



3 October 2019

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Unique ref: 2019/286579

Dear Mr Ogilvie-White

Freedom of Information Request Reference No: FOI201909026

Thank you for your request for information received by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on 7 September 2019.

Your enquiry is being dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested:

1) Please provide me with any information held by ONR in relation to Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station facility and review or planned review of the Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment from potential oil and gas exploration or development activities, including wastewater disposal.

2) Please can you provide me with any correspondence relating to issues raised by any of the following parties in relation to potential petroleum exploration and development activity in the vicinity of Hinkley Point Power Station:

2a ONR - OGA

2b ONR - Licensee

2c ONR - Somerset County Council

2d ONR - any representative of South Western Energy Ltd, Transgas Ltd or Infinity Energy Ltd

3) Given that EDF has recently announced that a major milestone will be reached during 2019 when the 4,500 tonne concrete platform that will form a base for the reactor buildings will be complete, please provide me with the following information relating to further work to be completed by NNB Genco, or other contractors, subsequent to the findings contained within Hinkley Point C Pre-Construction Safety Report 2012 – Assessment Report for Work Stream B7 External Hazards.
Recommendations:

3a 5.1 Page 27 para 104 “The Licensee shall complete the seismic hazard forward work programme to confirm the seismic design basis to be used for plant design before end December 2014.”

And page 38 Table 3 UK EPR GDA Assessment Findings Relevant to External Hazards

3b AF-UK EPR-CE-020 The Licensee shall ensure that due regard is taken of the effects of Structure- Soil Structure Interaction in the seismic analysis of the Class 1 and 2 structures. (Milestone: First structural concrete)

3c AF-UK EPR-CE-029 The Licensee shall demonstrate the suitability of the equivalent lateral load method for the application of seismic loads to Seismic Class 1 and 2 structures if this approach is used. (Milestone: Nuclear island safety related concrete)

3d AF-UK EPR-CE-030 The Licensee shall demonstrate the stability of the NAB in terms of sliding and overturning under seismic loading. (Milestone: Nuclear island safety related concrete)

<http://www.onr.org.uk/hinkley-point-c/pre-construction-reports/onr-cnrc-ar-13-108-external-hazards.pdf>

ONR's response:

We have addressed each of your specific requests in turn below.

1) With respect to Question 1, we confirm that ONR does not hold the information described in your request. ONR are not aware of any information pertaining to review, or plans to review, the Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis (PSHA) for the Hinkley Point C (HPC) site due to potential oil and gas exploration or development activities, including wastewater disposal.

2) Regarding Question 2, we confirm that ONR does not hold the information described in your request. ONR are not aware of any correspondence between the parties highlighted relating to potential petroleum exploration and development activity in the vicinity of Hinkley Point Power Station.

3) In relation to Question 3, the Seismic Hazard forward programme of work has been completed resulting in a new PSHA study for the HPC site being produced. Further information regarding this study can be found in the open literature as follows:

- 1) Aldama-Bustos, G., Tromans, I. J., Strasser, F., Garrard, G., Green, G., Rivers, L., ... Robertson, C. (2019). A streamlined approach for the seismic hazard assessment of a new nuclear power plant in the UK. *Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering*, 17(1), 37-54. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10518-018-0442-5>
- 2) Lessi-Cheimariou, A., Tromans, I.J., Rathje, E. et al. (2018), Sensitivity of surface hazard to different factors and site response analysis approaches: a case study for a soft rock site, *Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering* (2019), 17: 73. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10518-018-0446-1>

Concerning the other recommendations highlighted in your request (3a, 3b, 3c & 3d); these have been closed via ONR's assessment activities that culminated in ONR's assessment of a request by NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd for Consent to commence unit 1 nuclear island concrete. Further information may be found in the relevant [Project Assessment Report](#)¹ available on the ONR website.

Further Information

If you are unhappy with the decisions made by ONR you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to me quoting the reference number above.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Address: The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700
Fax: 01625 524510

Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely

Emma Lui
Policy and Communications Directorate

¹ <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/2018/hinkley-point-c-18-006.pdf>.
Office for Nuclear Regulation