



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT SIZEWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

Marianne Fellowes
Pete Wilkinson
Trevor Branton
Cllr Nicky Corbett
Cllr Lesley Hill
Cllr Alistair Lumpkin
Alan Hatt
Cllr T-J Haworth-Culf
Jenny Kirtley
Janet Fendley
Pat Hogan

Independent Chair
Vice Chair
Co-Opted Member
Leiston Town Council
Leiston Town Council
Aldeburgh Town Council
Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council
Suffolk County Council
TASC
Friends of the Earth
Sizewell Residents Association

Operators and Officers

Sohail Ashraf
Robert Gunn
Andrew Bull
Daniel Gregory
David Prescott
James Heavingham
Alex Lord
Karl Littlewood
Haf Morris
Richard Parlone
Niki Rousseau
Sean Verrall
Joss Mullett
Matthew Dent

Sizewell A & Bradwell Sites Director - NRS
Sizewell B Station Director – EDF
ONR SZA Inspector
ONR SZB Inspector
ONR Principal Nuclear Safety Inspector
Environment Agency Inspector SZA
Environment Agency Inspector SZB
Environment Agency Team Leader
NRS Soc Economics
EDF Staff representative
EDF Community Liaison Officer
EDF SZB Plant Manager
East Suffolk Council, Communities Team
Minute Taker

Members of the Public

Mike Taylor
David Bailey

Friends of the Earth

Apologies

Joan Girling
Pip Hatt
Janet Fendley
Bill Hamilton
Tom Daly

Co-Opted Member
NDA
Friends of the Earth
NRS Communications & Stakeholder relationships
East Suffolk Council Ward Member & Portfolio Holder

4901 WELCOME

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

No additional declarations were made.

Apologies were received as listed.

4902 MATTERS ARISING AND QUESTIONS FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

The minutes had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

One question had been raised from Leiston Town Council regarding the constitution, which had not been included in the meeting pack. This would be circulated, but the changes detailed in the minutes had been made.

Mike Taylor asked on behalf of Joan Girling for clarification on item 9 related to substitution of co-opted members, as it appeared that a co-opted independent member would need to be a member of a group or organisation to have a substitute. Marianne Fellowes confirmed that this was the case as they represented their own interests not that of a group. If there were more people who should be co-opted that was possible, as the cap of 10 co-opted members had been removed. Marianne Fellowes asked that Joan Girling send any alternative wording if she thought appropriate.

Most of the active actions would be covered by the presentations.

Mike Taylor noted in regard to item 4611, relating to the RIMNET data, that the information was not adequate compared to what it used to be. Marianne Fellowes noted that she had not been able to drill down into the data. Richard Parlone stated that there was a publicly accessible website which he could share with the group. It was agreed that an education session on use of the website might be helpful, which he agreed to provide.

Haf Morris requested a correction be noted the "£1.02 million for Sizewell A" on previous meeting powerpoint should read, for NRS, covering the 12 sites.

Actions:

- Secretariate to circulate updated Constitution with Minutes once available.
- RP to provide address for accessible website for RIMNET data, and assistance to access if required individually or to a group.

4903 SIZEWELL A REPORTS

Sohail Ashraf (Site Director, NRS) and NRS Corporate Update

Marianne Fellowes noted that this would be Sohail Ashraf's last SSG meeting and thanked him for his work and congratulated him on his promotion and new role decommissioning the EDF AGR fleet.

SA presented his report. There had been two minor injuries on site: an individual who had tripped on a pavement and a pre-existing injury. It was important that there was a good reporting culture and the learnings were made going forward. There had been no environmental incidents, and no security incidents.

On the sale of the old substation yard, the project team on the turbine hall had recently completed the blocking up of the tunnels, which was moving things forward. A contract was now in place for the enabling works. An update would be given at the next SSG.

OFFICIAL

On the environmental impact assessment, NRS had had to make submissions to the local authority, looking at what was happening in the area holistically. That information had been submitted and the process was progressing.

A lot of work had been done with contractors around the site sustainability group. Bimonthly meetings took place with the team. The sustainability missions were taken very seriously and included behaviours and conduct. The Wear It Pink Day held on-site had been important to a lot of people, with £612 raised from a bake sale. There had also been a donation initiative with the foodbank supporting families over Christmas.

The turbine hall was entering the major deplant phase. Prior to this, an open day had been held for former colleagues, who had commented that the plant was in good condition compared to when they had worked there.

In terms of asset care, a number of packages had been completed in-year, and a number were ongoing. There had been some degradation of the pipework, for which temporary measures were in place. The car park drainage had been improved, as well as line painting, and the lighting was being looked at. Remediation works include the 'Fix It Now' team which focuses on the asbestos activities and compliance. A more visible fence was also being added on the existing security deterrent as an enhancement.

The planning application had been approved by Essex County Council for the Bradwell ISF. This was extended to December 2029, but package numbers were not being increased.

Across the business, NRS were recruiting 30 apprentices, and people in the local areas were encouraged to apply. The closing date is 16th February. In terms of socio-economic schemes, there had been £56,000 in contributions over the period. An economic impact strategy had been published in July 2023, and had been being updated and engagement taking place with stakeholders. The draft strategy had been developed and put out for consultation, with a closing date for comments of 21 February.

Sohail Ashraf announced that Ian Cuthbert would be taking over in the interim as Site Director, with an intention to appoint a fulltime replacement. Updates on this would be provided to the SSG. Marianne Fellowes noted that Ian Cuthbert had been invited to the meeting but had been unable to attend due to prior commitments.

PH queried what a ha-ha wall was. Sohail Ashraf explained it was a deep moat, which formed an agreed security measure that had been there since day one.

PH thanked Sohail Ashraf for being an excellent communicator and noted that the residents valued the SSG as a forum. She noted that the previous night had been the first meeting of the Sizewell Main Development Site Forum, at which Sizewell residents had been denied a place. She asked anyone who felt able to do so to speak up about this. Marianne Fellowes reported that she had been at the meeting and had requested for resident representation and for representation of Snape Parish Council.

Mike Taylor noted that the Bradwell ILW Store had been mentioned at previous meeting, and he thought it had been said there was groundwater coming up through the basement. Sohail Ashraf explained in previous years there had been evidence seen of groundwater ingress, but there had been monitoring and nothing of concern had been seen. There was a programme of work looking at civil repairs which would have to be carried out, with the first step to define the strategy, but the physical repairs were not going to be implemented in the immediate future until the strategy has been defined.

Mike Taylor queried the impact of the Sizewell C sea defence wall on Sizewell A and B and whether they had been consulted. Sohail Ashraf stated he would have to take this away and come back with an answer regarding consultation and impact to Sizewell A. On behalf of Sizewell B, Robert Gunn confirmed they had been consulted.

Marianne Fellowes queried action point 4833 about the campaign for wet ILW. Sohail Ashraf explained that a review was ongoing for the business planning round. Once that was completed in late-February/early-March an update could be provided at the May SSG meeting.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Marianne Fellowes queried action point 4873(a) about the accredited disposal route for LLW. Sohail Ashraf reported that from a waste minimisation perspective a lot of sort and segregation was done, to minimise the waste packages.

Marianne Fellowes queried action point 4873(b) about confirmation of work to cap sewage and waste lines for the rigs. Sohail Ashraf stated he had thought this question had been to do with the outfalls, which had been capped off for Sizewell A. He would confirm about the sewage lines.

Marianne Fellowes queried action point 4873(c) about a blog claiming hazards to health from dust and water. Sohail Ashraf stated he had not managed to find the blog and asked for a link to be sent to him. Where dust suppression techniques are to be used they would need to be agreed as part of the works planning, validated and controlled.

Actions:

- SA to provide information regarding consultation about, and impact of, SZC Sea defence wall.
- Campaign for wet ILW to be reported back to May SSG meeting.
- SA to confirm state of sewage lines (4783b).
- Blog information to be forwarded to SA for comment regarding hazards to health from dust and water during cleaning of equipment/demolition

4904 Andrew Bull (Site Inspector, SZA Office for Nuclear Regulation)

Andrew Bull presented his report. He had been site inspector for six months, during which he had undertaken handover and familiarisation. An inspection had been conducted around licence condition 7 in December 2023, which had been green. He had been onsite the previous day for an inspection alongside the Environment Agency, on which he would feed back at the next SSG meeting. Andrew Bull had been liaising with civil engineering experts to ensure demolition works were being safely conducted, as well as engaging with licencing colleagues around inspecting the transfer of packages to Sizewell B.

Marianne Fellowes welcomed Andrew Bull to his role and asked whether he covered Bradwell. Andrew Bull confirmed that he did and had visited in September.

Marianne Fellowes queried the site licence arrangements between Sizewell A and Sizewell B for the parcel of land sold over. Andrew Bull said an application had been received from Sizewell A for the transfer, and the transfer was not expected until 2025, with a lot of engagement between the sites. Marianne Fellowes queried who had responsibility where there were any issues. Sohail Ashraf explained it was a NRS site licence, working with their counterparts at EDF, and the responsibility remained with them until the licence transferred. Marianne Fellowes suggested that this might be a 'pinch point' at the next outage in October. Robert Gunn confirmed that the sites were working closely together.

4905 James Heavingham (SZA Environment Agency)

James Heavingham presented his report. Monthly meetings were held with NRS to discuss the upcoming work, and anything with a potential environmental impact, as well as reviewing any discharges on site.

In September 2023 an inspection had been carried out of the management of both radioactive and non-radioactive solid waste. This included the non-radioactive waste which would be produced in the turbine hall demolition, which NRS were keen to recycle. The inspection had found a robust documentation system. In December an inspection had been completed of site drainage and drainage-related assets, including credible fire risk scenarios. This had been used in a scenario for one of the emergency exercises, and more than 80 members of staff were trained on spillage equipment. A good drainage plan was in place, but James

Heavingham had recommended a drainage survey was completed as it had last been done in 2013. No non-compliance had been identified in the inspections, and there had been no reported environmental incidents in the period.

The joint permit transfer application had been received from Sizewell A to Sizewell B, and it would be considered within the statutory timescale and the decision published.

Marianne Fellowes queried the last drainage survey having been in 2013. James Heavingham confirmed this and noted that the industry standard was to conduct one every five to 15 years.

Mike Taylor noted discharge requirements for Sizewell C seemed to increase the risk of flooding around Leiston Town, which might impede workers going to Sizewell A and B, as well as putting at risk the welfare of the town. It appeared as if the Environment Agency had been overridden. Marianne Fellowes noted that at the Sizewell C Main Development Site forum meeting the previous night it had been stated that Sizewell C would be meeting the Environment Agency and local authorities regarding flooding. Areas had flooded that year for the first time in 50 years. Once the forums for Sizewell C were meeting regularly, Marianne Fellowes anticipated things would become easier.

Pete Wilkinson noted an outstanding action regarding discharge of radiological liquid waste collected in tanks at Sizewell A. James Heavingham explained there were two tanks which at a capacity of 150m³ would be discharged. Prior to discharge a sample would be analysed for radioactive contamination amongst other things. If it was within acceptable limits, then it would be signed off and the discharge made between 30 minutes after low tide and one hour before high tide. The discharge rate was about 30m³ per hour, taking approximately five years. Pete Wilkinson asked whether there was any public notification. James Heavingham did not believe this was a requirement. Pete Wilkinson asked how frequent discharges were. James Heavingham said it was now very infrequent, with the last one being May 2023. They seemed to be once a year to once every 18 months. Robert Gunn stated they could bring back some information on the impact of discharges. Marianne Fellowes noted it might be helpful to have comparisons to other sites.

Actions:

- RG to provide information on discharges, with comparison from other sites.

4906 SIZEWELL B REPORTS

Robert Gunn (Site Director, EDF)

Robert Gunn presented his report. The station had run at full power since the last report. Sizewell B had passed 1,000 days since the last recordable injury. Briefings had been given to staff to make sure safety was maintained, including talks by an individual who had suffered a serious work injury. The feedback regarding this had been strong.

An outage was planned for October, which was expected to last around 60 days, to facilitate changing of a portion of the fuel and carrying out of maintenance activities. Preparations for this were going well.

A number of reviews had taken place, which had been positive but there was always room for improvement. Just before Christmas there had been an issue with a number of reactors in the north of England involving a leak in a steam valve. This valve was not present at Sizewell B. An inspection had taken place as part of the last outage to find out how a number of seals had entered the forebay, but despite assurances that there were no gaps. At the moment there were two new seals had joined the one remaining, so in total there are three seals in the forebay. They had been assessed as healthy, and a rescue operation was intended in around two weeks.

Work had been taking place on the life extension programme. Sizewell B had been due to cease operation in 2035, but an application would be made for this to be extended to at least

2055. This would involve investment of up to £1 billion over the next few year, and actively recruiting staff and bringing in apprentices.

Due to Sizewell C construction, Sizewell B would be handing over land and would have to deconstruct a number of buildings at the north end of the Sizewell B site. At the southwest corner of the site building was taking place of a new admin building, training centre and outage store, as well as a new visitor centre. The existing visitor centre had been seeing healthy numbers, with over 100,000 people since 2012, and all were welcome.

Trevor Branton welcomed the news of over 1,000 days since the last reportable injury but noted that it was inevitable that there would be an accident eventually. He asked what support was in place for the individual who had that accident, especially given the psychological impact of breaking that streak. Robert Gunn noted that whilst milestones were recognised, it was important not to be complacent. Sizewell B had trained mental health first aiders. Sohail Ashraf noted there were a lot of campaigns around psychological safety.

Alistair Lumpkin queried whether the details around the emergency testing were in the public domain. Robert Gunn confirmed that it was. Alistair Lumpkin noted he had responsibility for Aldeburgh Town Council's emergency planning and wanted to see how it matched up with Sizewell B. Sean Verrall noted that part of the external infrastructure was the Suffolk Resilience Forum. Marianne Fellowes noted a prior meeting with Neil Evans where they had discussed emergency planning.

Mike Taylor queried whether a uranium supply shortage would affect the plans around Sizewell C and whether EDF would look at changing fuel procedures. Marianne Fellowes noted that in principle this was not a question for the SSG. Robert Gunn noted that this was not an issue up to 2025.

Alan Hatt noted that the new plans for the sea defences appeared to be outside the DCO perimeter, and queried whether there was awareness of this. Marianne Fellowes said an update had been requested on coastal defences to the Main Development Site Forum.—There might need to a subgroup meeting on coastal defences.

Marianne Fellowes queried action point 4890, about the use of Sizewell B water for Sizewell C's water strategy, and a question about power coming from Sizewell B for the desalination plant. Niki Rousseau noted on the question about water it had been raised with Sizewell C and they should have responded. Marianne Fellowes asked to be forwarded the email. Robert Gunn noted that on desalination it was a work in progress. The power impact would be very marginal.

Actions:

- Email to be forwarded regarding use of SZB water, and confirmation of power required.

4907 Daniel Gregory (Site Inspector, SZB Office for Nuclear Regulation)

Daniel Gregory presented his report. He highlighted the extreme ambient temperature inspection in the summer, which was part of a series of interventions across the fleet looking at the response to high temperatures, prompted by the very hot summer of 2022. It also included cold weather and was related to discussions around climate change. This was ongoing.

The LCLM and emergency arrangements inspection had taken place at the end of 2023. There had been quite a lot of these, but there was 'nothing sinister' about it. The demonstration exercise had been the best Daniel Gregory had seen.

On Sizewell C interactions, an inspection had taken place with Daniel Gregory's counterpart for Sizewell C looking at how interfaces were managed.

4908 Alex Lord (Environment Agency SZB)

Alex Lord presented his report. Since the last SSG there had been an inspection looking at operational instruction and control, where no non compliance had been identified. There had also been an inspection of major projects and EDF's 'intelligent customer' capability.

Before Christmas the Environment Agency had received the site waste management plan and environmental safety case. The most recent RIFE (radioactivity in food and the environment) report had been released in November, and the Sizewell total dose had reduced from 0.016 mSv in 2021 to 0.005 mSv.

Marianne Fellowes queried action point 4848(c) about concentration levels in the disinfectant incident and worst-case scenario if not detected. Alex Lord noted that the concentration level was about the same as found in tapwater.

4909 REVIEW NDA REPORTS

Marianne Fellowes said proposed that a subgroup meeting be held to review the following NDA reports.

A. Draft Business Plan 2024-2027

B. NDA Social Impact and Community Strategy

C. Reclassification of Waste

Actions:

- Subgroup meeting to be held before next meeting in May 2024

4910 CHAIR & VICE CHAIR REPORT

Marianne Fellowes presented her report (attached). Marianne Fellowes took indications of those interested in attending a subgroup meeting and noted that an invitation would be sent out. Additional topics which would be suitable for a subgroup meeting included emergency planning and coastal defences.

4911 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alistair Lumpkin raised that it had previously suggested to get Sizewell C involved in the SSG, and this seemed to have fallen quiet. Marianne Fellowes confirmed that an invitation had been sent to Sizewell C to send representatives, but they had declined and directed the SSG to the forums which were starting up. Historically there had always been a separate meeting during construction phases, but at present Sizewell C had declined even to send a representative as an observer. Alistair Lumpkin noted that the range of forums that Sizewell C were setting up were probably necessary in the construction phase, but that that information should be disseminated to the SSG. Pete Wilkinson stated there was no reason in his view for Sizewell C not to attend the SSG.

Jenny Kirtley noted it had always been very pleasant attending SSG meetings, and there was a problem in relation to Sizewell C. NGOs such as the RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and others had been excluded from the Sizewell C forums. Jenny Kirtley hoped that Sizewell A and B would encourage Sizewell C to include the community. Niki Rousseau noted that any questions for Sizewell C could be taken to the Sizewell C office. Mike Taylor stated that it reflected poorly on EDF. Marianne Fellowes noted that there was still an aspiration for collaborative dialogue.

Nicky Corbett noted a concern that given the emotions around Sizewell C, there was a danger of their attendance at the SSG meetings eclipsing the other sites. Marianne Fellowes noted that there would be no harm in Sizewell C attending in an observer capacity.

OFFICIAL

Trevor Branton requested that time be allocated at a future meeting for a presentation by the National Grid. Marianne Fellowes agreed and suggested to enable sufficient time, it may be more appropriate to invite the National Grid to a subgroup meeting.

Actions:

- EDF SZC to be invited to observe the SSG.
- Reports from SZC Forums of relevant matters to be shared to the SSG.
- NG to be invited to a future meeting to discuss their projects and cumulative impacts.

Marianne Fellowes thanked all present for their attendance. All PowerPoints would be available on the website. There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

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