

Bradwell B Project – Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

February 2020

Statement of Community Consultation

Prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Overview

About this Statement of Community Consultation

This Statement of Community Consultation (**SoCC**) sets out how the Bradwell Power Generation Company Limited, (hereafter referred to as **Bradwell B**), will consult the local communities on its proposals for a new nuclear power station at Bradwell in the district of Maldon, Essex, (hereafter referred to as the **Bradwell B Project**).

This SoCC has been prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 2). Bradwell B took into account the views of Maldon District Council (MDC) and Essex County Council (ECC) before publishing the SoCC and making it available for inspection.

What is the Bradwell B Project?

The Government identifies that new nuclear power stations should play a significant role in the future generation of electricity for the United Kingdom (UK). The site was designated by the Government in 2011 as being potentially suitable for a new nuclear power station in the National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-6 (Ref. 3). The site neighbours the decommissioned Bradwell A nuclear power station.

The development on the main site, adjacent to Bradwell A, would include plant and ancillary structures and features that make up the operational Bradwell B power station, together with associated development to support its construction and operation. The Bradwell B power station would generate approximately 2.2GW of electricity, providing power for around 4 million homes per annum. In addition, the Bradwell B Project would include off-site associated development to support the

construction and operation of the power station. This would include, but not be limited to, sites to transport freight and construction workers to the main development site, as well as highway improvements and other infrastructure.

What companies form the Bradwell B Project?

CGN (through its wholly owned subsidiary General Nuclear International Limited) and EDF are partnering to develop the Bradwell B Project through the joint venture company Bradwell B. CGN and EDF have a long-standing partnership spanning 30 years. Together, in the UK, they are developing plans for a nuclear power station in Suffolk (Sizewell C) and are currently building a nuclear power station in Somerset (Hinkley Point C).

CGN is a major generator of low carbon energy in China and around the world and is the biggest builder of new nuclear power stations globally. CGN has more than 30 years' experience of safely delivering nuclear power projects.

EDF Energy, EDF's UK subsidiary, is the UK's largest producer of low-carbon electricity, providing around one-fifth of the country's demand. It currently operates the UK civil nuclear fleet consisting of eight power stations.

Context

UK Government Policy

The Bradwell B Project is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. The Secretary of State has adopted policies in relation to NSIPs in a series of National Policy Statements (NPS), the following of which are applicable to the Bradwell B Project:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (Ref. 4);
- National Policy Statement for Nuclear Energy Generation (NPS EN-6).

Collectively, these National Policy Statements establish that there is an urgent need for new electricity generating capacity, including nuclear. NPS EN-6 makes clear that an application for development consent for a new nuclear power station should be assessed on the basis that *'the need for such infrastructure has been demonstrated'* and goes on to identify the Bradwell B site as one of six sites potentially suitable for deployment for a new nuclear power station before the end of 2025.

A subsequent Written Ministerial Statement (7 December 2017) makes clear that the Government continues to give strong in-principle support to project proposals yet to apply for development consent and due for deployment beyond 2025 at those sites listed in NPS EN-6, including the Bradwell B site. Such sites should be considered under section 105(2) of the Planning Act 2008, together with policies provided by NPSs EN-1 and EN-6 as important and relevant matters.

Given the Government's support, the principle of nuclear power and the suitability of the Bradwell B site for a new nuclear power station will not be consulted on. Instead, the consultation will focus on seeking views on the Bradwell B Project proposals, which in some instances may include options.

The Planning Process for New Nuclear Power Stations

The proposed development will be subject to an application for development consent. The Planning Inspectorate, acting as the examining authority on behalf of the Secretary of State, will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will make the final decision.

The Consultation Process

Consultation is an important part of the planning and development process. The Planning Act 2008 requires developers to: (i) consult with the local community, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land affected by the proposals; and (ii) publicise the proposals more widely. This process is referred to as *'pre-application consultation'* and must be carried out before the application for development consent can be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, for examination.

Pre-application consultation is an important stage in the development consent process. It allows developers to share information about the proposed NSIP, to understand consultees' concerns and to seek to identify ways of mitigating the potential impacts of the development before the application is submitted.

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires developers to prepare and publish a SoCC explaining how they will consult people living in the vicinity of the proposed development. The consultation must then be undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC.

Statement of Community Consultation

This SoCC is designed to inform the community on how the consultation for the Bradwell B Project will be managed, explaining:

- briefly the Project, the approach to sharing environmental information and the development consenting process;
- when consultation will be undertaken;
- with whom and where the consultation will be undertaken;
- how people, groups and communities will be consulted; and
- how consultees can respond to the consultation and find out how feedback has been taken into account.

The Bradwell B Project team will ensure that consultation is meaningful, inclusive and easily understood to enable constructive and informed feedback. The consultation material will describe the Bradwell Project as a whole and explain those elements of the Bradwell Project proposals where views are actively sought, as well as those areas that are largely settled.

As required by the Planning Act 2008, a draft version of the SoCC was provided to MDC and ECC, as the relevant local authorities for review and comment. The final SoCC has been prepared having regard to the local authorities' responses. The final SoCC is available on the Bradwell B website (www.bradwellb.co.uk) and has been advertised in local and national newspapers, with weekly circulation across the district of Maldon and the county of Essex.

The Bradwell B Project

Bradwell B plans to build a new nuclear power station on land to the east of the existing Bradwell A power station.

The main permanent development will be the power station, which is likely to include: two UK HPR1000 units (a type of pressurised water reactor) and associated buildings; turbine halls and electrical buildings; cooling infrastructure and associated structures; an operational service centre; fuel and waste storage facilities; a National Grid 400kV substation; associated works including a simulator/training centre building; flood defence and coastal protection measures; highways works including a new access road; car parking; and landscaping.

Building a new power station at Bradwell would potentially affect those living in communities close to the main development site and off-site associated development sites through, for example: increased traffic; visual impact; loss of public access to parts of the site(s); and other potential environmental impacts.

Other temporary development is also likely to be needed to support the construction of the power station, including:

- construction areas including contractors' laydown, fabrication and storage facilities;
- earthwork management areas;
- temporary buildings and structures, including offices, plant, construction roads and parking areas;
- marine transport works;
- an accommodation campus and an area(s) for caravans;
- park and ride facilities and a logistics centre; and
- other road and rail works necessary to ensure appropriate access, whilst minimising impact on the local highway network.

Permanent development off-site could include highway improvements along the B1021 and other local roads to the east of the A12, as well as facilities to serve the operational power station, including a mobile emergency equipment garage and alternative emergency control centre.

EIA Development

The development of a new nuclear power station is classified under Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 as '*EIA Development*'. Bradwell B will carry out an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) of the Bradwell B Project proposals, with the findings detailed in the Environmental Statement, summarised in a Non-Technical Statement that will be submitted in support of the application for development consent. The Environmental Statement will be informed by consultation and engagement.

Preliminary Environmental Information

The consultation documents prepared to support each stage of consultation will include a summary of preliminary environmental information that we know at that point in time on the Bradwell B Project proposals. The level of preliminary environmental information included will vary depending on the focus of the stage of consultation and more detail will be provided at the later stages of consultation when we know more about the area in which our proposals are located, our preferred proposals and their effects. The information provided will include, but not be limited to, information on the main environmental issues such as: socio-economics, noise, traffic and transport, recreation, air quality, soils, hydrology, ecology, the marine environment and landscape and visual considerations. Information will be included on ways to reduce any potentially significant negative impacts through mitigation, including landscaping.

4. When we will be consulting

Stages of Consultation

Two main stages of pre-application consultation are currently envisaged ahead of submission of the application for development consent. This may be supplemented by further stages of limited, focused consultation, if considered necessary.

The Stage One consultation will consider the '*Initial Proposals and Options*' for the Bradwell B Project. Where appropriate, it will set out options, or search areas, for development, together with our initial views on the strategies that may be required to address effects and enhance benefits, so that the views of stakeholders can be taken into account and inform more detailed work.

Following the Stage One consultation, the responses and feedback received will inform the development of the proposals ahead of the Stage Two consultation, which will include preferred proposals and will include consultation with affected landowners and those with an interest in the land. Again, feedback from the second stage and any supplementary stages of consultation will be considered prior to submitting the application for development consent.

The launch dates for each stage of consultation will be announced and published at least 10 days before the start of that consultation stage. This will be done in a number of ways, which will include: publicising the consultation in local media and local newspapers; writing to the county, district and parish councils and other key stakeholders; and circulating a newsletter to all homes and businesses within the inner and outer consultation zones (refer to **Figures 1 and 2**). Details of the consultation activities will be included in this publicity, including dates and venues of public exhibitions.

Related Consultations

Bradwell B is not aware of any major consultation that is currently planned, but during the pre-application process all other major consultation exercises being undertaken in the local area will be monitored. Efforts will be made to co-ordinate the pre-application consultation stages with other major projects, where possible, to avoid confusion and/or consultation fatigue.

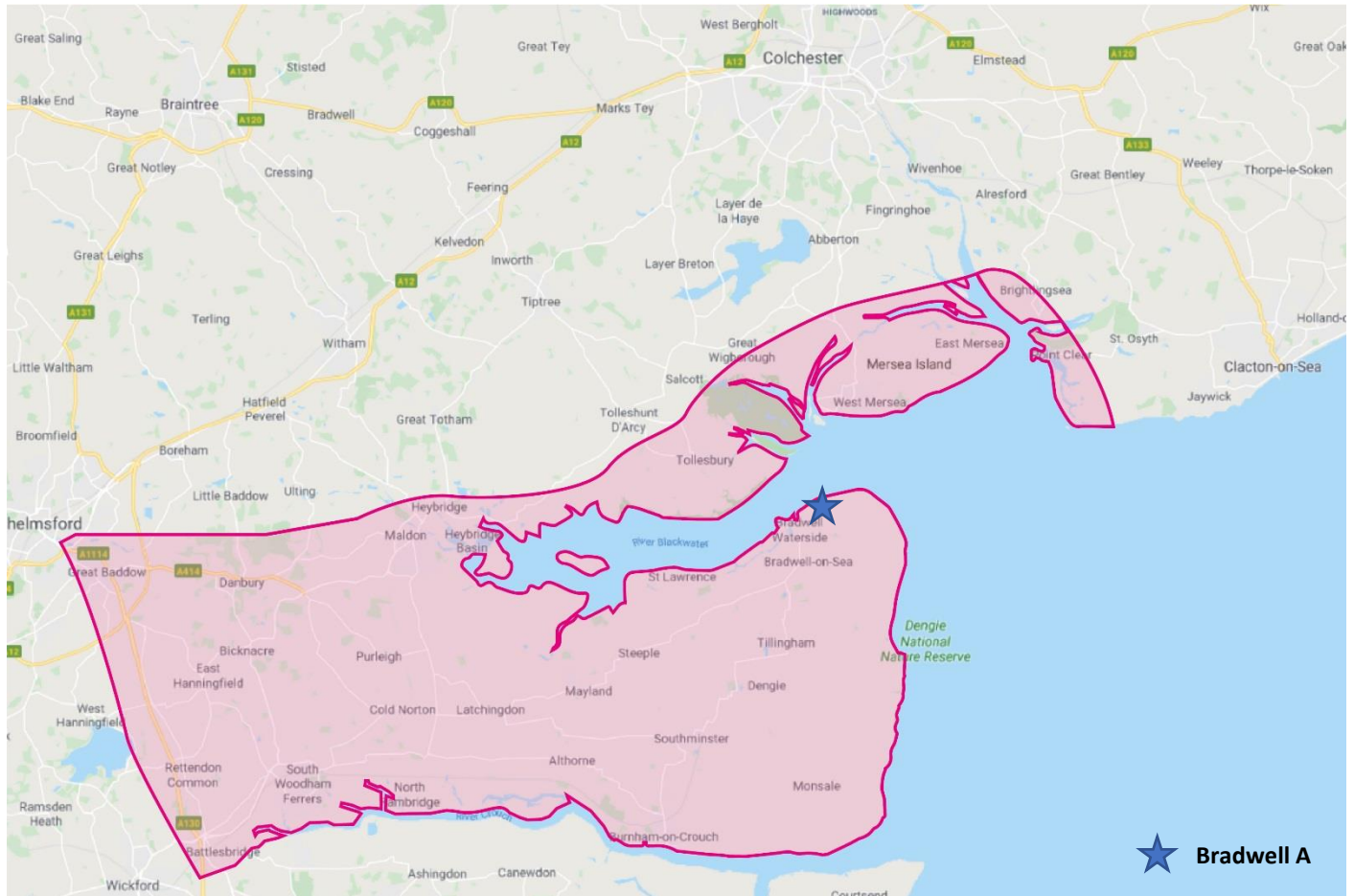
5. Who and where we will be consulting

Those living, working or otherwise using the local areas in the vicinity of the Bradwell B site and any off-site associated development sites are the focus of the consultation exercise, along with the statutory consultees.

The communities identified in **Figures 1 and 2** will be consulted. However, anyone can provide feedback on the proposals for the Bradwell B Project and written information will be made widely available, to ensure consultation is effective and accessible.

The community consultation process will take place across two geographical areas – an Inner Consultation Area (**Figure 1**) and Outer Consultation Area (**Figure 2**).

Figure 1: Inner Consultation Area



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

It is recognised that residents, communities, groups and their stakeholders will have different requirements for information and the process of consultation will reflect this. For example, in the Inner Consultation Area discussions are expected to particularly focus on the direct impacts arising from the construction and operation of the main development site, whereas the Outer Consultation Zone may have focus on broader economic and social matters and off-site associated developments, where appropriate.

Engagement events, including exhibitions, will be appropriately targeted within the Inner Consultation Area, recognising that these communities would potentially be the most affected by the Bradwell B Project. Public and other stakeholder engagement will also be undertaken in the Outer Consultation Area to help facilitate feedback from the wider public.

As well as consultation with the wider public and their representatives, we will also be working with specific groups, local businesses, community groups and other organisations to increase awareness of the Project and will work with MDC and ECC to identify specific ways to target hard to reach groups.

6. How we will consult

Consultation Material

Each stage of consultation will comprise: a Consultation Document that will include relevant preliminary environmental information; a Summary Consultation Document; and a questionnaire to assist the community in completing and submitting their feedback. Additional documents may also be provided, as appropriate, to support each stage of consultation.

If requested a translated version of the Summary Consultation Document can be provided for any minority languages used locally.

Consultation Activities

The Stage One Consultation will last ten weeks. The Stage Two Consultation will be at least ten weeks and will be discussed with MDC and ECC in advance. The duration of any further focussed stages of consultation will be agreed with MDC and ECC in advance, but we will be at least the statutory minimum period which is 28 days.

The consultation stages will be structured around a series of exhibition events and drop-in sessions that will allow people to meet the Bradwell B team and ask questions. These events will be spread across the Inner and Outer Consultation Areas but weighted towards areas anticipated to be most directly affected by the Bradwell B Project. Those interested in the Bradwell B Project will also be able to access information at local libraries and other civic buildings, although these locations will be unstaffed unless otherwise stated. In addition, all consultation documents will be available via the website (www.bradwellb.co.uk), where consultees will have the option to register and submit their feedback.

How will the consultation be advertised?

A number of ways will be used to advertise the consultations, including:

- **Newsletters:** these will publicise the consultation dates and include information on how people can respond and report on key Project milestones. The newsletter will be published on the Project website and delivered to all those in the Inner Consultation Area.
- **Press adverts:** the consultation events and associated activities will be publicised in the local media (e.g. newspaper adverts).

- **Posters:** posters will be placed in civic buildings (e.g. libraries, town/village halls and local authorities' offices) and issued to community groups and organisations for display. The posters will include details of the consultation events and explain how consultees can find out more about the consultations.
- **Stakeholders, groups and organisations:** Bradwell B will engage with a range of stakeholders, bodies and organisations to make them aware of the consultation events and, where appropriate, provide details of how their members can get involved.
- **Presentations:** Towns and Parish Councils can request meetings and presentations during the consultation stages.
- **Workshops and Focus Groups:** focus groups and/or workshops on relevant and appropriate aspects of the proposed development may be used to engage specific interests or hard-to-reach groups.
- **Website:** all consultation documents and others relevant information (e.g. event locations and timings) will be available on the Project website (www.bradwellb.co.uk).
- **Social media:** the Project Twitter account (@CGNBradwellB) will be used to publicise each stage of consultation, with the introduction of other social media channels as appropriate. Social media activity will also be used to identify any key issues that may trend in relation to the Project.

7. How you can respond

Those wishing to submit comments during the consultation process will be able to do so in a number of ways, including:

- completing a feedback form from one of the exhibition events or information points, returning it either at a public exhibition, to the freepost address ([insert](#)) or to the Bradwell B Project email address (info@bradwellb.co.uk).
- completing the online feedback form on the Bradwell B Project website (www.bradwellb.co.uk).

Additionally, for more information on the consultation, all stakeholders will be able to contact the Bradwell B Project Team through the Bradwell B Freephone Hotline (01621 451 451).

8. How feedback is considered and reported

Feedback will be collated and analysed from all stages of consultation, with regard taken as the Bradwell B Project proposals are developed and the application for development consent prepared. Common themes arising out of the feedback based on common key words, phrases or topics will be identified.

Whilst the views of communities expressed through the consultation will be influential in developing the Bradwell B Project proposals, Bradwell B must also take into account the views of local authorities and other statutory consultees, and consider what is technically and practically achievable in terms of delivering a new nuclear power station.

Feedback and analysis from each stage of consultation will be detailed in a Consultation Report. This will be a key application document submitted in support of the application for development consent.

9. Contact Information

For further information, please contact the Bradwell B Project Team in one of the following ways:

- Call Freephone 01621 451 451
- Email info@bradwellb.co.uk

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- Write xxx
 - Follow us on Twitter @CGNBradwellB

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