
Redetermination of Hinkley Point Detailed Emergency Planning Zone 2023

Executive Members: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture & Cllr Sarah Dyke – Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change (formal decision making temporarily reassigned to the Leader / Deputy Leader of the Council)

Local Members and Division: Cllr Hugh Davies and Cllr Rosemary Woods, Watchet & Stogursey

Lead Officer: Kirsty Larkins, Service Director Climate, Environment and Sustainability
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1. Summary / Background

- 1.1 In August 2022, electricity generation ceased at Hinkley Point B site. Site Operator EDF Energy was required to produce a Consequence Report for Somerset County Council to detail the changed risk profile and to inform updates to the multi-agency off-site emergency plan that is maintained by the council.
- 1.2 Somerset Council is required by Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPPIR 2019) to use the Site Operator's Consequence Report as the basis for re-determining the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ), alongside guidance issued by the Office for Nuclear regulation and other relevant information including current emergency planning arrangements and stakeholder views. The objective of the DEPZ, and of the off-site plan, is to ensure that effective pre-planning is in place to inform and protect the public in the very unlikely event of an off-site nuclear emergency.
- 1.3 Having sought the views of local communities, professional partners, including the Radiation Emergency Response Group at the UK Health Security

Agency (UKHSA) and stakeholders. Somerset Council accepts the technical justification of the Site Operator's Consequences Report regarding urgent protective actions, however considers it necessary to maintain the provision of prior public information, in order to facilitate existing emergency planning arrangements and the health and wellbeing of the local population.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Governance and Communications & the Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture authorise the following changes to the Hinkley Point Detailed Emergency Planning Zone following the EDF Energy consequence report received in November 2022:

- a. The zone for urgent protective actions to be reduced to 800 metres from the centre of the reactor building;
- b. The existing 3.5 km Detailed Emergency Planning Zone be re-defined as a Public Information Zone.
- c. The removal of stable iodine tablets that are currently pre-distributed to households within the existing DEPZ.

3. Reasons for recommendations

3.1 Hinkley Point B site ceased generating electricity in August 2022 after over forty-five years of operation. Under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2019 (REPPIR), EDF is required to produce an evaluation of its continuing work with ionising radiation at the site, and to identify any hazards that could cause a radiation emergency.

3.2. Under the REPPIR 2019 regulations, it is the responsibility of Somerset Council to use EDF Energy's report, with input from UKHSA, to redetermine the size and shape of the DEPZ.

3.3. Taking into account the technical information, the feedback from the community engagement and the practicality of arrangements in the Hinkley Point Off-Site Plan, the recommendations for the DEPZ are as follows:

- Introduce an inner DEPZ out to 800m from the centre of the site as an evacuation and shelter zone

- Change the current DEPZ from 800m from the centre of the site to 3.5km to a public information zone.
- Remove the pre-distributed stable iodine tablets.

4. Other options considered

4.1 Options A: no change to the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone.

The option is not considered appropriate because the risk from the site has changed and there is no longer a requirement for automatic sheltering, evacuation, or the provision of stable iodine tablets to 3.5km from the site in the event of an off-site nuclear emergency.

4.2 Option B: remove the outer 3.5km zone and have only the 800m zone.

This option was considered as the risk has changed, but stakeholders advised that it could cause concern for local residents, as they were used to receiving regular information. The 3.5km DEPZ has been in place since the Hinkley Point A site was generating and the local residents have become accustomed to receiving regular information about the sites. In addition, the DEPZ will need to be reviewed again once the Hinkley Point C site prepares for activation.

4.3 Therefore it is recommended that the existing DEPZ be converted to a Public Information Zone, and the local residents should continue to receive information about the Hinkley Point B site, through the annual calendar that is produced and distributed on behalf of Somerset Council by EDF Energy.

5. Links to Council Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

5.1 This decision is a statutory duty for Somerset Council under REPPiR 2019.

5.2 The emergency planning activities contribute to the Council's priority for a flourishing and resilient Somerset.

6. Financial and Risk Implications

6.1 There are not considered to be any financial implications associated with this decision. Costs relating to off-site planning activities are recharged to EDF in line with REPPIR 2019.

6.2 There are not considered to be any key risks to the Council associated with this decision.

Likelihood		Impact		Risk Score	
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7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are not considered to be any legal implications associated with this decision. The decision is made in accordance with duties placed upon the Council by the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPIR) 2019 and the associated Approved Code of Practice.

8. HR Implications

8.1 There are not considered to be any HR implications associated with this decision.

9 Other Implications:

9.1 Equalities Implications

An equality impacts assessment has been completed. No negative impacts were identified.

9.2 Community Safety Implications

There are no expected community safety implications associated with this decision in terms of impact on local crime rates, fear of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. The proposals will maintain the current level of emergency preparedness information to the residents living within 3.5km of the site. Feedback from residents and the Parish Councils indicates that the information is valued and provides reassurance.

9.3 Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

There are not considered to be any sustainability implications associated with this decision.

9.4 Health and Safety Implications

There are not considered to be any health and safety implications associated with this decision.

9.5 Health and Wellbeing Implications

There are positive implications for health and wellbeing associated with this decision. Feedback from local residents indicates that they value the preparedness information circulated annually by means of the calendar, and it provides confidence and reassurance about the off-site emergency planning measures. The Director of Public Health and executive member for health and well-being have been consulted as part of the decision making process

9.6 Social Value

As this is not a commissioning activity, there are not considered to be any social value opportunities associated with this decision.

9.7 Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

The proposed decision has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee.

10. Background

10.1 Under the REPPIR 2019 regulations, it is the responsibility of Somerset Council to use the consequence report to redetermine the size and shape of the DEPZ, within two months of receiving the consequence report. This timeline has been extended due to the need to consult and seek advice from specialist agencies, prior to engaging with the local residents. Somerset Council is also responsible for maintaining the multi-agency Hinkley Point off-site emergency plan. This work is delivered by the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU.)

10.2 Somerset Council was previously required to redetermine the DEPZ boundaries in late 2019/early 2020 following the revision of the REPPIR regulations. At that

time, there had been no changes to the operations at the Hinkley Point B site, so the decision in 2019 was to maintain the DEPZ out to a distance of 3.5 km from the site, but to adjust the boundaries slightly to follow local landscape features rather than a circle on a map.

10.3 Following the receipt of the Consequence Report, CCU officers sought technical advice and guidance from subject matter experts at UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Somerset Council Public Health team. Engagement activities were carried out with the existing DEPZ residents, and the local Elected Members to inform the determination decision. Neighbouring local authorities and agencies with a role in Hinkley Point Off Site plan were informed of the Consequence Report.

10.4 Engagement with the local residents included two letters to every household in the DEPZ plus an information document, a presentation to Stogursey Parish Council, two face-to-face community drop-in session at the Victory Hall in Stogursey and an on-line survey.

10.5 Very few comments have been received from the DEPZ residents. This may be a reflection of the local communities being very accustomed to Hinkley matters and comfortable with the amount of information provided. In addition, the previous redetermination of the DEPZ was held recently in 2019. The main issues raised at the drop-in sessions were questions about the removal of the stable iodine tablets, queries about the decommissioning processes (out of scope for this decision as it is the responsibility of the site operator) and requests that residents should continue to receive the annual calendars.

10.6 Taking into account the technical information, the feedback from the community engagement, and the practicality of arrangements in the Hinkley Point Off-Site Plan, the recommendations for the DEPZ is as follows:

- Maintain the current DEPZ out to 3.5km from the site as a public information zone.
- Introduce an inner zone, called the DEPZ, out to 800m from the site as an evacuation and shelter zone.
- Remove the pre-distributed Stable Iodine tablets.

11. Background Papers

Hinkley Point B Station Consequence Report (October 2022)

Notification letter to DEPZ residents (November 2022)

Information letter to DEPZ residents (March 2023)

Fact sheet for DEPZ residents (March 2023)




Survey questionnaire (March 2023)

Report Sign-Off

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark	13/6/2023
Communications	Chris Palmer	13/6/2023
Finance & Procurement	Jason Vaughan	26/4/2023
Workforce	Chris Squire	25/4/2023
Asset Management	Ollie Woodhams	13/6/2023
Executive Director / Senior Manager	Mickey Green Kirsty Larkins	25/4/2023
Strategy & Performance	Alyn Jones	26/4/2023
Executive Lead Member	Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts	25/4/2023
Executive Lead Member	Cllr Sarah Dyke	26/6/2023
Consulted:		
Local Division Members	Cllr Hugh Davies	25/4/2023
	Cllr Rosemary Woods	25/4/2023
Opposition Spokesperson Community	Cllr Andy Dingwall	27/4/2023
Opposition Spokesperson Environment & Climate Change	Cllr Conner Payne	21/6/2023
Scrutiny Chair Community	Cllr Gwil Wren	26/5/2023
Scrutiny Chair Environment & Climate Change	Cllr Martin Dimery	21/6/2023

Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer or www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment

Organisation prepared for (mark as appropriate)	 Somerset Council	×	 Somerset	 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	
Version	1.0		Date Completed	24/04/2023	
Description of what is being impact assessed					
<p>Redetermination of Hinkley Point detailed emergency planning zone 2023 Due to HPB no longer generating electricity since August 2022, there has been a need to redefine the emergency plan zone from 3.5km from site to 800m from site but still keeping the 3.5km as a public information zone.</p>					
Evidence					
<p>What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the Office of National Statistics, Somerset Intelligence Partnership, Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), Staff and/ or area profiles,, should be detailed here</p>					
<p>Understanding population of the current 3.5km zone from HPB</p>					

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups and what have they told you? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

Active consultation was undertaken with the affected residents within the 3.5km current zone including an on-line survey and face to face consultations held by Somerset Council, the results of which show that people wanted to keep the 3.5km zone for public information.

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

This is a high-level impact assessment on the following basis:

1. 800m from site there are no residents.
2. EDF Energy maintain and hold information regarding the residents within the wider 3.5km zone as residents can sign up to a phone alert system (PETIS) and therefore through that process any vulnerabilities would be captured
3. There is the coast path that does crisscross the zone

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elderly residents will continue to receive annual calendar telling them of what to do in an emergency 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled residents will continue to receive annual calendar telling them what to do in an emergency • EDF will hold details where local residents have signed up to to PETIS system of alerts of any specific vulnerabilities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impacts identified 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impacts identified 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impacts identified 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF will hold details where local residents have signed up to to PETIS system of alerts of any specific vulnerabilities • Residents will continue to receive annual calendar telling what to do in an emergency 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impacts identified 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impacts identified 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impacts identified 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impacts identified 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, e.g. carers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDF will understand the residents within the 3.5km zone, which will now become a public information zone 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negative outcomes action plan Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.				

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.				

Completed by:	Paul Stevens
Date	19 th April
Signed off by:	
Date	
Equality Lead sign off name:	Angela Farmer
Equality Lead sign off date:	21 st April 2023
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
Review date:	