Site Stakeholder Group

MINUTES OF THE MEETING & AGM OF THE SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG) HELD AT SIZEWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Attendance

Members

Marianne Fellowes MBE	Independent Chair
Pete Wilkinson	Vice Chair
Trevor Branton	Co-Opted Member
Joan Girling	Co-Opted Member
Cllr Nicky Corbett	Leiston Town Council
Cllr Lesley Hill	Leiston Town Council
Pat Hogan	Sizewell Residents Association
Cllr Tom Daly	East Suffolk Council Ward member & Portfolio Holder
Cllr Russ Rainger	Snape Parish Council
Cllr Sarah Whitelock	East Suffolk Council Ward member
Cllr Ali Lumpkin	Aldeburgh Town Council
Janet Fendley	Friends of the Earth

Operators and Officers

Sohail Ashraf	Site Director, Sizewell A
Liz Casey	Police Inspector, Suffolk constabulary
John Carey	NRS Staff representative
Robert Gunn	Station Director, Sizewell B
Bill Hamilton	NRS Communications & Stakeholder engagement
Joss Mullett	Communities Officer, East Suffolk Council
Sgt Rebecca O'Neill	Suffolk Constabulary Neighbourhood Police
Sgt Liz Casey	Suffolk Constabulary Neighbourhood Police
Richard Parlone	EDF Staff representative
Cath Pritchard	NRS and SSG Secretariate
Niki Rousseau	Community Liaison Officer, EDF
Sean Verrall	Plant Manager, Sizewell B
Geoffrey Dore	Minute Taker

Members of the public

Mike Taylor
Jancy Blanckflower

Apologies

Andrew Bull	ONR Inspector, SZA
Daniel Gregory	ONR Inspector, SZB
James Heavingham	Environment Agency SZA
Cllr TJ Howarth-Culf	Suffolk County Council Ward member
Alex Lord	Environment Agency SZB
John McNamara	NDA
Simon Napper	NDA

1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4886 Marianne Fellowes welcomed the group to the meeting and reminded the attendees of the housekeeping rules. Emergency actions and Housekeeping were explained.

Apologies for absence were received as listed. There were no new declarations of interest.

2. CALL FOR ANY LATE NOMINATIONS

4887 There were no late nominations for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. Consequently, it was confirmed that item 10 on the agenda would not take place and that Marianne Fellowes and Pete Wilkinson were confirmed in their respective roles as Chair and Vice Chair.

3. SIZEWELL B REPORTS

4888 **A. Robert Gunn (Station Director, EDF)**

Robert Gunn reported that the SZB power station had operated at full capacity for the period. There had been no significant safety events.

SZB would be brought offline on 6 October 2024 to commence its planned refuelling and maintenance outage. The World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) had undertaken a peer review of SZB during October 2023 and had provided positive feedback.

572 staff were currently on site. EDF was actively seeking to increase headcount in anticipation of the life extension programme and was fully committed to progressing the work required to extend SZB out to at least 2055. There was a fair probability that SZB would be taken beyond this. Should the programme commence, it was anticipated that between £700 million and £1 billion would be invested in the plant.

EDF was constructing new training and administration buildings, which were expected to be operational in 2024 and 2025 respectively. The outage store would be moved. Work is taking place with NRS/NDA to re-licence a part of SZA land, in preference to Pill Box Field land.

Permissions for the new land management facility had been approved. Niki Rousseau said it was expected that construction of the new land management facility would start in 2024 and be ready by the beginning of 2025.

Robert Gunn reported that SZB had hosted a successful Bring Your Child to Work Day on which approximately 100 children had visited the site. SZB had hosted 40 local school and college students to provide them with work experience. EDF remained extremely keen to attract the interest of young female students.

SZB had also initiated a Science in the Summer Holidays programme. Hundreds of children had visited SZB with their families during the summer holidays to take part in free science-themed activity fun days.

Work had been undertaken on the Warden’s Trust approach road issue with potholes. EDF was also keen to support local industries with its Helping Hands programme.

Robert Gunn highlighted EDF’s amenity and accessibility fund. £15,251 had been awarded to 10 projects in the last 12 months. An annual grants scheme had awarded £300,000 in grants over the last decade. EDF was keen to receive applications from local organisations.

Janet Fendley asked where the summer holidays events had been advertised. Robert Gunn responded that many of the events had been included in the newsletter. Niki Rousseau added that the activity days in the visitor’s centre were shared with schools and the Facebook Leiston Chit Chat page.

Cllr Tom Daly referred to the refuelling (outage for 60 days) and asked what this meant in relation to generating waste. Robert Gunn responded that SZB had a dry fuel store on site.

Cllr Tom Daly asked how long the dry fuel store would remain on site. Robert Gunn explained the government's plan for an underground repository. It was expected that there would be a safety case of 100 years.

Cllr Tom Daly referred to the life extension of SZB to 2055. He assumed that the commercial element would be the same as SZC. Robert Gunn said this was a work in progress.

Joan Girling requested a breakdown of the additional workforce that would be on site during the outage in 2024. Robert Gunn said there would be 1,300 people on site during the day. Joan Girling requested that EDF attempt to minimise the number of cars on the road. Robert Gunn agreed to review this.

ACTION: a) EDF to review minimising traffic during the outage work in 2024.

Pete Wilkinson referred to the school visits and asked if it would be more equitable for pupils if EDF were to initiate school debates. Robert Gunn replied that he had no issue initiating a debate. Niki Rousseau added that EDF had sat on debate panels, and children who had been not so supportive of nuclear power had asked questions.

Marianne Fellowes noted that the outage was back up to full power and queried the current output to the national grid. Robert Gunn responded that it was 1,200 megawatts, which was also maximum capacity. Marianne Fellowes noted that it had been announced that SZC would be providing electricity for the SZC desalination plant. She asked how this would impact the outage that SZB would provide to the national grid. Robert Gunn said he expected the impact to be between 1% and 2%.

Marianne Fellowes asked if the SZC desalination plant would need to be situated close to SZB. Robert Gunn responded that he did not have this detail.

Marianne Fellowes asked if SZB continued to stock Russian uranium. Robert Gunn explained that SZB was part of the overall EDF fuel contract and obtained its fuel through Germany, some of which was still sourced from Russian fuel. SZB was working itself through this stock and aimed to move away from Russian fuel as soon as was practical.

Mike Taylor highlighted that there were flooding problems along the B1119 by Saxmundham Road. Due to this being one of SZB's emergency planning routes, he asked if EDF could request that Suffolk Country Council help with flooding in this area. Robert Gunn responded that EDF could review contacting Suffolk County Council. Cllr Sarah Whitelock said Suffolk County Council had stated that it aimed to address recent flooding. Members felt this should be prioritized due to emergency plans.

ACTION: b) Contact Suffolk County Council to report the flooding area on the B1119 by Saxmundham Road.

4889 **B. Daniel Gregory (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)**

It was noted that Daniel Gregory had offered his apologies.

4890 **C. Alex Lord (Environment Agency)**

It was noted that Alex Lord had offered his apologies.

Mike Taylor highlighted SZC's use of SZB's water effluence for its water strategy. It had been suggested that the SZC project would reuse water at various points. He was unsure of SZB's involvement in the process or if it had even started. Marianne Fellowes said she understood that the strategy had been agreed in principle but had yet to be permitted by the regulator.

Action: Niki Rousseau agreed to circulate Mike Taylor's query to the information office.

4. SIZEWELL A REPORTS

4891 **A. Sohail Ashraf (Site Director, NRS)**

Sohail Ashraf stated that, as of 31 October, Magnox had rebranded as Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

Safety, Compliance and Environment

Sohail Ashraf reported that there had been five minor injuries on site and no security incidents. An ONR fire audit had obtained a green rating.

Regarding the turbine hall demolition, a scoping report had been submitted to the local planning authority. The bat box installation continued. There had been successful peregrine breeding.

The EHSS&Q team had attended a team build event at the Wardens Trust, which had been extremely positive. There had been a reduction in conventional waste bins around the site and an estimated reduction in 2,800 single use plastic bags per month.

The NDA sustainability week had taken place from 11 to 15 September. A total of £276 worth of products had been sold.

Residual asbestos strip work continued in the turbine hall. De-plant activities had commenced inside the turbine hall at the end of June and were ongoing. Work would also commence to remove the transformers from the north of the turbine hall in November. The electrical annexe had been de-planted. The lifting beam had been re-tested and returned to site. The legacy scaffold removal work continued, with work currently taking place on lift seven of 14.

Sohail Ashraf referred to the 2023/24 asset and infrastructure care projects. The ex-ponds scaffold container had been moved from its elevated position. The flooring had been removed, and the remaining structure would undergo a size reduction to facilitate disposal as waste. The asbestos remediation continued. SZA continued to improve the reactor's building main water. The first two of three phases of modifications to the main and auxiliary water supplies within the reactor building had been completed. It was anticipated that the final package would be completed in the current financial year. Improvements had been made to the car park. Regarding the importing of SZA's ILW packages to Bradwell, SZA had submitted a further planning application to extend the deadline from December 2023 to 2029.

Recruitment

Sohail Ashraf highlighted that significant recruitment had occurred within the last four months.

Funding

Funding for SZA soc-ec remained at £1,020,035 annually. As of 11 October, £948,335 had been allocated. £29,215 of funding remained for the current financial period, in addition to £43,326 Good Neighbour allocation across the 12 sites. There had been four successful funding requests for SZA, totalling £56,020. SZA had donated £1,120 to Leiston Primary School for the purchase of two interactive whiteboards. £1,000 had been donated to Kesgrave Kestrels FC's U16 team for new kit. £22,500 in revenue funding continued to be donated to the Saxmundham Art Station, as well as funding towards the Leiston Long Shop Museum.

Sohail Ashraf noted that there had been an NDA socio-economic strategy refresh for 2023/24. Over the coming months, the NDA would engage with stakeholders across the UK to understand their social and economic priorities so that the NDA could align to these.

Pete Wilkinson asked Sohail Ashraf to explain his vision of a decommission site for SZA and how this vision was impacted by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's proposal to re-categorise waste. Sohail Ashraf responded that the strategy would always evolve based on current knowledge and information. His view of SZA remained unchanged. SZA would continue to move through to care and maintenance.

Pete Wilkinson said the current bill being reviewed for all radioactive waste management was increasing in cost. The demand to drive down the cost of radioactive waste management was filtering through to the local level and would have several implications. Honesty and frankness were necessary. Sohail Ashraf agreed to take this away.

ACTION: Sohail Ashraf to obtain an awareness of NDA's vision for SZA following the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's proposal to re-categorise waste.

Marianne Fellowes stated that the local community wanted to be involved in shaping plans for the site and for nothing to occur on site that prevented future use. Sohail Ashraf said he expected the NDA to continue to consult on such matters.

Joan Girling asked who owned and was responsible for SZA's sewage works. She also asked if there was a plan to upgrade the sewage works. Sean Verrall confirmed that the sewage works belonged to SZB. SZB contracted with SZA for the management and maintenance of the sewage works, which was used as a joint facility. Sohail Ashraf said that, while there had been several upgrades to the sewage works as part of the asset care, there were no plans to increase its capacity. There were also no plans to associate the SZC site with the sewage works.

Marianne Fellowes announced that this would be Sohail Ashraf's last SSG meeting. The attendees thanked Sohail Ashraf for his work as part of the SSG and wished him well in his new appointment.

4892 **B. Andrew Bull (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)**

It was noted that Andrew Bull had offered his apologies. Attendees were encouraged to submit any questions to be presented to the ONR.

4893 **C. James Heavingham (Environment Agency)**

It was noted that James Heavingham had offered his apologies due to weather. A virtual EA meeting was scheduled for 7 November, and attendees were encouraged to submit any questions to be presented to the ONR.

5. NRS CORPORATE UPDATE

4894 **A. Bill Hamilton (NRS)**

Bill Hamilton explained that Magnox was rebranding to NRS following its merger with Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd. Thinks Insight & Strategy had undertaken a programme of work identifying individuals who lived 20 miles within NRS sites. 50% of the individuals were between the ages of 11-18. These individuals had been asked what they thought the site meant for the future of their community. There had then been a working group of young people and a working group of adults. NRS would then commission a wider polling exercise through BritainThinks. The final data would be shared with the SSG. The Chair and Vice Chair would be provided with early visibility of the work during NRS meeting on 23 November.

John McNamara, Head of Stakeholder Relations at NDA, had been seconded to Great British Nuclear for six-months. Sam Harris had temporarily assumed management of John McNamara's work. Simon Napper, who had been seconded into NDA, had returned to NWS.

Mike Taylor asked who would ensure that EDF Energy Holdings invested a significant amount of the decommissioning money into the Nuclear Liabilities Fund to fund the ongoing AGR decommissioning. Marianne Fellowes explained that she had been informed by NDA that EDF would use funding from NLF to cover costs of removing fuel, then whatever balance remained in the Nuclear Liabilities Fund would have to be supplemented by tax payers for NRS decommissioning actions. Pete Wilkinson requested that he, Marianne Fellowes and SSG stakeholders be kept abreast of any developments regarding who would fund the storage of the AGR fuel. Bill Hamilton agreed to confirm this information.

ACTION: NDA and/or NRS to be asked to confirm funding agreement with EDF for AGR decommissioning and fuel storage.

6. NDA REPORTS

4895 **A. Simon Napper (NDA)**

It was noted that Simon Napper had offered his apologies.

7. MATTERS ARISING AND QUESTIONS FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

4896 It was noted that the action tracker had not been downloaded to the projector or provided in the printed pack. To be reviewed via email between meetings..

8. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR REPORT

4897 Marianne Fellowes circulated a physical copy of the Chair and Vice Chair Report to the attendees. It was noted that Chair and Vice Chair had:

- Attended the Sizewell Emergency Planning Consultative Committee to observe.
- Met with other Chairs and Vice Chairs of NRS Sites, Sellafield & Dounray. Marianne Fellowes had also been elected as the Vice Chair of the national group;
- Met with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority;
- Met with NRS.
- A special subgroup meeting on Emergency Planning had also been facilitated. There was an intention to hold additional subgroup meetings.

Marianne Fellowes reported that she and Pete Wilkinson had also attended on-site meetings with the SZA and SZB site managers and directors and the ONR inspector for SZB to discuss matters of interests and concerns. Two site visits had been made to SZA in 2022. Chair and Vice Chair had also met regularly with the secretariat. Marianne Fellowes thanked Cath Pritchard and Jessica Dawson for their work and support.

9. REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

4898 Marianne Fellowes presented the constitution. Membership would consist of elected representatives within the local authorities, SZA/SZB site staff and local politicians, local community groups with an interest in the SZA and SZB sites and co-opted members. The purpose of the SSG would remain unchanged.

Marianne Fellowes clarified that, although elected representatives were listed by name of organisation, a name would not be included as it was the organisation not the individual who was being represented. Marianne Fellowes proposed an annex that would record the names of current representatives.

Marianne Fellowes highlighted paragraph 2.3. The constitution would be updated to include Together Against Sizewell C (TASC) as a properly constituted organisation that represented local people who had applied as per the Constitution for membership.

Marianne Fellowes referred to paragraph 2.4. A maximum of 10 co-opted members could be added into the SSG. The co-opted members were not permitted to send a substitute member. If a co-opted member wished to send a substitute, should it be unable to attend an SSG meeting, it would need to apply as a group or organisation to be added to the list of properly constituted organisations that represented local people.

Joan Girling requested that co-opted members be named. Marianne Fellowes stated that an appendix would list the current elected representatives and co-opted members.

Joan Girling suggested that the constitution clearly state that co-opted members were permitted to vote. Marianne Fellowes proposed that paragraph 2.4 include the sentence, 'Co-opted members have the same voting rights as Members.'

Robert Gunn queried the relevance of TASC being listed as a properly constituted organisation that represented local people, as the constitution was concerned with SZA and SZB. Marianne Fellowes responded that members of the TASC group has attended many previous meetings as members of the public to receive information and ask questions about SZA and SZB matters. They have an interest in SZA and SZB and represent local people. Sohail Ashraf said NRS could only answer questions in relation to SZA and SZB.

Cllr Lesley Hill referred to paragraph 2.2 and noted that the reference to Suffolk Coastal District Council needed to be changed to East Suffolk Council. She also proposed that paragraph 2.3 list 'Representation from Leiston businesses' rather than 'Leiston Business Association.'

Trevor Branton highlighted paragraph 2.4 and the sentence 'If there are more than 10 applications for co-option, then an election will be conducted.' It was possible that the sentence could work against the spirit of co-opted members. He proposed that, in the event of there being more than 10 applications for co-option, the number be reviewed based on demand. This was agreed.

Marianne Fellowes outlined the following areas:

- Duties of members
- Duties of Chair and Deputy chair
- Full meetings
- Subgroup & working party meetings
- Conduct of business
- Review

Sohail Ashraf said he was unsure that the properly constituted organisations accurately represented the wider community. Marianne Fellowes stated that it could also be assumed that elected representatives represented their entire parish or town. She was also of the view that the SSG should aim to contact additional groups that were historically hard to reach to increase representation.

Bill Hamilton said the NDA would need to review the new constitution, should it be accepted. Marianne Fellowes replied that, having reviewed the NDA guidance, she was happy that the SSG was operating within the NDA guidance and was independent of the industry.

Sohail Ashraf requested that all references to Magnox within the constitution be changed to NRS.

The proposed amendments to the constitution were approved.

Marianne Fellowes invited all attendees to express any interests to be co-opted onto the SSG. There were no expressions of interest. Members were encouraged to raise awareness with others about the SSG and its work.

10. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

4899 It was noted with no other nominations that Marianne Fellowes and Pete Wilkinson's nominations as Chair and Vice Chair was accepted.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4900 Marianne Fellowes thanked all present for their attendance. There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting dates: Wednesday 17 January, Wednesday 22 May and Wednesday 18 September 2024.