

Appendix G1 – Business Support

Federation of Small Business

From: Sam Holliday <Sam.Holliday@fsb.org.uk>
Sent: 04 December 2024 13:58
To: andrew.cockcroft@nnb-edfenergy.com
Subject: EDF Saltmarsh Plan

Dear Andrew

As Britain's biggest business representation group in the South West, FSB in this region would like to add our voices to those who are very concerned about the highly damaging effect on local businesses if the planned creation of saltmarshes along the River Severn in Somerset and Gloucestershire goes ahead.

We were approached by concerned FSB members ahead of the public meeting on the plans in Kingston Seymour back in October and my colleague Ruth Lambert attended the meeting and heard first hand of the devastating impact the proposals could have on the sustainability of a large amount of well-established and well-regarded local businesses and the communities they serve.

If the plans are approved those who have businesses based in the proposed area to be flooded and those adjacent to it – some of whom have been there for many generations - risk losing their livelihoods and we know that the lack of alternative commercial properties will make it very difficult for these business owners to find equivalent sites to relocate to and to access from their homes.

We have been encouraged to see the huge and united response against the current plans from not only those directly affected but also by MPs, councillors and many other key stakeholders and we trust as a result EDF will urgently revisit the plans to alleviate the genuine stress and anger felt by many local people including many in the already hard-pressed rural business community.

Kind regards

Sam Holliday

Sam Holliday
FSB Development Manager

Environment Agency Response to Concerns on Freshwater Fishing Lake Businesses

From: Wessex Enquiries <WessexEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 December 2024 15:52
To: Bullock Farm <info@Bullockfarm.co.uk>
Subject: FW: Follow Up: GE36785: EDF/Hinkley Point - proposal to create salt marsh in Kingston Seymour

Our Ref: GE36785 – follow up

Dear Mr & Mrs Simmons

Please find our response to your follow up enquiry.

Question: The main question we feel is still to be answered from our e-mail of 11th October is what support and protection will the Environment Agency's Fisheries Department be able to provide to our freshwater fishery, the other two fisheries in the village and other local watercourses that may be affected by an influx of saltwater if the sea defences were to be breached?

Response: The company is investigating salt marsh locations as part of their compensation package for their Development Consent Order (DCO) variation. These sites are still under investigation and no final decision regarding location or design has been made at this stage. We understand the company will be undertaking a pre application consultation in January 2025 where members of the public, stakeholders and Statutory Consultees will be able to comment on their proposals.

If HPC need to breach the existing flood defences to create a new saltmarsh habitat. New tidal defences (such as flood banks and outfall structures) must be installed to protect communities from flooding, as well as to protect freshwater habitats including still waters such as angling venues. We would not support the breach of the existing flood defences until HPC has demonstrated that they have designed and constructed a suitable new tidal flood defence scheme. We are continuing to engage with HPC and to provide advice in our role as a statutory consultee in the DCO and as the principal flood risk management authority in England. Structures installed or modified as part of the proposed works will need to comply with the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 which will require the structures to be made passable for eels migrating into and out of the catchment, which will benefit eels by allowing access to a greater length of freshwater habitat. The Environment Agency has already raised the concern regarding saltwater ingress to retained freshwater habitats and will continue to do so through the statutory consultee procedure.

Question: Secondly, our point "EDF should be held to account and made to adhere to the installation of Acoustic Fish Deterrent which is a condition of their original planning application." has not been commented on. It seems to us to be madness to destroy the existing habitat to create another which, in all probability will not work

Response: The Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) will make the final decision on all matters relating to the removal of the AFD from the DCO; not the Environment Agency. However, the Environment Agency continues to provide advice and guidance to EDF through the DCO pre-application phase on matters that fall within their remit, including flood risk, biodiversity and fish and coastal processes. Our approach is consistent with any planning application where our advice is sought.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this process and you can sign up to the Planning Inspectorates website to receive updates and find out when to submit your views [Hinkley Point C New Nuclear Power Station Material Change 1 - Project information](#)

Our Fisheries and Biodiversity colleagues have added the following:

The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee, and where consulted through the planning and permitting routes, will require retained freshwater habitats (including stillwaters such as angling venues) to be protected from saltwater ingress. It is not possible to say at this current time how the freshwater habitats will be protected in the area around Kingston Seymour due to the proposal being in the early stages of development. However, there will be a requirement for tidal defences (such as flood banks and outfall structures) to be installed to protect communities from flooding, as well as to protect the freshwater habitats. Any tidal outfall structures installed or modified as part of the proposed works will need to comply with the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 which will require the structures to be made passable for eels migrating into and out of the catchment, which will benefit eels by allowing access to a greater length of freshwater habitat. The Environment Agency has already raised the concern regarding saltwater ingress to retained freshwater habitats and will continue to do so through the statutory consultee procedure.

We trust this response answers your enquiry. Should you require further information please contact us again at wessexenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Kind regards

Corinne Moyse

