

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer,  
HM Treasury,  
Chief Secretary's Office,  
1 Horse Guards Parade,  
London,  
SW1A 2HQ

29th September 2020

Dear Chancellor,

## **Future of new nuclear power in the UK**

I'm writing to you in connection with the Government's discussions on the financing of new nuclear power stations. We understand that you are meeting EDF's CEO Jean-Bernard Lévy tomorrow. It is reported that EDF are 'demanding clarity' on how financing is to take place for the proposed Sizewell C plant. It is absolutely critical that the Government is not bounced into taking a hasty decision, particularly given the extent to which renewables, effective storage and energy system management technologies have advanced in recent years.

It is unclear that new nuclear power will really be needed. The proportion of zero carbon power that can be delivered by renewables with full system security has climbed as smart technology and understanding of how to manage the system has improved. Even in 2018 (before the latest drops in the costs of offshore wind), the National Infrastructure Commission advised that only one more nuclear power station should be approved before 2025. So, even for those who see the nuclear issue as purely one of cost (ignoring those issues of waste management, accident risk, proliferation etc), there is simply no rush to strike a financing deal with EDF for Sizewell.

Nuclear supporters have often made demands for urgent Government decisions to be made to provide more support. However, being pushed into a decision at this stage could have a heavy cost - both to UK consumers and taxpayers, and to the UK Government's wider credibility in delivering an industrial strategy that is in line with the direction of the 21st century economy.

I enclose a briefing that sets out the key issues which the Government should fully account

For. In the case of Sizewell, these issues also extend to the nature of EDF's proposed EPR reactor, and EDF's ability to construct new reactors within acceptable costs and timeframes.

Whatever one's views of nuclear power, nothing should be agreed in haste given the amount of time the National Infrastructure Commission advise is available. The UK Government first needs to take a long hard look at the future of the energy system, and the trajectory for power sector costs and innovation up to 2034, when Sizewell might - according to EDF's proposal - actually open.

Yours sincerely,



John Sauven  
Executive Director, Greenpeace UK

CC Minister Kwarteng and Minister Zahawi, BEIS  
CC Advisors in the Prime Minister's office