



7 December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Public consultation on the process and criteria for designating potentially suitable sites in a new National Policy Statement (NPS) for nuclear power projects with over 1GW of single reactor capacity for the period 2026-2035.

I am writing to inform you of a public consultation on the process and criteria for designating potentially suitable sites in a new National Policy Statement (NPS) for nuclear power projects with over 1GW of single reactor capacity for the period 2026-2035.

We are consulting widely across the nuclear sector and your organisation was identified as possibly being interested in responding to this consultation, if you wish to do so the closing date for responses is 15 March 2018.

As background, National Policy Statements (NPS) establish the case for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, as defined in the Planning Act 2008. There are currently six NPS relevant to energy: one overarching energy NPS (EN-1) and five technology specific NPSs (EN2-6), including one on Nuclear Power (EN-6), which must be read with EN-1. Designated in 2011, the Nuclear Power NPS also lists eight sites (Hinkley, Wylfa, Sellafield (more commonly known as Moorside), Sizewell, Bradwell, Oldbury, Hartlepool and Heysham) capable of deployment before the end of 2025, as potentially suitable for new nuclear plants.

The original period to 2025 was used to focus on the sites most likely to deploy the soonest. The current nuclear NPS has successfully facilitated the granting of a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C in March 2013 and further nuclear projects are planning to make applications for DCOs in due course. The current NPS will continue to have effect for development consent applications for listed sites that are capable of deployment before the end of 2025. In parallel the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is considering the planning framework for nuclear power generation for the long term by starting work toward designating a new NPS for nuclear power projects with over 1GW of single reactor capacity capable of deployment between 2026 and -2035.

The first step towards this proposed new NPS is to consult on the process and criteria to designate potentially suitable sites for the deployment of new nuclear power stations.

In summary, the consultation sets out:

- Clarification on the scope of the new NPS making clear that it will apply to sites capable of deploying a nuclear power station with over 1GW of single reactor capacity between 2026 and 2035 and that Government will consider planning issues related to smaller reactors separately.
- The proposed strategic siting criteria Government proposes to use to assess which sites should be listed in the new NPS. These are those used in the original strategic siting process in April 2009 which have been updated to be consistent with current law and policy.
- The proposed process for assessing and designating potential sites:
 - Carrying the list of potentially suitable sites in the current NPS through to the new NPS (subject to them meeting the updated siting criteria and updates of their environmental assessments)*
 - No new site nominations window until the 2020s
 - 2035 as a new 'capable of deployment by' date to focus on those sites most likely to come on stream in good time to contribute to our goals on climate change and energy security

The consultation can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-policy-statement-for-new-nuclear-above-1gw-post-2025-siting-criteria-and-process>

The closing date to respond is 15 March 2018. We would welcome your views.

Yours faithfully,



Matt Clarke
Deputy Director
Civil Nuclear and Resilience Directorate.

* It is proposed that Hinkley Point C will not be listed in a new NPS as it already has its development consent.