

From: Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure

To: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

Subject: Nuclear compliance 2024

Decision no: 24/00070

Key Decision: Yes – Decision involves a new Strategy or Policy outside of the Policy Framework

Classification: UNRESTRICTED

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Romney Marsh – Tony Hills

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes

Summary: This report considers the proposed reduction to the Detailed Emergency Planning zone (DEPZ) for offsite emergency planning for the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station.

Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member consider the following proposal:

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services to agree to:

1. **APPROVE** The Reduction to the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for offsite emergency planning for the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station.
 2. **APPROVE** the amendments to Kent County Council's Offsite Emergency Plan to reflect the reduction in risk around the site, following the defueling of the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station, to reflect current planning assumptions.
 3. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Infrastructure in their capacity as strategic lead for Resilience & Emergency Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, to take decisions on the future size of the DEPZ.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Kent County Council (KCC) is responsible for Offsite Emergency Planning for the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station. This includes the determination of a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) around the power station, based on the operator's (EDF) recommendation. The DEPZ identifies the area where

urgent protective actions may be needed in the event of a radiation emergency. Due to defueling operations at the power station (as part of the decommissioning process), EDF are now recommending a reduction in the size of the DEPZ area.

2. Key Considerations

- 2.1 The decision concerns the provision of infrastructure for the community in the event of an emergency and forms part of KCC's role in making Kent's communities safe, which supports the Framing Kent's Future - Our Council Strategy 2022-2026 strategy.
- 2.2 The decision results from a review of an existing Dungeness B Offsite Emergency Plan which will support local residents and provide multi-agency responders with the current risk around the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station, which supports Securing Kent's Future 2022 -2026 strategy.

3. Background

- 3.1 For evacuation, EDF have assessed that a distance of less than 200m from the centre of Dungeness B's reactor building is sufficient. This distance does not extend off-site onto public access land, and therefore evacuation is not recommended as an urgent protective action in the DEPZ. However, some residents and visitors to the area may choose to evacuate, and therefore arrangements will need to be made to shelter those people, should the need arise.
- 3.2 For sheltering, EDF have assessed that a distance of up to 300m from the centre of Dungeness B's reactor building is sufficient. Even allowing for a release arising from elsewhere in the reactor building (rather than its centre), a distance of 300m would only affect areas close to the Dungeness site fence, notably the public beach to the south of the site. The closest dwellings (the Royal Naval Shore Signal Stations (RNSSS) cottages) are 300m from the northeast corner of the Dungeness B fence, or around 500m from the centre of the reactor building.
- 3.3 In defining the new DEPZ boundary, KCC have used geographic features such as roads and footpaths, an approach which complies with the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPPIR) 19 regulations. The size of the current DEPZ is 13.62km² which was previously agreed by Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee . The reduction of the size of the DEPZ from 13.62km² to 7.88km², will still allow KCC to consider protective actions to the wider public who live in, or who are visiting Dungeness.

4. Options considered and dismissed, and associated risk

4.1 Do nothing

4.1.1 Keeping the current DEPZ would keep a large Detailed Emergency Planning Zone that is not required due to the reduction in risk due to the decommissioning works at the power station.

4.1.2 Maintaining the current DEPZ would require a more extensive response in the event of a radiation emergency, and lead to the provision of protective actions to residents and communities who do not require them, thus diverting resources from where they may be needed.

4.2 Rely on national government, local mutual aid agreements or military support.

4.2.1 Mutual aid agreements between local authorities are already in place but they are limited in scope and do not provide the capability which would be required in the event of a radiation emergency.

4.2.2 Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) may be sought in such an incident, but it cannot be guaranteed and does not provide the specialist equipment required. MACA also requires that all civil options have been exhausted before it can be undertaken, including the commercial providers who could be contracted under this decision.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There is no Financial Implications for Kent County Council as a result of this decision.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The REPPiR places a duty upon upper tier local authorities to 'make, maintain and test' offsite emergency plans for nuclear installations at least every 3 years, and describe measures to inform the public in relation to the health protection countermeasures to be taken, in the event of a radiation emergency.

6.2 Revised and updated REPPiR regulations were published in May 2019 and a raft of other detailed regulatory changes in relation to offsite planning. This required KCC to comprehensively review and update the offsite emergency plan for Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station.

6.3 Regulation 7 of REPPiR 19 requires site operators to provide the Local Authority with a Consequence Report. This sets out the minimum geographical extent from the premises that should be covered by the Local Authority's off-site emergency plan for the site.

7. Equalities implications

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed and it is not felt that this decision presents any impact on any of the nine areas specified by KCC.

8. Data Protection Implications

8.1 A Data Protection Implication Assessment (DPIA) screening tool has concluded that there are no data protection implications anticipated.

9. Other corporate implications

9.1 None.

10. Governance

10.1 The Director of Infrastructure will take necessary actions to implement the decision to reduce the Detailed Emergency Planning zone (DEPZ) for offsite emergency planning for the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station, and will instruct amendments to Kent County Councils Offsite Emergency Plan to reflect the reduction in risk around the site following the defueling of the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station, to reflect current planning assumptions.

11. Conclusions

11.1 The DEPZ should be reduced as recommended by the operator, so that KCC's response in the event of a radiation emergency is proportionate to the lower risk levels around the site, following the defueling of the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station.

Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member consider the following proposal:

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services to agree to:

1. **APPROVE** The Reduction to the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for offsite emergency planning for the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station.
2. **APPROVE** the amendments to Kent County Council's Offsite Emergency Plan to reflect the reduction in risk around the site, following the defueling of the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station, to reflect current planning assumptions.
3. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Infrastructure in their capacity as strategic lead for Resilience & Emergency Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, to take decisions on the future size of the DEPZ.

10. Background Documents / Appendices

10.1 Appendix A – Proposed Record of Decision

10.2 Appendix B – Aerial photo view of Proposed Revision to Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ)

10.3 Appendix C - Published Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA)

11. Contact details

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