



Site Stakeholder Group

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT SIZEWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2022**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

Marianne Fellowes
Pete Wilkinson
Pat Hogan
Trevor Branton
Joan Girling
Cllr Russ Rainger
Cllr Nicky Corbett
Cllr Tom Daley

Chair
Deputy Chair
Sizewell Residents Association
Co-Opted Member
Co-Opted Member
Suffolk Town Council/Snape Parish Council
Leiston Town Council
East Suffolk Council

Operators and Officers

Carolyn Barnes
John McNamara
Sohail Ashraf
Robert Gunn
Peter Reynolds
John Rogers
Sean Verrall
Niki Rousseau
Sarah Osborne
Kirsty Ramsden
Suzy Dearnley
Daniel Gregory
Paul Berenguier
Marjorie Barnes

East Suffolk Council
NDA
Site Director Sizewell A
Station Director Sizewell B
EA Inspector SZA & SZB
ONR Inspector SZA
Plant Manager SZB
Communications SZB
SZB Visitor Centre
Communications SZA
Minute Taker
ONR Inspector SZB
French Nuclear Safety Authority
EDF New Build

Members of the public

Robert Hoggart
Jenny Kirtley
Mike Taylor
Janet Fendley
Chris Wilson

Apologies

Cllr Ian Mallet
Cllr Mary-Anne Woolf
Rachel Fulcher
Cllr Peter Palmer
Cllr Craig Rivett
Becky Heginbotham-Blount

Suffolk Fire and Rescue
Leiston Town Council
Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth
Aldeburgh Town Council
East Suffolk Council
Suffolk Resilience Forum Strategic Advisor

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1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4686 List of attendees will be made available as part of the minutes.

Marianne welcomed the group to today's meeting. Marianne explained that the meeting will be recorded for the purposes of the minutes only

2. SIZEWELL A REPORTS

A. Sohail Ashraf (Site Director, Magnox)

4687 Sohail introduced himself and explained that he is also the Site Director for Bradwell. Sohail welcomed questions after the presentation.

Sohail delivered his report and highlighted the following points:

4688 Safety and Compliance:

- Re-focus and campaign on Human Performance Tools to assist transition of working from home to working back in the office safely.
- Fire Service attended SZA Site for familiarisation of building location and layouts as part of Emergency Preparedness Arrangements.
- COVID measures are still in line with Government guidelines – including ventilation of workspaces as well as cleaning and hygiene activities. Currently there are 3 members of staff that have tested positive and working from home.
- Seagull Deterrents – liaising with specialists to provide guidance. A number of visual and audible devices have been trialled resulting in a reduction of around 40% of birds.

4689 Sustainability Group

- Training modules made available to all staff and contractors.
- At the design stage seek to re-use materials where possible.
- Looking at reducing energy consumption on site. This will include installation of sensors, better arrangements for refurbished buildings and a package of work to look at SZA's energy use going forward.
- Continued surveillance of wildlife by the Environmental Team. Black Red Starts nest discovered in the site's garage – all vehicles were removed to allow the birds to be undisturbed – the chicks have since fledged.

4690 Turbine Hall – Preparing for demolition

- The contract for demolition will be awarded later this month.
- Mobilisation and set-up.
- Refurbishment and Demolition (R&D) Asbestos survey and removal via approved routes.
- De-plant of the internal redundant plant.
- We will minimise disruption during this time. An open evening for local residents and SSG chair to come onto site will be scheduled for July/August 2022. This is an opportunity to view the programme of works and see the location of works.
- Approximately two and half years' duration.

4691

Ponds Progress

- Plasma cutting trials and clearing of waste from the de-plant of the platform.
- Development of Ultra High Water Pressure (UHWP) coupon sampling rig design.
- Modifications to Skip Crane to enable it to be de-planted.

4692

Waste Management

- Surveys carried out of the Combustible and Non-Combustible Active Waste Voids. The results of these surveys will determine the scope of work to recover, sort, segregate and dispatch the waste.

Waste Operations look-ahead:**Conventional Waste:**

- Green-safe IT disposal route being set up for redundant IT equipment.
- Remaining waste generated from the new waste slab to be processed and disposed at the end of the month.
- Cables removed as part of the work to electrically isolate the Turbine Hall to be processed and disposed.

Radioactive Waste:

- Ponds Skip characterisation – low level waste skip movement trials completed.
- Legacy radioactive and conventional waste removed from the Reactor Building.
- Proposal to transport very small amounts of radioactive waste generated during the annual inspections at Bradwell over to Sizewell for processing and packaging purposes only. This is due to there being no approved waste route at Bradwell and will be transferred via light goods vehicles which are already in use, equating to less than 5 vehicles per year.

4693

Asset management

- On-going works
 - Waste handling slab
 - Asbestos “Fix It Now” Team to manage high risk items on the asbestos register.
 - Non-destructive inspections of the Top Duct T Hanger.
- Up-Coming Work
 - Transfer of the Grid Land to EDF (licensing and infrastructure separation)

4694

Magnox Socio-economic Scheme 2021/22

- Budget of £1,020,035 – Unspent by 97p.
- Further £1,264,628 of NDA directly funded projects.

4695

Sizewell A Funding 2021/22

- Total Magnox funding: £2,699
 - Church Square Community Garden £1,000
 - Leiston Primary School Covid Summer House £1,000
 - AFC Kesgrave U14s football kit £699
- Multi-Year Funding:
 - Leiston Long Shop Museum £46,600. Overall funding £189,800 over 3 years originally.

4696

What's new for 2022/23

- Magnox socio-economic funding £1,020,035 with £171,750 multi-year funding already committed.
- Good Neighbour Scheme funding limit raised to £2,000 (£6,000 allocation per site remains unchanged)

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- Kirsty Ramsden Kirsty.Ramsden@magnoxsites.com will manage good neighbour applications for Sizewell and Bradwell. Haf Morris Haf.e.morris@magnoxsites.com will manage applications of £2,000 or more.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/magnox-working-with-our-communities>

Sohail invited questions from the SSG.

4697 Janet Fendley: What are the seagull deterrents that are being used?

Sohail Ashraf: One is an ultrasonic noise submitted every 12 minutes which is operated in areas where the birds have settled. The other is an inflatable person that waves its hands around. This was a trial and we have had some level of success.

Janet Fendley: And this is to stop them nesting?

Sohail Ashraf: It is a combination of trying to stop them coming to site in the first place as well as to prevent them nesting. Once they have nested, they are protected and staff are encouraged not to disturb them. The gulls are aggressive and attack our workers so it is a balance to find the best solution.

4698 Janet Fendley: How often and whereabouts is the wildlife surveillance taking place?

Sohail Ashraf: We look at our own areas on site for example we took part in "No Mow May", I haven't had the output from our environmental team on this as yet, but everyone on site welcomed it.

4699 Janet Fendley: You spoke about the fire service, so doesn't Sizewell A still have its own fire team?

Sohail Ashraf: Not for a number of years. We do have some retained fire fighters on call who work on site, but we are reliant on the local services, which is why they asked to come onto site for re-familiarisation. We are hoping to put a programme in place to call them back once a year to refresh.

4700 Janet Fendley: For the Open Day how will you get all the local residents' contact details?

Response: Niki Rousseau and Kirsty Ramsden will liaise on this.

4701 Janet Fendley: Regarding the pond waste clearance – where are the skips going to go?

Sohail Ashraf: Characterisation will be done of each skip which determines what the radioactive constituents of the skips are. They will then either be classified as Low-Level Waste (LLW) or Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and transported off site.

4702 Janet Fendley: Why are we bringing radioactive waste from Bradwell to Sizewell?

Sohail Ashraf: This will only be soft waste and not highly radioactive items. Sizewell A is responsible for managing the Bradwell Site and during the annual inspections we have small amounts of PPE and consumables waste.

Janet Fendley: So why is it coming here?

Sohail Ashraf: Any waste we bring to Sizewell will not remain on the Sizewell site, it will be sorted, packaged, and removed off site.

Marianne Fellowes: There is currently no agreement in place for waste to be brought to Sizewell from other sites. If it is only being brought here for sorting and packaging, is there a time limit on how long it can be here?

Sohail Ashraf: I would think there will be some kind of constraints which will be determined through the planning application process; therefore, I will take this one away and confirm what the time limits are once I have this information.

Marianne Fellowes: Before this can happen does there need to be a local planning application as well?

Sohail Ashraf: Yes, we are only at the pre-planning stage at this time.

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Pete Wilkinson: So, this is all LLW waste, is it?

Sohail Ashraf: Yes, it should be even lower than LLW.

Marianne Fellowes added that although it does seem strange considering Bradwell is under care and maintenance that there would be a need for sorting waste from there, however it is understood that Sizewell is where there is the facility to do so safely and effectively so that overrides the concerns over transporting it.

Sohail Ashraf: We did consider a small mobile processing facility but due to the very small amounts of waste it wouldn't be cost-effective.

Marianne Fellowes: And you said it would only occur once or twice a year when you are doing maintenance down there, and would be a small car or van load that would come back with the staff anyway?

Sohail Ashraf: Yes, that's correct, currently we do annual inspections using staff from Sizewell so we will not be putting more vehicles on the road.

4703 Joan Girling: As part of your sustainability group what steps have you taken to consider water consumption, what is contained in the water that leaves site and where does it go?

Sohail Ashraf: Water usage is monitored on a regular basis and our levels of usage are relatively stable. We share the sewage plant with Sizewell B and all the output that goes through there is monitored.

Joan Girling: I am more interested to know whether you are considering what you are putting into your water systems, for example what chemicals are used in cleaning the toilets and wash basins etc.

Sohail Ashraf: We do have controls on what goes in and out of our waste streams, and we do monitor those. SA to provide a small summary report on this.

Suggestion made by Marianne Fellowes for a member of Sizewell A team to come along to a future meeting to give further insight into this.

4704 Joan Girling: Have you considered using the railway for the movement of the skips as it would generate a lot of traffic on the roads.

Sohail Ashraf: The use of the railway hasn't been discounted. We are not going to be moving massive volumes of these skips, and they are going to be size reduced and packaged into containers. We will have to look at this option along with the planning permission constraints.

4705 Robert Hoggar: Further information requested on the Black Red Starts.

Sohail Ashraf: SZA's environmental team monitors wildlife on site and keeps a register. Once it was discovered that the Black Red Starts had nested in the site garage all vehicles were carefully removed, site staff were informed to keep away from the area to allow the birds to be undisturbed. The chicks have now successfully fledged, so the message is we do actively look out for wildlife and work around it.

4706 Robert Hoggar: When Sizewell A will be dismantled will you be using sea routes to get rid of materials to alleviate traffic on the roads?

Marianne Fellowes: This is perhaps for future discussion as decommissioning is a huge topic for today, however perhaps SA can add a few sentences on this.

Sohail Ashraf: In terms of currently we are using the road for transportation in line with our planning arrangements, I cannot dismiss alternative arrangements and the best available options will be assessed as part of our future strategies.

Marianne Fellowes: We don't have a jetty to facilitate a sea route currently, so it would be a major undertaking to use sea routes, but it may be an option in the future.

4707 Trevor Branton: I was interested to hear about the Black Red Starts as there is a history of them colonising the A Site back in the 1980 so it's good to hear they are still there.

- 4708** Trevor Branton: There is a lot of interest on the water consumption of both the A and B Sites. Could the report include figures on annual consumptions to see if there is any difference?

NEW ACTION: Sohail Ashraf and Robert Gunn to provide a report on annual water consumption.

- 4709** Pete Wilkinson: Requested a copy of the reports and presentation which are normally sent out prior to the meeting or a hard copy available on the day.

Marianne Fellowes: Apologies if you didn't receive them, they were all sent out prior to the meeting in accordance with your preferences, however they will be sent out. The SSG is getting a new website which is currently under construction so in the future all documents will be easier to obtain.

- 4710** Pete Wilkinson: From a sustainability point of view - what is the long-term solution for ILW at SZA?

Sohail Ashraf: For every project we have to produce a Best Available Techniques (BAT) report. All I can say at this stage is that as we move forward things will change so the process will have to be re-assessed.

Marianne Fellowes and Pete Wilkinson will bring this up at the national NDA meeting as it has been several years since we've had a review of ILW storage.

John McNamara will ask for an NDA representative to come to a future meeting to talk about this.

- 4711** Pete Wilkinson: I sent Sohail a report on low level radiation and am interested to know if it prompted any kind of discussion?

Sohail Ashraf: I liaised with our head of profession on this and we are always looking at the current data on the market and comparing our data to other industries. It has made us review our arrangements but we will continue with our processes as they are and will continue to assess them. I know in the report you talked about As Low As Technically Possible, but there are many things to consider such as public health safety, safety to the worker and finances. I welcome these challenges and it is definitely being discussed.

- 4712** Mike Taylor: What is the plan for the Turbine Hall. Is it to dig out to leave a green field void or are you leaving the base concrete in and re-filling with something?

Sohail Ashraf: The current plan is to take it down to basement level and then we need to manage that void. We are looking into other options to see if we can refill it so that we wouldn't have to manage the void.

Marianne Fellowes: This is subject to consultation and there will be an open day for the local public and stakeholders, which we welcome. There will be a lot of noise and there will be a transport plan in place and it will change the landscape of the site significantly, and also with it being next to an operating station and a potential new build there may be other uses for the land.

Sohail Ashraf: In terms of repurposing that area we would have to think about our future strategy of reactor dismantling so it wouldn't be something I would be looking to repurpose at this stage in time.

Mike Taylor: The original plan was to take the site back to green field but that's not what we are hearing. Hinkley Point A's Turbine Hall Void was filled with material from C Site, it's important that we know where we are heading in that direction.

Sohail Ashraf: Our current end state is a void that we will manage, I am not discounting opportunities to work with colleagues on C Site as that option would mean less vehicles on the local roads.

- 4713** Marianne Fellowes requested clarification on the meaning of the word "coupon" in the Ponds section.

Sohail Ashraf: Coupons are samples or cut outs that we will take away for characterisation.

B. John Rogers (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

- 4714** John Rogers started by addressing the issue raised regarding the Ponds skips as some work has been done nationally on this topic. Ponds skips are not unique to Sizewell, most of the Magnox sites have still got them and the AGR sites in the future. All the fuel elements from Magnox sites and the AGRs will go to Sellafield. A review of previous characterisation found it doesn't meet modern standards which is why Magnox are having to re-do the characterisation. This comes with further safety concerns over the radiation dose of staff who are taking the samples. Because of this, the ONR have started a dialogue with the NDA in an attempt to try and steer the UK ponds skip issue in a sensible direction, and also to work out what the UK is going to do with large pieces of contaminated metal. The next meeting is planned in July, John will keep the SSG updated.
- 4715** Marianne Fellowes welcomes the update from John and the fact that the ONR are involved in these discussions and are aware it is a big issue. When these power stations were built decommissioning of them was obviously considered, but the standards are different now, so a lot of it has got to be re-thought about, but it is good that the industry is consciously looking at solutions to this.
- 4716** John delivered his report verbally and highlighted the following points:
- Sizewell A continues to perform well from a safety and security point of view.
 - The inspections for monitoring compliance was rated as Green.
 - They do a really good job of repurposing facilities to process waste.
 - One issue is SZA is full up with Ponds Skips.
 - Re-licensing both sites due to boundary changes over the transfer of the Grid Sub land over to SZB, so far, the ONR has not received formal application for this.
 - The funding has been allocated for ILW projects to restart.
 - Two conventional health and safety ONR officers attended site and were content with what they have seen so far. They will return to carry out inspections under CDM regulations for the Turbine Demolition project as well as future de-planting such as the boiler removal.
- 4717** Sohail Ashraf: Regarding John's comments on the waste facilities, over the years we have been repurposing buildings and we are looking forward and thinking about whether we can use other facilities for reactor dismantling. Sohail welcomes that the ONR are looking at it from a conventional health and safety point of view and hopes this support arrangement continues going forward.
- 4718** Janet Fendley: Requested clarification on the term CDM. John explained it stands for Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) which controls the safety management of construction sites, and demolition also comes under these regulations.
- 4719** Pete Wilkinson: Historically the criteria was that not all sites would have ILW stores, so is this the criteria you are using? If all you are doing is transferring the risk from one site to another then this is not really a solution.

John Rogers: We are not looking at doing that, we are looking at some kind of treatment facility. Most of the radioactivity of the ponds skips is on the surface. They are painted and the activity of the pond water tends to be absorbed in the paint during the time they spend within the ponds. They are a mild steel box, and the steel is relatively small radioactivity, LLW and maybe even lower. A facility to remove the paint and the radioactivity with it, thereby reducing the overall volume of ILW, are the discussions that we are just starting to have.

Pete Wilkinson: What would happen to that surface ILW, would it have to go into a GDF?

John Rogers: Yes, it would.

Marianne Fellowes and Peter Wilkinson will address the issue with the Ponds Skips nationally.

C. Peter Reynolds (Environment Agency)

- 4720** Peter took over as Sizewell A's EA regulator in 2019 and has visited the site twice.

- Peter echoes what John Rogers said with regards to solid waste management and satisfied the site has good control of waste with a disposal route for it
- Would like to see the issue with the storage of the skips come to a resolution as soon as possible, so like everyone else hoping for good progress on this project
- A contractor was commissioned to look at the Magnox sampling programmes for all sites including Sizewell A, Dungeness A and Chapelcross. The report came back in March to say they had confidence in the sampling process with representative results. This is key in deciding which skips can be disposed of as LLW and which ones need to be managed as ILW.
- Had a meeting with the site's Sustainability Co-ordinators who are starting to spread the word on Magnox's core sustainability strategies looking at 5 areas – Supply Chain, Community, Employees, Environment and Governance. Peter would like to see the whole question of sustainability incorporated into the managerial chain process which site is going to look at. The question of whether a baseline on energy and water consumption can be established on sites.
- There is a team who look at minor events. There is nothing of concern that hasn't been quickly corrected.
- There have only been 3 liquid effluent discharges since 2020, which is very low now that the ponds have been drained. Gaseous discharges are similar to normal levels.
- Looking forward the main area of interest will be the retrieval of waste from the vaults.

Peter Reynolds invited questions from the SSG:

4721

Marianne Fellowes: Who from the EA looks after Bradwell?

Peter Reynolds: I look after Bradwell as well from a radioactive side, and there are also area teams who look after the conventional side.

Marianne Fellowes: This doesn't feature in your report, it would be useful to know if there are any issues. The Bradwell version of the SSG is the LCLC (Local Community Liaison Council) who don't meet as often.

4722

Marianne Fellowes: I understand that there was rain ingress into the waste store at Bradwell?

Peter Reynolds: There is an issue with water ingress into the vaults at Bradwell but it is more likely to be ground water. Sizewell A has commissioned some studies into the pathways and the engineering team have made some suggestions which are under review and I expect to see a Best Available Techniques (BAT) proposal on how they intend to manage the water ingress soon.

Marianne Fellowes: Even though the site is under care and maintenance (C&M) with little need for maintenance and inspection visits, this is something that we didn't expect.

Peter Reynolds: Inspections were carried out of the vaults as part of the C&M preparations in 2012/14 and assumptions were made which turned out to be unjustified. The water table level at Bradwell is very high and the vaults are around five to six metres below and therefore there is a lot of hydraulic pressure there.

Sohail Ashraf: The water was pumped out into Intermediate Bulk Containers which were sampled and then sent off for disposal with agreement from the regulators. Each time we go back to Bradwell for the inspections we carry out further monitoring. The engineering team have drafted the BAT proposal which will issue to the regulators for consideration. With regards to the information you requested about Bradwell, I will have a conversation with yourself Marianne about what is pertinent to the Sizewell SSG because otherwise we are merging two committees together which would make this committee quite a long one. The topics we brought to the SSG today that we felt pertinent were to do with the transferring of waste between the two sites.

Marianne Fellowes: I am happy to be guided by SA on what is pertinent to this group, but I was particularly interested in the waste voids at Bradwell as we are discussing the management of the Turbine Hall void at Sizewell.

4723

Trevor Branton: Can you clarify which vaults you are referring to retrieving the waste from and what the contents of them is?

Peter Reynolds: These are the vaults containing the fuel element debris which will require some construction work to retrieve, process and package the waste. It is still in the planning stages and I will report more on this when I have further information.

Sohail Ashraf: We are establishing a team across both SZA and Dungeness A sites and they are taking on learning from previous projects across both sites, so it's not new technology but there is a learning opportunity. The vaults are separated between non-combustible and combustible waste so it is a question of setting up arrangements to retrieve the waste to characterise and consign accordingly to be packaged off site. We have done the visual and radiological surveys of the vaults and we will get the results in the next few weeks.

Trevor Branton: So these are the vaults around the perimeter of the reactor building?

Sohail Ashraf: Yes

Marianne Fellowes: Where does FED go?

Sohail Ashraf: This will be part of our plans for it to be shipped to the Bradwell ILW Store.

Pete Wilkinson: In 2006 we had a very successful decision analysis on FED removal, this was 16 years ago are you lagging a bit?

Sohail Ashraf: This is on my critical path so I am pushing this forward now. In terms of lagging, it was in a safe condition where the vaults were secure but where we are currently this is what I am focusing on.

Marianne Fellowes: It also comes down to funding being cut, and it given a chance for technology to catch up.

3. NDA REPORTS

A. John McNamara (NDA)

John delivered his report to the SSG and highlighted the following points:

4724

Covid-19 Update

- There is a requirement from the Government that civil servants should be returning back to the office. There is currently a balance between virtual and in-person meetings and operating a process of being in the office 2-3 days a week. Currently there is 1 case in 400 people who work for the NDA.

4725

NDA Sustainability report

- Published in March.
- The NDA is working towards being carbon neutral.
- NDA sustainability experts would like to attend future SSG meetings to give a presentation and hear from the community.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-sustainability-report-financial-year-april-2020-to-march-2021>

4726

Nuclear Waste Services

- Since 31st January a new service now encompasses the Low-Level Waste Repository (LLWR) and the Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) which is the group that was taking forward the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

- There are now four pillars of the NDA:
 - Magnox
 - Sellafield
 - Nuclear Waste Services
 - Nuclear Transport Services (NTS).

4727

GDF Siting Process

- A voluntary process for areas to get involved in potentially hosting a GDF.
- Community Partnership involving the local authorities and Nuclear Waste Services to provide funding for the local area.
- 3 in Cumbria and 1 about to be established in Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire so far.
- Other areas have expressed interest in starting the process.
- Geophysical surveys to begin in Cumbria this summer.

4728

Magnox Fuel Reprocessing Ends

- Operations have ended at Sellafield's Magnox Reprocessing Plant and will soon enter the decommissioning phase.

4729

NDA Supply Chain Event

- New date 21 July 2022
- Stakeholders are welcome to attend.

4730

NDA and Cwmni Egino joint collaboration

- Work with Cwmni Egino, a Welsh Government development agency, to support development of new nuclear Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at existing Welsh nuclear sites.
- The core mission remains in decommissioning and waste management.
- Instructed to engage proactively with regards to new builds.

Marianne Fellowes noted that we won't discuss this today, Marianne and Peter will raise the subject nationally on behalf of the SSG and will share details at a later time.

4731

Sizewell Land Transfer

- Three-year option between NDA, Magnox and EDF.
- Land is free from contamination.
- Saves nearby green field being developed.
- The Land Team is able to brief the SSG once the decision has been made.
- Long legal process – up to two years for the deal to be completed.

4732

NDA – “Keeping the conversation going”

- Stakeholder's Summit will be held in Edinburgh 7-8 September. 2 Tickets available per SSG.

John McNamara invited questions from the SSG

4733

Pat Hogan: Regarding the transfer of land, I am appreciative that negotiations are being undertaken as it is very important to us that Pill Box land is not developed.

4734

Joan Girling: It was offered at the previous meeting for the land team to come to the SSG?

Marianne Fellowes: This was held virtually and I think that is going to be the case again for this next one?

John McNamara: That would be the easiest way, but it will be an opportunity for you to question the team.

Joan Girling: What I am asking is that local people were always told that SZA will be put back to green field and if this piece of land is transferred over to EDF for future purposes then this will never happen, and now you are also talking about using sites for new builds. Local people need to be involved in the consultation and be able to confront the people who are doing this to our local area. We would also prefer that it is leasehold not freehold so that it stays within the control of our central Government and not EDF. I would like John to feed this back to the people in charge of making these decisions, and I would like to face those people and tell them myself.

John McNamara: This is the only pocket of land on the A Station that will be transferred as the rest will be needed for decommissioning. We are still waiting on Government policy on the wider waste issues which will talk to the timescales of decommissioning and eventual end states which I am advised will be issued in the Autumn which will provide more clarity. The idea is that this should be discussed with the communities and what they want from the end states as well and I do take your point into consideration.

Marianne Fellowes: We don't have a direct route to BEIS, we have to go through John, we have asked for this in the past, are we going to have to demand this.

Joan Girling: We have these forums; we discuss things and expectations are raised and then they are dashed to the ground.

Marianne Fellowes: We were actually told and I have it written down in a document that there will be no new builds at Sizewell and it will go back to green field site, so that contract was broken with the community many years ago for various reasons so unfortunately the expectation has changed, but it is difficult as we don't want more green field land to be developed, we want them to re-use more industrial sites. We were promised that we will regain land back to nature.

4735

Chris Wilson: One of EDF's responses to BEIS DCO as an option for a permanent dissemination plant is the SZA land, which would put the car park back to Pill Box field. I would like to see some conditions that if this land is transferred then the Pill Box field remains green.

Marianne Fellowes: We do need to have this bottomed out.

4736

Peter Wilkinson: I think the creation of the Nuclear Waste Services is a mistake and I am worried that they will essentially be promoting new build. In terms of the GDF there are huge problems being expressed in the forums that come together to discuss the programme, there is evidence of a democratic deficit in the process itself, there is problems with the impartiality of the information that is being provided to the communities as it is being delivered by RWM which has an interest in delivering the GDF in the first place. There are endless concerns over the safety of the geological disposal of waste e.g., the corrosion of the copper canisters, micro biological activity that can be created deep underground, leaking of gases into the environment etc. So, there are a lot of problems around GDF that could take years to sort out and will potentially put years on delivering GDF. Regarding the Sellafield reprocessing, the report by David Peattie was very one-sided and self-congratulatory but the Irish Sea is probably the most radioactive sea in Europe and even the world as a result of reprocessing, we've got 140 tonnes of plutonium we don't know what to do with. They've got to acknowledge the down sides and taken on board into the public domain instead of just giving us the promotions. As for SMRs they are not very small, they are about the size of Sizewell A.

Marianne Fellowes: We have taken your views on board and it's certainly topics Pete and I will take to the national meeting in September.

4737 SIZEWELL B REPORTS

A. Robert Gunn (Station Director, EDF)

4738 Safety Performance and staffing

- No reportable injuries or incidents during this period.
- Very pleased with how the station handled COVID and kept the station running reliably and everyone working safely throughout. Continuing with flexible working.
- Seagulls are also giving us problems, B-Site are working with the A-Site team on managing this as they are a risk to staff. Deterrents such as netting on the roofs and lasers are being looked into.
- 534 staff including 13 Apprentices, 2 Industrial placements, 5 Technical Trainees and 10 Visitor Centre staff. 250 year-round contracting partners.
- As part of the Life Extension Programme there is a plan to increase number of staff therefore jobs will become available.

4739 Unplanned automatic shutdown

- Monday 18th April – automatic shutdown happens when the failsafe system identifies a fault with any of the components.
- Quick identification, repair and returned back to service within days.
- The steam that was released during shutdown was from the conventional side.

4740 Sizewell B review to extend operation by 20 years

- i. Looking at extending operational life from 2035 to 2055. Final decision to be made by EDF in 2024.
- ii. As SZB is the only Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) in the UK, the team will capture learning from other PWRs around the world that have completed this work and have secured extension.

4741 Dry Fuel Storage – 3rd Campaign

- Anomaly identified in the final stage of putting the fuel into dry fuel storage, this was a pin hole in the cladding of one of the fuel elements.
- Many cases of this happening around the world.
- The flask remains in the fuel pond building and will be moved to the Dry Fuel Store if it meets safety case requirements and with the regulators' involvement.

4742 Sizewell B Relocated Facilities

- Groundworks currently taking place.
- Topsoil deposition to EDF land north side of site for use as part of the Sizewell C project.
- Negotiations are still ongoing regarding utilisation of Sizewell A land in preference to Pill Box Field.

4743

Sizewell Visitor Centre

- SSG members are welcome to come to the visitor centre to learn about the station and to have a look around the plant itself and what goes on.
- Sizewellbtours@edf-energy.com
- Popular with school, college, and university students as part of their project work, therefore it is fully booked until the school holidays.

4744

Communities benefit from Sizewell B Sponsorship fund

- Total of £4,680 awarded to local projects including:
 - Leiston Community Land Trust
 - Alde Valley Academy Awards evening
 - Aldeburgh Carnival
 - Pear Tree Fund
 - Henham Steam Rally
 - Friends of Sibton Church carpark resurfacing
 - Saxfest Music Festival
 - Rendham Village Fete

4745

Jenny Kirtley: In terms of the Life Extension Programme and the need for more workers, will they come from the local area? What jobs are you looking for?

Robert Gunn: We will get as much local talent as we can. We will be looking for Operators, Engineers, Project Engineers, Project Managers, Supply Chain workers, Construction workers and regular workers. We are anticipating 100s of jobs will be created.

Marianne Fellowes: So, will this be part of the package you need to put through for the approval of the extension?

Robert Gunn: That's right, yes.

Marianne Fellowes: This will go against the other things that are going through the DCO process and the impact on the local community with extra vehicles on the road and accommodation hasn't been fed into that discussion as far as I know.

Jenny Kirtley: Are you talking about over several years or quite soon?

Robert Gunn: This will be towards the late 2020s.

4746

Jenny Kirtley: The relocation of soil onto what may potentially be C Site, what happened to the animals?

Robert Gunn: This was all done with planning permission and liaison with our regulators. Work was stopped a few times for badgers, Marsh Harriers and Bats.

4747

Jenny Kirtley: Talk to me about Russia?

Robert Gunn: EDF have backed out of all deals with Russia completely. Parts of our previous fuel has been sourced from Russia. The next outage fuel has already been secured, partly from Russia.

Marianne Fellowes: For clarity the document states that all fuel has been sourced from Russia. There is no other international agreement with any other country as yet, so we can't say in part if it's all.

4748

Jenny Kirtley: With regard to the extended term of the plant, with the French having so many problems with their nuclear fleet, why is Sizewell not going to be in the same position?

Robert Gunn: There's a method called stress corrosion cracking that has been picked up on one of the French reactors recently, we are paying close attention to that working group and we are looking closely at what we need to do in terms of inspections at the next outage.

4749

Robert Hoggar: The spent fuel rod journey is where you remove some of the rods from the reactor into cooling ponds where they sit for 5 years, and then they are moved into containers and sealed in helium for 100 years. The contents within these containers need to be protected

for way beyond 100 years, and my concern is that there is a high carbon input on that journey and everyone keeps talking about low carbon nuclear.

Robert Gunn: Once the fuel is in the cask it is passive, it just sits in the dry fuel store at that point so there is low carbon impact at that point.

Robert Hoggar: Is it going to sit in that store for 100 years?

Marianne Fellowes: There is a review every 10 years.

Robert Gunn: The Dry Fuel Store can take all the fuel including the life extension as well.

4750

Marianne Fellowes: The issue with the pin hole needs a solution before the next refuelling outage, and the phrase you mentioned "reverse back out" means cut the lid off, take the fuel out and back into the ponds?

Robert Gunn: That's correct, yes.

4751

Mike Taylor: Is there any difference in the specification between the Russian fuel and fuel that has been sourced in the past from Urenco and Springfields? For example, has the burn out rate been changed or is it a different type of fuel?

Sean Verrall: There have been 2 types of fuel used over the life of the station, the first 5 cycles the fuel was manufactured by BNFL at Sellafield. Then our contract was moved to Framatome which is manufactured in Germany under Siemens. It is the uranium that goes into the fuel that comes from Russia.

Marianne Fellowes: The fuel as an assembly is made up of many parts, the uranium has always come from Russia, when we say it is manufactured in Germany, it is still dug up in Russia, the bits are put together in Germany.

Sean Verrall: Correct, so over the years we have gone through various design changes and justifications of increased burn up of the fuel.

Mike Taylor: So, the increased burn up rate, does that affect the safety case when you put it into the dry fuel store?

Sean Verrall: No, it doesn't.

4752

Mike Taylor: Has been in communication regarding SZB relocation facilities and there are 2 planning consents, so what will cause you to change to the new planning consent?

Marianne Fellowes: The approval of the DSO is the only thing that can change it.

Mike Taylor: This is about the community having an oversight as to what is happening with SZA relocation of the facilities.

NEW ACTION: Carolyn Barnes to take this back to East Suffolk for clarification.

4753

Mike Taylor: There is a door missing from your Cooling Water Plant – Does this have any impact on the output side, are you putting more debris back out into the sea?

Robert Gunn: Once the water gets into the forebay it gets filtered again by drum screens so the only gap is a large mammal can squeeze past the grating and end up in the forebay area.

Mike Taylor: Is that an indication that the cooling water system is getting fairly corroded?

Robert Gunn: There clearly is some damage there, we can only look at it in the next outage, we don't see it as a major issue, it's not the primary barrier.

Marianne Fellowes: Is the seal still there, what is the long-term plan?

Robert Gunn: The seal is still there, we have had a few goes at retrieving it, it's all quite healthy and seems to be happy in there and doesn't want to be brought out.

Marianne Fellowes: My concern is if a seal can get through then a piece of debris the size of a seal can get through.

Robert Gunn: The primary filtration system is the drum screens which is the actual filtering mechanism.

Marianne Fellowes: So, if there is a hole the size of a seal then more fish can enter and get trapped in the forebay, so are we getting more fish lost to the marine environment?

Robert Gunn: We are not seeing a big change in the smaller creatures as the drum screen system actually filters them back out alive.

Sean Verrall: It's quite a large cage that sits at the end of the intake 800 metres out into the sea. Fish come through it anyway, it's only large objects or mammals that we are trying to stop. What we think has happened is the access door, which is 1m by 1m has become detached. In the next outage we can shut the CW system off and investigate.

Joan Kirtley: There has been a lot of sludge reported being seen out at sea, is that to do with this?

Robert Gunn: No, it wouldn't be related to this.

4754

Mike Taylor: I am not sure whether we have ever been told how fuel will be removed from SZB and in what container?

Robert Gunn: All the fuel will be put into the dry fuel store and after that it will be taken to GDF.

Mike Taylor: Therefore, you would have to move the entire cask as is?

Marianne Fellowes: Not necessarily, it depends what the design of the GDF is for receiving them, they may have to be repackaged on site, or they may go as they are and re-packaged at the GDF.

Mike Taylor: Is it going to be included in your decommissioning plan that you might need another re-packaging operation and supply facilities to do that?

Marianne Fellowes: This would be the NDA and not EDF at that point.

Mike Taylor: The decommissioning of the AGRs is a similar complex issue to the Magnox ones and you seem to be wrapped up in problems with how we manage the waste.

Robert Gunn: As technology moves on each generation has been more organised in that.

4755

Chris Wilson: During the SZC Cooling Water process it has become apparent there is a tracking gap where larvae get sucked up and are too small to be recorded and too large to go through the pumps, around 80 species are affected. If you are talking about extending for another 20 years, the accumulative impact with SZC will be significant. CEFAS have acknowledged there are a large number that are currently going unrecorded. I appreciate the EA don't require you to monitor this, but from an environmental aspect are EDF going to do anything about trying to monitor this?

Robert Gunn: All I can say on this one is I can take it away and reflect on it, counting fish is not our core business by any means, but we will also ensure we are doing everything we can do.

Robert confirmed he is happy for Chris to write to him on this issue.

B. Daniel Gregory (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

Daniel offered his response to earlier questions posed during the meeting:

4756

Inspections and Other Work

- Electrical Systems and Radwise Inspections carried out.
- Pleased with the interface between SZC Project and SZB Site – ensuring SZC work doesn't interfere with SZB operations and that SZB has a voice in SZC design and physical work on site.
- ONR, EA and HSE Chairpersons visit to SZB.

4757

Non-Routine Matters

- **Russian Fuel** – Most of the safety case aspect will be dedicated to the design of the fuel. Most of the fuel is manufactured in Germany with stock from Russia. The Supply Chain team will carry out checks to ensure they are getting the right quality of uranium that meets specification.
- **Dry Fuel Store and the movement of the damaged cask** – we have engaged with site and have made our regulatory expectations clear on this. On the subject of 100 years Life, this is not unique to the dry fuel store and there is a licence condition to carry out a review every 10 years which will demonstrate that it is safe to operate for another 10 years and this is no different for long-term operation, but there will be substantially more work to support this conclusion.
- **Issues with French reactors** – SZB have provided some justification for continued operation, which along with the emerging understanding of the issue in France, has satisfied us that it is not an imminent issue. There are significant design differences, along with manufacturing design and quality. We would like to see some inspection in the next outage to demonstrate it is not a problem.
- **Reactor Trip** – We were notified straight away and I am satisfied that the reactor identified an issue and shut itself down as we would expect it to do. As a result of that shutdown there were a few leaks on the conventional side, but it was hot water, so I will be interested in how this will be fixed.

Marianne Fellowes asked – Did somebody get hurt and was it a recordable injury?

Daniel Gregory: No, it was a very minor burn and was not a lost time accident.

Daniel invited questions from the SSG:

4758

Marianne Fellowes: What is the current status of the 4 guard lines, are they all operational?

Daniel Gregory: Yes

4759

Pete Wilkinson: Are you able to confirm that spent fuel from SZB and potentially SZC is disposable, and if yes, can you tell us where the justification is for that decision?

Daniel Gregory: I can't say anything on SZC; however, reversibility was built into SZB's dry fuel store design so that if it proves not to be disposable it can include an impact. The solution currently is that it is disposable. One of the concerns over the damaged cask is if that's moved then it wouldn't necessarily be disposable, however it could be repackaged into a disposable form. There isn't the facility to do this currently as it is depending on the result of the GDA assessment.

Pete Wilkinson: As far as you are concerned, the PWR fuel from Sizewell B is disposable unless damaged, and can be put in a hole in the ground and not cause any damage for 100,000 years?

Daniel Gregory: I will take that away and ask one of our specialists.

4760

Pete Wilkinson: If SZC is built and there will be outages and 1000s staff, with housing projects taking place around Leiston the population could increase quite dramatically, therefore what is your democratic criteria for emergency planning?

Daniel Gregory: I don't think there are any democratic principles in the sense you are asking, our fundamental position is it's up to the local planning to come up with a plan and satisfy us that they can execute it.

Marianne Fellowes: Suffolk Resilience Forum have sent their apologies so we will ask a representative to attend the next meeting to provide an answer on this.

4761

Pete Wilkinson: The ONR website indicates you are legally required to safeguard the workforce on a nuclear site, so why don't you support the NGO claim that the low-level radiation which is currently used for exposure rates is possibly underestimating the damage it is causing?

Daniel Gregory: The ONR drives to reduce the risk as far as practical to do so, therefore the question of whether we can do more to reduce the risk is independent of the effects of doses of low radiation. I can take this away and ask the question on the affects and if there are any changes on that.

Peter Wilkinson: But if doing what is practical to do still gives doses of radiation that is doubted by some in terms of safety, and there is evidence to show that even after you have taken all the precautions that the dose is still dangerous. Therefore, since you are legally obliged to safeguard the workforce then you would be required by law to investigate it.

Daniel Gregory: I don't think there is sufficient evidence as yet to show that there is a significant health risk to low levels of radiation.

Pete Wilkinson: If that's the case why don't we have a discussion around the table with the regulators?

Marianne Fellowes: Daniel has said that he will take this back.

Pete Wilkinson: There must be a point where the ONR says that we can't get this amount of people out.

Daniel Gregory: This is not entirely based on the demographic profile, it's a combination of factors.

4762

Robert Hoggar: On the subject of the faults with the French power stations, and the recent shutdown of B Site, are we on a route to shutting down more and more nuclear power stations because they have inherent faults inside them?

Daniel Gregory: A lot of the French ones have been shut down or are not going to be restarted until they have carried out inspections after an outage, which is effectively what we are asked to be done with the next SZB outage, so some of them have found problems and some of them are carrying out inspections.

Robert Hoggar: So, there's a possibility SZB won't be able to start up again after its next outage?

Daniel Gregory: It will have to satisfy us that it is safe to restart following the next outage.

Robert Hoggar: Eight of the French ones are of their own design?

Marianne Fellowes: We don't know about the splitting up as a design fault but we will get that answered for you.

Peter Reynolds (Environment Agency)

4763

The two inspections that the EA have done on SZB were on gaseous discharge arrangements and liquid effluent management and we were satisfied with the results of

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both of these. We also assessed the testing programme and were satisfied the programme is achieving what it is required to do.

Peter invited questions from the SSG:

4764

Tom Daly: I keep getting issues raised in the parish meeting about fish being killed and I keep getting conflicting numbers, do you have details, and is there any plan to change the intake cage to reduce the numbers of fish being killed?

Peter Reynolds: It appears we haven't been requiring the monitoring of the impact on fish, the only monitoring we require is of the receiving waters of the discharge, which we assess to confirm that the impact on receiving waters is reduced as far as reasonably practicable.

NEW ACTION: Peter Reynolds to ask the SZB regulators to respond in relation to fish monitoring requirements.

Peter Reynolds: Please take a look at the letter which is on the Planning Inspectorate website regarding our assessment of the protection measures and possible impact on fish. The agency is also assessing the development consent order and potential permitting and the draft determination will go out shortly for consultation, the SSG will be notified once it becomes available.

4765

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

- A. Minutes of the last main meeting held on 12 January 2022 have been circulated and amendments have been received.
- B. Actions Tracker
- C. Other matters or correspondence received.
 - Marianne and Peter have been invited to Chair and Vice-Chair a meeting in Manchester with the NDA at the beginning of July.
 - NDA Summit in Edinburgh in September.
 - There is funding available for any local groups or projects – please promote this.

Marianne thanked all for their attendance. If anyone needs any further correspondence about anything please get in touch with Marianne, and if anyone would like to attend either of the national meetings, please also let Marianne know, as it is important that Sizewell is represented at these events.

Meeting Closed