

WMTC Bradwell Sub-Committee Meeting - Agenda Item 19/007 Questions to discuss from Ian Clarke





Sizewell Off-site Emergency Plan 2014.pdf - see additional report

Please see below the following 3 items that I am asking to include under Agenda Item 19/007. I am sending this in case I am unable to attend the meeting due to personal commitments

and to enable the proposals and background information etc below to be given consideration by members of the sub-committee before the meeting to avoid delay at the meeting .

Bradwell B – Cooling Water Intake and Outfall

Proposal

That the Bradwell Sub-committee recommend to the Council (WMTC) that it takes a position that the cooling water intake and outfall for any new nuclear power station built at Bradwell must be outside of the Marine Conservation Zone and furthermore to a distance outside so as to have no impact on it

This should be communicated to the Environment Agency copied to BRB, ECC and CBC and the media i.e. for protection of the marine ecosystem of the MCZ especially the River Blackwater in which WMTC has an interest e.g. for local sea and shell-fish fisheries and related tourism and of birdlife for reasons below

Background

The marine surveys undertaken to date for BRB (from daily tracks of the survey vessel per examples attached) have all been inside the Marine Conservation Zone and most have been within the estuary itself including as far upstream as Osea Island

if a cooling water intake for any new nuclear power plant at Bradwell were placed in the estuary it would in effect act as a vacuum cleaner in that fish and crustaceans and other forms of marine life that its ecosystem is dependent could be destroyed

Even If the intake were placed outside the estuary the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) extends about 10 miles off-shore to the east. This further protects the shallow and tidal Blackwater and Colne estuaries including their sea and oyster fisheries.

Any proposals to place the intake and outfall within the MCZ or adjacent to it should be opposed due to its threat to marine life and birdlife such as seabirds which are themselves dependent for food on small fish. shrimp etc in the estuaries and inter-tidal areas.

If this were to occur it also appears unacceptable if the protection provided by the MCZ designation was reduced for the financial gain of foreign state owned companies such as EDF (France) and CGN (China) and any proposals to do this should now be withdrawn

Emergency Planning -Evacuation Plan

Proposal

That the Sub-Committee **recommend to the Council (WMTC) that having a duty of care to local residents it takes a position that its responses to CBC in respect of planning applications submitted for housing or holiday park developments should be qualified with its concern as the absence of a credible emergency plan for the evacuation of Mersea Island** given that Central Government has designated the Bradwell site as suitable for a new nuclear power station and radioactive waste store. This position should be communicated to ECC directly or via CBC

Background

It should be noted that the updated Sizewell B Emergency Plan which the Office of the Nuclear Regulator (ONR) has stated would form the basis of that for future nuclear plants requires that priority be given to the evacuation of tourists as “vulnerable” as they do not have the interim shelter as provided to residents by permanent eg brick buildings. In the case of Mersea island this could be perhaps 7,500 people. It is also likely that in practice residents perhaps another 7,500 would attempt to self-evacuate at the same time in panic eg especially if in advance of any perceived obstruction to the road by an incoming tide. It appears unacceptable to allow and significant increase in the resident or tourist population in the absence of a credible emergency plan for evacuation or while the Bradwell B project remains live and for planning purposes has a priority status ie is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)

It should be noted in the revised Sizewell plan it is recognised that in the context of Leiston and Aldringham nearby that an urban or semi urban area can not be divided for emergency planning purposes by street or post-code and that the whole area must be included in the same emergency plan ie that the partial evacuation of Mersea Island would not be relevant.

This is particularly relevant to Mersea Island given its proximity to the proposed Bradwell site and being under the prevailing 15 kmh south westerly wind ie so at risk in a short period .

Essex County Council are the relevant Emergency Planning Authority together with involvement from the ONR and BRB itself . It appears that ECC are providing support to Maldon District Council in their support of the project without consideration being provided to this aspect. ECC and CBC have a duty of care to residents to ensure that their safety is protected . It is not acceptable that this issue be considered as an after-thought ie that the continues to progress without these concerns being addressed especially as this is an issue causing anxiety amongst local residents especially due to their being only one way off the island ie by a road that is regularly obstructed by to tidal flooding making it impassable often for several hours each day.

Town Plan

Proposal

That the Sub-Committee **recommend to the Council (WMTC) that it communicates to ECC . CBC that a survey of residents has shown overwhelming concern and opposition to the proposals**

for the construction of a new nuclear power plant at Bradwell. This supports the Council's earlier position in its submission to DECC on environmental, public safety and other grounds. It should be requested that both ECC and CBC including our elected representatives respect and reflect the position taken on this by residents and echo their objections as appropriate.

Background

That the sub-committee further consider the outcome of the survey in respect of Bradwell B noting a significant majority of those responding expressed their objection which supports the position taken by WMTC . That the subcommittee consider how those who did not express an opinion on the Bradwell site (as requested by the question) but responded more generally in support of nuclear power should be considered ie that as they did not answer the question as to the Bradwell site they could not be said to be either in support of it or against it. It may be acceptable in determining the outcome that they be considered as either being of no opinion or be discounted, It may be more representative in terms of support or objection to consider only respondents who have supported or objected to the proposal . In any case a very significant majority of residents have supported the Council's position of objecting to the proposals

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