



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT SIZEWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

Members

Marianne Fellowes
Pete Wilkinson
Cllr Tom Daly
Cllr Russ Rainger
Cllr Bill Seale
Cllr Leslie Hill
Mike Taylor
Janet Fendly
Jenny Kirtley
Alan Warner
Pat Hogan

Independent Chair
Vice Chair
East Suffolk Council
Snape Parish Council
Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish
Leiston-cum-SizeWell Town Council
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Earth
TASC
SizeWell Resident
SizeWell Resident

Officers

Alan Walker	SizeWell A Site Director
John Carey	SizeWell A Staff Representative
Robert Gunn	SizeWell B Station Director
Niki Rousseau	Community Liaison Officer EDF
Kayleigh Ridley	NRS Comms & Socio-economic Lead – South East Sites
Neil Evans	Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit
Peter Langford	Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit
Alex Lord	Environment Agency Inspector SZB
Themis Kantara	Environment Agency Inspector SZB
David Prescott	ONR Inspector SZB
Andrew Bull	ONR Inspector SZA
Alistair Findlay	NDA Head of Regional Affairs
Matthew Dent	Minute Taker

Members of the Public

Jan Lovell

Apologies

Bill Hamilton
James Heavingham
Cllr Nicky Corbett
Joan Girling
Janet Fendley
Cllr Alistair Lumpkin
Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf

NRS Director of External Affairs
Environment Agency
Leiston Town Council
Co-Opted Member
Friends of the Earth
Aldeburgh Parish Council
Suffolk County Council

4924. WELCOME

Marianne Fellowes opened the meeting and noted apologies from Bill Hamilton, James Heavingham, Cllr Nicky Corbett, Joan Girling, Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf and Cllr Alistair Lumpkin.

There were no new declarations of interest.

4925. MATTERS ARISING AND QUESTIONS FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

Marianne Fellowes noted there had been some changes in post-holders since the last meeting and the copy of the minutes which had been sent out had not been the corrected version. Additionally, the minutes had been sent out later than intended. Going forward this would be improved on.

Marianne Fellowes noted that in some places in the minutes Alan Warner and Alan Walker had been confused. Within two weeks the corrected version of the minutes would be circulated.

The outstanding actions would be addressed within each of the presentations.

4926. SIZEWELL A REPORTS

Alan Walker (Site Director, NRS)

Alan Walker presented his report.

There had been one minor injury sustained by a contract partner during the last period. This had been during hotworks deplanting in the turbine hall. The individual had been wearing fire-retardant overalls and respiratory pack, when burning material had become trapped between the pack and the overalls and had caused a minor burn. The individual was okay, and learning was taken from the incident. Fire services had been called to site on 6 August, to one of the on-site transformers where there had been a failure of the supply cables causing a flashover and some smoke triggering an alarm. There had been no sustained fire, and the fire services had observed to ensure no chance of reignition.

There had been no environmental non-conformances from a rad point of view. From a non-rad perspective, on the turbine hall project there had been one consignment of waste which had not met the acceptance criteria at the facility processing the waste. It had been coal tar bitumen roof material, which included wood from the substructure. The percentage of wood had been too high for the waste acceptance criteria. The waste had been reprocessed by another provider. Over 7,000 tonnes of material had been shipped from the project, and the overall performance had been very good.

Since the last SSG, planning permission had been granted for the turbine hall demolition. The site environment team have oversight of the principal contractor activities and monitor the compliance with the environmental impact assessment.

There had been no security incidents onsite since the last SSG.

SZA had been exploring an opportunity with SZC to reuse the concrete material being demolished from the turbine hall. It would be processed and crushed, to be used as construction aggregate. Under the planning permission, there could be nine lorries a day going offsite to dispose of this material, and this arrangement would take up to 400 HGVs off the highways.

Peregrine falcons had bred and nested again. Onsite there had been three more juveniles this year, to a total of five over the last few years. Part of the mitigation on the turbine hall

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demolition had been the erection of nesting boxes around the site for black redstarts, and there had been two pairs successfully breeding in them.

The week commencing 5 September had been NRS sustainability week, with a number of activities onsite and across the company. A book swap scheme had been introduced, and presentations had been given by the National Trust and RSPB on volunteering, as well as talks on sustainability, energy efficiency and mindful purchases.

As part of the STEM activities, SZA had engaged with some of the local schools. There had been a number of pupils onsite, from years 9 to 12. This had included the pupils doing some electrical wiring, and working with engineering looking at use of drones onsite.

A number of asset and infrastructure care projects were underway at SZA, including replacement of the trunk radio system, maintenance of the reactor building fabric, and rationalisation and replacement of the number of fire doors onsite. There is a continual monitoring programme of asbestos until it is removed from site.

The transfer of the ex-National Grid building to SZB had been delayed due to the general election, but parliamentary time had been secured before the summer recess. The land had been transferred to EDF as of 26 July, with new licences for both sites, environmental permits and security plans.

SZA has five waste shipments planned for the year, with two already having been shipped. The remaining three shipments were expected to go before Christmas. The waste team had assisted with all of 4,200 tonnes of conventional waste removed from the turbine hall this financial year. The trainee and apprentice scheme had been particularly successful in the waste area, with five trainees in the waste department and six apprentices in total on site.

On the turbine hall, planning permission for demolition had been received on 13 August, and almost immediately demolition had begun on the electrical annex. This had been completed by 12 September. Deplant within the turbine hall had progressed well, but some unexpected asbestos had been discovered and dealing with it had delayed demolition. Explosives will be used to weaken concrete plinths within the turbine hall, which is planned for 1st November, with a contingency date of 8th November. If everything went to plan, demolition of the turbine hall should be complete by March 2025. Around 6,200 tonnes of material had been removed over the life of the project to date, which would be over 7,000 tonnes at completion.

A small project team was working within the reactor building to isolate the boiler houses, which contained plant equipment and asbestos. This would be three years' worth of work around the four boiler houses.

On socio-economic funding, across NRS sites there was £1.1 million annually, and £6,000 per site of good neighbour funding. Good neighbour project funding given out for 2024 so far was at £1,516.

Marianne Fellowes noted two outstanding actions. The first was 4873(a), relating to an accredited disposal route for LLW from SZA. Alan Walker explained that the LLW deposit in Cumbria was home for most LLW, but the government was consulting on different ways of classifying waste. Nothing formal had come through to NRS at site level yet. No changes were expected in classification. Marianne Fellowes noted that the other outstanding action was 4873(c) concerning hazard to health from dust and water. Alan Walker explained that using explosives to weaken the structures would mean a 60% reduction on demolition with conventional methods. During demolition, there were a range of control measures including pre-soaking and damping the area. Plant sweeping and localised cleaning would also be used. A minimal amount of water was used to avoid runoff, with drains being blocked off. Marianne Fellowes queried whether there had been resident communication regarding concrete crushing. Alan Walker confirmed there had been communication on the demolition technique and timescales but the level crushing is a late development to enable reuse of the material.

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Marianne Fellowes noted Alan Walker had said another provider had stepped in regarding some of the site waste, and queried who this had been. Alan Walker explained that the waste sent had exceeded the waste facility's acceptance criteria in terms of the quantity of wood. That facility had had to use another industry waste provider to deal with the waste.

Mike Taylor recalled that some of the concrete blocks from SZA had previously had to go to the LLW repository in Drigg because of radiation. He queried whether the transfer of aggregate between SZA and SZC would be checked. Alan Walker explained that the turbine hall had been extensively examined and there was no risk.

Action: Mike Taylor noted at one time radioactive source metals had had to go to Germany for disposal, and asked whether this was still the same. Alan Walker would take this away and come back with an answer.

Pat Hogan noted that many residents were very pleased about the land transfer to SZC, because it meant the pillbox field did not need to be used. She suggested that the language be changed from shipment to transportation given the volume being moved. Pat Hogan queried whether SZA were still maintaining the sea rigs, and whether they would still be remaining until they fell down. Alan Walker confirmed that the North Sea structures were being maintained. What had been on top of those structures had been deplanted some time ago. The site lifetime plan had the structures removed towards the back end, though the timing was uncertain.

Jenny Kirtley asked whether SZA were aware of the flood barriers on the ONR site licence for SZC, which were 30-foot walls to be put in place if needed if climate change was worse than reasonably foreseeable. These plans had not been included in the DCO. Alan Walker confirmed there were regular cross-site meetings, but he was not aware of the specifics. Alex Lord noted that SZC had confirmed these were not part of its plans. Marianne Fellowes noted there had been some very helpful drone footage shown by SZC, which could be helpful to be shown to the SSG as it was land adjacent to the SZA site.

Mike Taylor noted the lack of knowledge of how SZC sewage from a workforce perspective would be managed, as well as SZA and SZB remaining workforce. Alan Walker said this would be a question for SZC. Alex Lord noted that the operational sewage for SZC would be covered under the operational water discharge activities permit, and construction sewage would be covered under construction permits. These were separate to permits for SZA and SZC.

Marianne Fellowes noted the work taking place in the ponds to decommission skips, and queried whether these had been in storage somewhere and, where using water to reduce their size, what happened to the water effluent. Marianne Fellowes queried what the worker dose would be without the water providing shielding. Alan Walker explained that these skips had already been onsite, and had been left after defueling. The majority had been stored in ISO containers in a shielded area. Ultra-high pressure jet washing used very small volumes of water. Any material removed from the process in terms of sludge was processed into sludge storage tanks and a small amount of effluent there was treated for the active effluent discharge process. There had been an average of one discharge per year for the past few years. In terms of worker dose, the waste had been removed from the ponds and the walls cleaned, so the ambient dose was lower. Once a skip was on the rig, the operators could be remote to the work taking place. Marianne Fellowes queried the benefit as above leaving the skips in the shielded ISO containers. Alan Walker explained that the items needed to be disposed of ultimately, and the size reduction enabled more items to be packed into a disposal container.

4927. Andrew Bull (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

Andrew Bull presented his report.

The main focus had been on the turbine hall demolition. Andrew Bull had attended site a few times, including an inspection in January looking at the conventional health and safety aspects

of the project. There was minimal radiological risk associated. The general health and safety within the turbine hall demolition project had been rated green. A further inspection would be carried out just prior to the use of explosive, alongside an ONR civil engineer, to look at the arrangements for use of the explosives, around which there was a regulatory hold point.

The transfer of the old substation site from SZA to SZB had seen a licence condition 2 inspection, about marking the onsite boundary. This had been rated as green, with good signage and accuracy as to where the new site boundary would be. Alongside the transfer there had been a lot of work within ONR to update the licence and permission the transfer.

Andrew Bull would be receiving the investigation report after the small fire at the transformer in a month or so. This was unusual as it was a fairly new transformer, so the ONR would be looking for wider industry learning.

Jenny Kirtley asked how the ONR would be letting the local population know when the explosions would be happening. Andrew Bull said this was not for the regulator to do. He understood that SZA had been letting people know. People would be stationed outside the site boundary on the beach on the morning of the explosions. Marianne Fellowes suggested putting articles in local newsletters, as these also went to holiday accommodation. Alan Walker said there had been two trial explosions and the pressure wave and sound levels had been measured. He had been surprised at how quiet it had been.

4928. Alex Lord (Environment Agency)

Alex Lord presented the report in James Heavingham's absence.

There had been discussion about reuse of material from SZA at SZC, and reuse was encouraged where possible. Any reuse of material did require relevant regulatory approval and would have to comply with relevant legislation and regulations.

Marianne Fellowes noted that action 4875 was outstanding, in respect of how residents were notified of discharges into the sea, given that wild swimming took place. Alan Walker clarified that there was no requirement to notify the public when discharges were taking place. The system had been designed to disperse effluent as well as possible.

Mike Taylor noted that there were a number of monitoring buoys off the coast but the Sizewell-specific one was currently not deployed. Alex Lord said it was not the Environment Agency's system so he could not comment, and this needed to be put to CEFAS. There was a requirement under the water discharge permit for SZB to monitor temperature of water coming in and going out, and the difference was regulated.

Mike Taylor noted that the desalination plant on the construction of which SZC was reliant for water, and that the permitting for this had not yet been carried out. This permitting could not be separate from the water impacts of SZA and SZB. Alex Lord noted that this was taken into consideration. Marianne Fellowes noted that at the community forum a plan had been very quickly shown of where the desalination plant would go. She asked whether Alex Lord was aware of where it was intended to go. Alex Lord said he was not personally aware. Request was made for an update to the meeting regarding desalination.

Alan Warner noted there was a monitoring buoy two miles off Sizewell, though he was not sure what it was used for.

Action: Pat Hogan said this was the Waverider buoy and there had been recent notification that it would be replaced, though she did not know if this had been carried out. Marianne Fellowes said an action would be taken to contact CEFAS for an update.

Action: Further information regarding Desalination (location and operation)

4929. SIZEWELL B REPORTS**Robert Gunn (Station Director, EDF)**

Robert Gunn presented his report.

There had been no nuclear related events, environmental events, fire events or security events. There had been a disappointing performance from an industrial safety point of view, based on two events. It had been almost 10 years since the last contractor injury, and in short order there had been two injuries in the same area, at the new outage store. Two contract partners had suffered injuries to their feet, one from stepping off the mobile working platform and the other from a section of steelwork landing on their foot. This was despite wearing protective equipment. Both events have been subject to full investigations. There would be training to all site staff and outage contact partners.

The previous day, one colleague onsite had passed away. They had arrived on site as normal, had been taken ill and had been responded to in a matter of minutes by first aiders. There had also been two ambulances on site within 10/15 minutes. Unfortunately, there was nothing that could have been done. This individual had worked at SZB for 12/13 years, and support was being provided to affected colleagues as well as the individual's family.

The reactor had been shut down the previous week Friday 11 October, after having run non-stop for 18 months since the last outage, at full power and without losses. This had provided power to around 2.5 million homes in the east of England. The reactor had been shut down safely without issue. A 47-day programme was planned for the shorter turbine work and a 60-day programme on the longer turbine work. There had been no safety or quality issues so far, and the defuelling of the reactor would start the following week. An extensive overhaul would take place of turbine 1, with rotors being replaced. Inspection work on the reactor would also be taking place, on which there would be an update at the next SSG meeting, including welds, pipework and so on. The regulators would also be monitoring this.

SZB were actively recruiting and increasing headcount by over 10%, as they prepared for the life extension programme.

SZB is due to close in 2035, but the intention is to extend this until at least 2055 and potentially longer. Around £800 million would be spent on the plant during that time. The extension programme was going well with no technical reasons not to extend the plant and the business case was being worked through. This work would last around 10 years and include work on plant as well as reviewing of safety cases and design.

A lot of visits had taken place from government and civil servants, who were welcomed to the SZB site. Lord Hunt had visited around a month earlier and had been shown the life extension plans as well as being given a tour of the plant.

SZB were doing whatever possible to manage the number of vehicles in the area, as well as managing speed. Reports were received sometimes of behaviours out of line with expectations, and it was best to provide registration numbers to allow follow-up. SZB had been in touch with SZC about parking and driving, and SZC was operating a bus service to help decrease volumes.

The apprentice programme was used to bring in local people, typically all from Suffolk. A lot of senior staff had started out as apprentices. The apprentices would complete a four-year technical training programme, with two years in Somerset at college, and two years on site. At the end they would be qualified technicians. Six apprentices had just started.

The SZB sponsorship fund gave out reasonable sums to as many local causes as possible. Robert Gunn encouraged bids to the fund for anything which would support the local community. Around £10,000 had been delivered in 2024 so far.

Cllr Tom Daly asked whether the outage would include looking at potential work for the life extension. He also asked whether radioactive waste would be generated during the outage. Robert Gunn explained that very little life extension work was occurring during the outage,

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outside of the routine inspections. A reasonable amount of waste was produced during the outage, including removing around a third of the fuel.

Alan Warner noted there had been heavy traffic the previous morning, taking 25 minutes to get from Leiston to Sizewell. He asked whether anything was being done to secure a 40 mph speed limit. Robert Gunn agreed that there was a good deal of traffic on the road. There were 1,200 people on site, so not much could be done to limit traffic. Alongside SZC, SZB was making buses available. SZB had no control over the speed limits but was happy to support any proposals. Pat Hogan said the roads were dangerous. It had previously been suggested that at shift change times SZB station someone in uniform on the corner.

Action: Marianne Fellowes undertook to ask SZC at its next meeting to facilitate a meeting between SZA, SZB and SZC, highways and the police in order to discuss the road situation.

Cllr Russ Rainger thanked Robert Gunn and the SZB team for their support for the Long Shop Museum with a telehandler enabling it to move forward with the community workshop project, a trolley bus which was being restored. Robert Gunn would pass the thanks back to the team.

Cllr Leslie Hill noted that Leiston town centre was suffering with traffic problems from all of the sites. She queried whether the shifts could be staggered between the three sites. Robert Gunn would take this away to be looked at.

Mike Taylor asked for an update on how the seals were getting into the cooling system. Robert Gunn said there would be another look during the outage at how the seals were getting in. At the last outage, no gap had been found. Divers were booked and onsite, and the work would start in around a week's time. There were no issues with the cooling system.

Mike Taylor noted that the 30-mph limit on the B1122 was not helping the traffic situation, because HGVs were tailgating. If SZC went ahead this would be made even more difficult. Marianne Fellowes directed Mike Taylor to the relevant SZC traffic forum. Robert Gunn noted there was a variation of feedback, with some saying that the traffic was too fast, others that the speed limit was too low.

Mike Taylor asked whether there would be commitment from EDF to take on the local SZC apprentices at SZB if SZC did not go ahead. Robert Gunn could not make any commitment. SZC would be bringing in over 1,000 apprentices and he could not commit to taking all of them.

Jenny Kirtley asked why SZC did not have a representative at the SSG meetings. She asked SZA and SZB to apply pressure to SZC. Marianne Fellowes noted that under the previous government the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero had agreed to meet with town and parish councils quarterly. The new government was considering continuing this. Pat Hogan said SZC needed its own forum like the SSG. Mike Taylor noted that the format of the SZC forums was not working in terms of stakeholder communication and engagement. Janet Fendley noted there was no comparison between SZB's behaviour towards local residents during its construction and how SZC was behaving.

Marianne Fellowes asked for an update on cannister 19, which had a pinhole in it. Robert Gunn reported that at the moment this remained stable in the dry fuel store, which would continue for the foreseeable future. Marianne Fellowes noted that, when she had visited Hunterston B, she had been surprised this had not been heard about, as she felt it would be useful reporting across the industry. Robert Gunn confirmed it was on the operating experience database. The fuel design of an AGR was very different.

Marianne Fellowes asked whether SZB was still using Russian-supplied uranium. Robert Gunn confirmed that it was but was working to move away from using Russian fuel over the next few fuel cycles.

Action: Marianne Fellowes asked the current percentage of Russian fuel. Robert Gunn would come back with an answer.

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Marianne Fellowes understood a car sharing scheme had been put in place, and queried how many people were car sharing. Niki Rousseau said there were 20 car sharing parking spaces, with three or four people within each car. The parking spaces were in a prime location. Marianne Fellowes noted that a huge volume of cars had only one occupant. She queried the route of the joint SZC buses. Robert Gunn explained that the buses were coming from the new SZC offices at the Sizewell end of Leiston to the construction site, and took people off the Sizewell gap. Marianne Fellowes stated that this did not save traffic through Leiston. Cllr Leslie Hill noted that a traffic and transport plan was being designed for Leiston, which included allowing the use of bus stops for power station traffic. She was not sure when it would be implemented. Marianne Fellowes noted that SZC had a sticker applied to its vehicles, and asked whether the same could be applied for outage workers. Niki Rousseau noted that this only applied to work vehicles.

Marianne Fellowes offered condolences on behalf of the SSG to the family and friends of the deceased colleague at SZB.

Mike Taylor noted that there had been a big problem from the SZC development, in that the way the DCO had been drafted gave the developer the opportunity to do whatever it liked. EDF needed to look at this again. Robert Gunn said EDF would be dealing with anything that impacted on its operations.

4930. David Prescott (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

David Prescott presented his report.

The April to June report had been published. A controlled supervision inspection had been carried out looking at activities in the main control room, and focused attention on maintenance work packages and handovers being delivered. David Prescott had completed a three-day internal training course and observed delivery. The individuals on the course had been from all different avenues within EDF and David Prescott had been impressed with the delivery. One of the ONR inspectors was overseeing the outage works, and there would be future inspections conducted over the next few weeks. Conventional health and safety inspections had been carried out, which had seen good results. In September, the chief nuclear inspector themed inspection on climate change had been carried out, with SZB chosen as a site to review.

Mike Taylor noted the site licensing for SZB, the subject of SZC's licensability and that there was still work to be done at SZB to enable the transfer of land to SZC. He asked for an update on this. David Prescott explained that this was on the ONR's radar and would be subject to due process. Robert Gunn said the plan was to transfer land at the north end of SZB over to SZC.

Cllr Leslie Hill queried the meaning of 'adequate' in respect of inspection outcomes. David Prescott said the wording was from the licence conditions. A green rating would be applied to an adequate rating, whilst an amber rating would require some remediation.

Cllr Tom Daly asked whether the climate change assessment took into account the supply chain, and transport and storage of waste. David Prescott said a number of sites had been chosen, and it depended on the activities carried out on site and catering for future climate change. With respect of SZB, there was a long lead time. Cllr Tom Daly was interested in seeing the results of that assessment.

Marianne Fellowes noted that EDF claimed to be the UK's largest generator of zero-carbon electricity. It was understood that the generation of electricity was zero carbon, but the carbon footprint from the construction and decommissioning and the storage in place was not zero. She queried whether the ONR looked at these claims. David Prescott confirmed that the ONR did not look at this. Mike Taylor noted that when the dry fuel store had been built a carbon footprint analysis had been done, which had been very helpful and had been supplied to the government as a good example of those studies.

4931. Themis Kantara (Environment Agency)

Alex Lord and Themis Kantara presented the report.

Alex Lord explained that he would be handing over to Themis Kantara over the rest of the financial year.

Themis Kantara reported that in the last quarter the Environment Agency had undertaken three inspections. The first had been a two-part inspection on the Nuclear Operating Monitoring Assessment. There had been no issues or noncompliance, and areas of good compliance had been identified, as well as some areas to follow up with EDF. A joint inspection had been undertaken with the ONR, focused on hazards and how EDF and SZB were integrating climate aims as part of long-term operation of the station. A pre-audit inspection had also been undertaken, collecting evidence that the production of waste was well managed and well understood.

On the Long-Term Operation (LTO) programme extending SZB's lifetime to 2055+, the Environment Agency had reviewed the lifetime safety report produced by EDF. This looked at the technical information regarding identifying future work to support expansion of the LTO. No issues of compliance risk had been identified.

The land transfer from SZA to SZB had been completed. This had become effective from 26 July, and had not been associated with any aqueous or gaseous disposals.

A non-compliance had been identified in relation to thermoluminescence, with results for the Q4 Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) submission being invalid, as a result of samples being X-rayed within the postal system. No further enforcement action would be taken.

Alex Lord noted that at the previous SSG there had been a question around discharge profiles. He presented the 12-month rolling total of discharges as a percentage of the annual limit. In the absence of any leaking fuel there was a steady discharge of other radionuclides. For caesium-137, an indicator of leaking fuel, the reported value was below emitted detection. Carbon-14 discharges had been increasing beyond previous reports, and after investigation this had been found to be a change of behaviour of carbon delay events.

Pete Wilkinson noted that there was no safe level of exposure to radiation. Not much was known about tritium and the dangers it presented. Radionuclides being undetectable did not mean they were not harmful. Alex Lord noted that all of the annual limits applied to the groups of radionuclides which the Environment Agency considered to be significant. There may be others, but if they were not listed they were not considered significant.

Marianne Fellowes noted that there was a large spike in tritium, which Alex Lord had said was linked to the fuel cycle. She asked whether additional tritium was released when fuel was burned up. Alex Lord explained that over the course of the fuel cycle tritium would build gradually within the system. Marianne Fellowes noted that during March, June, September and December the caesium-137 levels had been elevated. Alex Lord explained that this was not at a sufficiently high level to indicate leaking fuel, but was likely residual from a previous leak. It had now fallen to effectively zero.

Marianne Fellowes queried the areas for follow-up with the operator. Themis Kantara explained that there had been a recommendation to EDF following a review of station documents, regarding how changes to standards would be applied. The second follow-up had been an observation, relating to solid waste onsite, that EDF could consider reinstating maximum periods of fingerprint review.

Action: An update would be provided at future SSG meeting regarding these recommendations.

4932. NDA REPORTS

Alistair Findlay presented his report.

The new government was committed to energy decarbonisation by 2030. Lord Hunt had visited Sellafield in August; having been a minister under the last Labour government, he had some knowledge of nuclear. Michael Shanks was the Commons minister for nuclear. The NDA had been engaged with the government ahead of the budget and spending review, making its case for funding.

Adrienne Kelbie had stood down as chair of Nuclear Waste Services, and had been replaced by Liz Peace. Harriet Kemp had joined the NDA board as a HR specialist.

There had been a stakeholder summit a few weeks earlier in Manchester. This had been very well attended and had featured a wide range of discussion. A review was currently taking place of site stakeholder groups, with meetings with chairs and vice-chairs being arranged, ahead of engaging directly with SSGs. There would also be a survey carried out shortly about how well the NDA was performing with engagement. The NDA had to produce a new strategy every five years; the next was due in 2026. Consultation was expected around spring 2025, and would be discussed with the SSGs in advance.

The NDA annual report had been published for 2023/24. The National Audit Office was expected to produce a report about Sellafield and the NDA to come out the following week. A Public Accounts Committee meeting was anticipated in January/February 2025.

Sellafield had been fined £332,500 for poor performance around site cyber security. This was very disappointing. When the ONR had confirmed the fine, it had indicated it had seen good performance in the last year. There had also not actually been a security breach.

Marianne Fellowes noted her disappointment that there had been no community representatives invited to meet Lord Hunt when he had visited the SZB and SZC sites. The reason given for this had been that it had been a private meeting, yet video footage from the visit had been used in a PR campaign. It had been 'rude' that even the local town council had not been invited. Alistair Findlay would relay Marianne Fellowes's disappointment back.

Mike Taylor noted that as part of the SSG constitution the local MP and neighbouring MPs or their representatives were invited. Marianne Fellowes noted that it had been indicated they would be able to attend if SSG meetings were held on a Thursday evening or Friday morning. Marianne Fellowes noted that the spending review would be crucial. Alistair Findlay noted that there had been a lot of engagement with the new MPs.

Action: The SSG agreed to try to have a meeting on a Friday morning.

4933. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR REPORT

Marianne Fellowes noted that she had attended the stakeholder meeting in Manchester which Alistair Findlay had mentioned. When the slides were available, they would be circulated to SSG attendees. The SZC community forum had taken place the previous week and had discussed transport matters and use of the site. It had been confirmed that the percentage of staff from Hinkley Point C would be 50%; 30% would be local within East Anglia, and 20% from further away. There was no local commitment within Suffolk. The other concern was around demand on accommodation and concerns that local families in private rental properties were being given notice as the nuclear industry offered greater income. There was also concern around migration of people to better paid jobs in the industry and the threat it posed to restaurants and hotels.

Action: When the SZC forum slides were available, they would be circulated.

Marianne Fellowes noted on her visit to Hunterston A and B she had been impressed with how the staff would transfer from EDF to NRS, for deconstruction. Defueling would be carried out by EDF, whilst NRS would be carrying out decommissioning.

4934. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 13.00.

Next Meeting dates: TBC

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