

**Ofgem consultation: Hinkley-Seabank – Consultation on Final Needs Case and potential delivery models. Nuclear Industry Association response**

1. The Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) welcomes this opportunity to respond to Ofgem's consultation.
2. NIA is the trade association and information and representative body for the civil nuclear industry in the UK. It represents around 260 companies operating in all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle, including the current and prospective operators of the nuclear power stations, the international designers and vendors of nuclear power stations, and those engaged in decommissioning, waste management and nuclear liabilities management. Members also include nuclear equipment suppliers, engineering and construction firms, nuclear research organisations, and legal, financial and consultancy companies.
3. EDF Energy, as the new nuclear build developer concerned, will be making a detailed response to this consultation. As the trade association for the wider nuclear industry however we would like to make some broader points relating to the need for the T-pylon and to potential delivery models.
4. Whilst we clearly support the general principal that competition should be introduced where it is in the consumer and communities' interest to do so, we believe that this should be carefully balanced against any potential risks that could be introduced to a project. A new nuclear station represents a very large capital investment and it is important that additional risk to the completion of works to connect and start full commercial operation as planned are minimised. Similarly once a station has been commissioned it is vital a stations electrical grid connections are as reliable as possible, and again that any risks to this are avoided.
5. This is also important from a national perspective. The nuclear power stations planned for the UK's new nuclear build programme will help the UK meet its energy security and climate change objectives, and will bring major economic and social benefits both in the local area and nationwide.
6. Against this background we support National Grid's approach for the Seabank to Avonmouth line, including innovation in terms of the tower design which lessens the visual impact of the new overhead lines and the use of underground lines in sensitive environmental areas. In terms of enhanced competition, for the reasons outlined above, we believe that it is essential that increased risks and uncertainties to the project are avoided. We therefore believe that no change should be made to the current delivery model unless this can be guaranteed.

**NIA 11 October 2017**