

9th October 2020



Hinkley Point C Update October 2020

EDF Appeal and Planning Inspectorate Call for Evidence

This is a Hinkley Point C update for Authority members. A full report including D&S IFCA's representation to the appeal will be provided at the December 2020 quarterly meeting

On the 7th October D&S IFCA received formal notification from the Environment Agency (EA) that NNB GenCo (a subsidiary of EDF Energy) has deemed the EA to have turned down their application for a variation of their environmental permit for Hinkley Point C, an application which sought to remove the Acoustic Fish Deterrents (AFD) from the cooling water intakes. On this basis NNB GenCo has appealed to the Secretary of State who has delegated their powers to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

In fact, the EA hasn't turned down the permit variation application but NNB GenCo have deemed this to be the case. This is thought to be due to the length of time the EA are taking to determine the permit and on the basis of discussions with the EA on the environmental assessments being undertaken: the EA had shared provisional assessments with NNB GenCo which suggested that the removal of the AFD from the permit is likely to be contrary to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations in terms of its effects on designated features of the Severn Estuary EMS.

At present it is thought that the appeal is to be decided by an Inquiry. It is unlikely that this will take place until 2021.

Representations for the appeal have to be submitted to PINS by the 27th October 2020. D&S IFCA will be making a submission in support of the Environment Agency.