?
Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the degree of probability of the impact? Is the impact likely to occur as a consequence of normal conditions or exceptional situations, such as accidents?
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the impact likely to be temporary, short-term or long-term? Is the impact likely to relate to the construction, operation or decommissioning phase of the activity?
Frequency	What is likely to be the temporal pattern of the impact?
Reversibility	Is the impact likely to be reversible or irreversible?

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.