

Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) (Meeting No. 78)

Agenda

Wednesday, 26th March 2025

Via ZOOM Meeting to commence at 19:00

Introduction	Brian Main
Apologies for absence	Brian Main
Approval of the previous minutes – 2 nd October 2024	Brian Main
Matters arising from the previous minutes.	Brian Main
NRS Corporate Update	Bill Hamilton (TBC)
Bradwell Site Director's Report	Alan Walker
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Update	John McNamara
Environment Agency Site Inspector's Report	James Heavingham
AOB	Brian Main

Next Meeting Date: 24th Sep 2025

Please be reminded following a request from the Chairman, any requested amendments to the previous minutes should be submitted to the LCLC Secretariat in writing prior to the meeting:
bradwell.communications@magnoxsites.com.

BRADWELL SITE LCLC

Draft minutes of the 77th Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) meeting

held via Zoom

7.00 pm Wednesday 2 October 2024

ATTENDANCE

LCLC Executive

Brian Main	-	LCLC Chairman
Cllr John White	-	Deputy Chairman

LCLC Members

Alan Walker	-	Bradwell / Sizewell A Site Director
Alastair Findlay	-	Head of Regional Affairs, NDA
James Heavingham	-	Environment Agency
Kayleigh Ridley	-	Communications Lead, NRS
Cllr Ian Clarke	-	
Cllr Tony Fittock	-	Althorne Parish Council
Cllr John Akker	-	Tillingham Parish Council
Cllr John Driver	-	Maldon District Council
Cllr Nick Skeens	-	Burnham-on-Crouch Town Council
Cllr Gill Winsor	-	Latchingdon Parish Council

Members of the Public

Kim Avery	-	Virtual event host
John Noble		

I Introduction

3325 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked new members to introduce themselves.

II Apologies for Absence

3326 Received from Matthew Neall of Maldon District Council.

III Approval of the Previous Minutes

3327 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting on 27 March 2024.

IV Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

3328 Matthew Neill and Tony Fittock were to look into how we publicise ourselves to the public. Tony reported that a note would be put on the agenda of all the parishes south of Maldon (ie 17 or 18 parishes in the Dengie area; not including those north of the river) to remind them to encourage people to attend these LCLC meetings.

Brian Main asked about a website; Tony stated that the parish councils all have their own websites and he could encourage them to put information on line if we wish to encourage more public participation.

3329 John Akker mentioned the issues raised by Ian Clarke about sea defences and the collapse of the wall in West Mersea. John had significant experience of this wall and asked if this issue would be dealt with within the agenda. Brian Main said this should come under the Environment Agency's report. James Heavingham stated that this was already within his report, it not being his area of expertise, but he would take away any issues to convey to appropriate colleagues.

V Bradwell Site Director's Report

3330 Alan Walker, the new Site Director of Bradwell and Sizewell A sites, summarised recent work:

- Safety, compliance and environment: no incidents or accidents at Bradwell since the last LCLC meeting. The next demonstration exercise was planned for 11 December 2024. Care and maintenance was going well thus far, although there had been incidences of fly tipping.
- A beach clean had been carried out on 26 September, working with Maldon District Council and SUEZ Recycling and Recovery. 10 bags of rubbish were collected.
- Waste received and dispatched: no waste packages received into the interim storage facility recently from Dungeness, due partly to a defect on the crane. Dungeness are now commissioning new waste retrieval plant and is expected to send only three packages to Bradwell before the end of the financial year. Bradwell no longer has any low level waste (LLW) facilities; any such waste is transferred to Sizewell to maintain the Bradwell inventory at zero. Fly tipping is a current issue.
- Asset and infrastructure care work: outage planned for September was brought forward to June, when 110 compliance and maintenance routines were conducted. 60 more were done in September, including work in the turbine hall void to seal wall penetrations. This water is currently being analysed and appears to be quite clean. A long-term strategy has been developed for inspections of the reactor building voids; defects in the concrete are monitored regularly and will be repaired, some during March to June 2025. If the repairs are successful, the period between inspections will be increased.
- Socio-economic scheme: NRS funding across all sites remains at £1.1m pa. All but £80k is committed for the current financial year. Just under £44k is allocated to Bradwell. Just under £479k is committed for multi-year projects across all 12 sites. For Bradwell, this includes support to Maldon District Council for U Fest and an officer role (£80k over two

years) to administer Rural England Prosperity Funding, which will provide >£430k in grants. The Good Neighbour funding remains at £6k per site and £2k per application. Applications can be discussed with Kayleigh Ridley or Jess Dawson. A new NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy document was published in April and can be viewed at www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-social-impact-and-communities-strategy-april-2024/nda-social-impact-and-communities-strategy-april-2024.

3331 John White asked what would be done to publicise the planned exercise on 11 December. Alan Walker stated that it was low-key, routine business for the site and was mentioned in order to avoid alarm if people saw vehicles around the site and did not know why they were there.

3332 John asked Alan to let every council know about any solutions found to the waste/fly-tipping problem and asked if the NDA would publicise the fact of anyone being caught dumping waste. Alan felt that publicising details of individuals could be difficult in case it prejudiced any prosecutions.

John pointed out that waste dumped on farmland has to be cleared up by the farmer and waste on highways by the local council. He asked about the situation at Bradwell; Alan confirmed that the NDA has to deal with any such waste.

3333 Ian Clarke asked whether the problems with the crane would create a backlog of waste packages to be dealt with, would it require an extension to the licence for bringing packages in and when would this end/what per centage of the store would

Alan stated that there was a short-term backlog issue and currently there is only one package ready to come to site from Dungeness. He did not expect this to affect the required period of the licence as the crane issue is not impacting Dungeness. He expected store capacity to be 220-225 packages, depending on configuration; this would cover Dungeness and Sizewell.

3334 John Akker asked for clarification of medium-term plans for Bradwell with regard to taking nuclear waste from other sites. Alan Walker stated that planning permission covers Dungeness A and Sizewell A ILW waste. There were no plans to extend storage capacity at Bradwell. Should any such plans arise in the future, these would be subject to normal planning and consultation.

3335 Paul opined that Maldon seemed to get almost no social funding in comparison with other sites and asked why. Alan did not have the breakdown of moneys allocated to sites so was unable to say what other sites were benefitting from but suggested that there may be useful information on the website. He suggested it may be to do with where the greatest need lies.

3336 Paul was concerned about the leaks in the turbine hall and how regular and intensive the surveys are. He asked how confident we could be that the building would not crumble before its demolition in 2071. Alan pointed out that the issue with the turbine hall void was not leaks but rainfall; therefore the problem changes according to the weather. The decision to leave the void in existence was made on a five-year period and the amount of evaporation for normal annual rainfall in that area. In normal circumstances, the evaporation would keep pace with the rainfall. He emphasised that water was not leaking in from anywhere but the void is open to the weather and is not covered by aluminium cladding.

3337 Paul noted that the NDA had recently been fined for issues with communications. As Bradwell is a remotely-monitored site, he was concerned that communications are adequate, the site is checked and we are safe. Alan confirmed that it is checked and we are safe and noted that a security inspection had taken place that very day. There is a security presence at Bradwell as well as the ability to monitor it from Sizewell.

Alastair Findlay commented that the fine mentioned was for Sellafield Ltd in relation to cyber security failings but there had been no evidence of exploitation and improvements had been made during the last year. No other NDA sites were concerned.

- 3338 Ian Clarke asked whether the historical water ingress into the waste vaults] had been addressed. Alan Walker said that investigations were still being carried out into those vaults, which still contained very low levels of water and was being monitored to look for any seasonal fluctuations. During decommissioning any contaminated vaults had been emptied of water and the walls cleaned as much as possible.

VI Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Update

- 3339 Alastair Findlay introduced himself and noted that we now had a new Government and a new set of ministers, our minister being Lord Hunt, who visited Sellafield in August. The NDA hoped to get both him and Ed Milliband to visit other sites in the future.

Work was being done with the National Audit Office on a review of the work of the NDA, looking particularly at Sellafield but also at how the NDA operates. This should be published on 25 October 2024 and a Public Accounts Committee should be elected in January.

A one-year spending review would be incorporated into the forthcoming Budget, which would set spending targets for 2025-26 and would lead into a three-year spending review for the following years.

The next five-year strategy is due to be published in 2026 and is currently being formulated, with a public consultation in 2025.

- 3340 Stakeholder updates: an NDA Stakeholder Summit was held in September, in Manchester which discussed the NDA's missions and forthcoming issues. A review of site stakeholder groups was being conducted and would be finalised soon, with discussions being held with group Chairs about NDA plans. The annual stakeholder survey would be issued in the next couple of months. Regarding the recent fine, a link to the ONR statement would be published shortly.

- 3341 The GBN process for SMRs (competitions) selection process is now down from six to four and the results are expected at the end of this year or beginning of next. The NDA is working with GBN on various aspects, particularly decommissioning.

- 3342 Ian Clarke asked whether there were any changes to the anticipated dates for the end of care and maintenance and final site clearance, which were previously given as 2071 and 2094, and wanted to understand what final site clearance would look like.

Alistair said that NRS would be talking about some of the strategies around that. The NDA is looking at possible strategies regarding the old Magnox estate and what decommissioning might look like. There had been policy exchanges to consider other ways to look at this. NRS is looking at how to engage with local communities more. Various options were being considered, such as new nuclear, green options, etc. Strategies would be developed over the next three to four years on a site-by-site basis, factoring in what local communities want, what would work for the site and cost-effectiveness. The NRS could discuss this in more detail.

Alan Walker stated that no significant change was envisaged regarding the dates but the biggest impact on them was funding: if more funding was available, plans could be accelerated; if the Government had other priorities, things could be delayed. NRS was looking at logic links between sites, the availability of contractors, the condition of sites. Currently Dungeness had priority over Sizewell, which had priority over Bradwell.

- 3343 John Akker referred to item 3313 in the previous minutes, which referred to planning and GDF, and wondered whether more information could be shared by the agencies involved on what was happening as this could be of great benefit to the relevant communities.

Alastair stated that the primary level of involvement was with the potential host communities, in Cumbria and Lincolnshire, but appreciated that information could be helpful to other

communities too and offered to talk to Nuclear Waste Services and to incorporate wider updates into the NDA updates.

Alan mentioned a report from Nuclear Waste Services that is available on the Government website, issued in July, which contains information on indicative timescales and mentions being able to accept waste in the 2050s.

- 3344 John also asked where the principal amount of money for decommissioning is spent as he was concerned that the Government may look for ways to cut back on financing such things.

Alastair agreed that the Treasury was always looking at funding and said that we have a good relationship with them. There is an amount for nuclear liability which has to be funded but, no doubt, the NDA will be under pressure in whatever funding it gets. Most NDA money is spent at Sellafield as it has the world's largest stock of nuclear waste but they are emphasising their need to spend more money at other sites too.

- 3345 John Driver referred to the change in scope from six to four SMRs and asked whether Bradwell was still in scope for possibly having an SMR located here. Alastair did not know but said that GBN had bought two nuclear sites, including Wylfa, and had looked at others, including Bradwell, but he did not have any further information.

Brian Main stated that the nuclear industry has, in the past, always received favourable treatment with regard to Government funding and believed that the Government was well aware of the need to spend money on this activity.

VII Environment Agency Site Inspector's Report

- 3346 James Heavingham continued to hold monthly meetings with the Sizewell A Environment Management team, who oversee Bradwell, to discuss emerging issues and projects, and also to hold meetings between the EA, NRS and ONR. No matters of regulatory concern had arisen since the last LCLC meeting. Review of the care and maintenance arrangements at Bradwell was continuing and an in-depth review had been done in 2023

- 3347 The resources in place to maintain site staffing levels had been looked at in the past quarter, as had internal auditing and insurance and the NRS's management of information. He was in the process of reviewing the site operating processes. He would be considering the issue of water ingress into the sub-surface voids and how it was being addressed.

Regarding the ILW on site, a review had been done of the waste stored in the ISF in March 2024 and all was satisfactory. No non-compliances had occurred since the last meeting.

- 3348 Regarding Bradwell B and their water discharge activity permit application, Bradwell Power Generation Company Ltd has decided to withdraw their application. The Water Resources Waste Transfer licence for Bradwell Power Generation Company Ltd has expired and the EA has decided to stand down from their Bradwell B project team as there is no longer any active engagement from Bradwell B.

- 3349 A public consultation will be launched in the Autumn on the EA's guidance for operators applying for a permit to operate a solid radioactive waste disposal facility and the views of those in this community were invited.

John White asked if this guidance was for people going for the GDF or else why this group should want to do anything about solid radioactive waste at Bradwell. James confirmed that this was not relevant to Bradwell.

VIII Any Other Business

- 3350 John Akker referred to his question on the points raised at the last meeting about flooding and noted that there should have been a meeting between the EA and the local authority about the possibility of flooding at Bradwell and issues with the sea wall. He asked for a report on

this meeting as the issue is of concern because of rising sea levels and the generally high water levels at the present time.

James Heavingham did not believe that a meeting was to have taken place with the local authority but he had spoken at the last meeting about shoreline action plans and there had been an action for this topic to be raised with the EA by the interim Bradwell site manager. James gave a link to the shoreline management plans: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/shoreline-planning>.

Ian Clarke mentioned the collapse of stronger sea walls at West Mersea, opposite the Bradwell site, and said that our, earth-topped, walls were more likely to collapse. He had submitted a photograph to the previous meeting which showed how close to the top of the wall a surge tide had been; this is why there was such concern. Stronger walls than ours had collapsed at West Mersea, possibly due to wind direction.

Brian Main asked for this issue to be taken back to the Environment Agency and a response brought to the next meeting.

- 3351 Ian Clarke mentioned the group's desire to increase participation in it, particularly amongst parish councils, and asked whether further work was needed. Brian confirmed that a very lengthy list of councillors existed that information is sent to but wondered whether that was the limit of what we could do. In the current state of the site, he queried whether aiming for a much larger attendance was a valid objective.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.



NDA Update for Bradwell LCLC

March 2025



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update March 2025

**NDA Stakeholder Update**

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

Government Update

Following the re-establishment of Parliament in the Autumn the running of government the selection of representation for select committees has concluded alongside familiarisation visits for key Ministers and officials into their appointment areas.

Key appointments include local Sellafield MP Josh MacAlister as Parliamentary Private Secretary (an MP who serves as an unpaid assistant to a government minister) to The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations.

In his new role, Josh will now adhere to the Ministerial Code and will be expected to support the government in divisions in the House. His role will affect how he speaks publicly about the NDA, as Josh is unable to speak in the Commons on matters related to his department. While he can serve on select committees, Josh will be expected to withdraw himself from inquiries concerning the Cabinet Office. Worth noting Josh is was also Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Nuclear, which is has since stood down from, and a member of the DESNZ Select Committee.

David Mundell, MP for the area covering Chapelcross, is Vice Chair of the Nuclear All-Party Group. The Energy and Net Zero Committee (ESNZ) has also made appointments which include site MPs Josh MacAlister and Julie Minns (MP for Carlisle) and there are three MPs with NDA sites located in their constituencies sitting in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

David Peattie, along with Corhyn Parr and Euan Hutton, appeared before the ESNZ committee on the 18th December and answered questions on a wide variety of subjects connected to the NDAs mission. If you've not had a chance to watch proceedings, the hearing is available to view online [here](#).

Spending Review

John McNamara will give a verbal update on the Spending Review and NDA settlement

Outreach activities

- On the 15/16 January the UK decommissioning sector came together in Telford. On 15 January DECOM 25 took place with delegates from across the



decommissioning sector discussing a whole range of topics, including the development of the UK sites and the opportunities for the supply chain, the skills needed to succeed, decommissioning in other sectors and the challenges of preparing for the future of decommissioning. On 16 January there was an NDA supply chain event proving 1700 delegates the opportunity to connect with 300 exhibiting companies – one of the biggest supply chain events in the UK.

- Some stakeholders may be aware that the NDA recently launched its new on-line Stakeholder Survey. Field work continues and we will share key headlines from the survey in due course.
- The latest **Cross-Party Group** took place in the **Scottish Parliament** with the main topic being 'Radioactive Waste - dealing with the legacy'. Topics including how waste was generated, how it is dealt with in Scotland, movement of waste located in Scotland and non-energy sources of radioactive waste. There were around 40 attendees both in person and via Teams.

Engagement priorities for 2025

- The NDA celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and we are planning some events around this. We would like to mark an SSG meeting at each site with a special presentation reviewing the progress over the last 20 years – more details to follow.
- We plan to communicate more on the SSG Review in the near future. There are four main areas of recommendations on how to modernise and provide more support to SSGs. This exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years. It will also allow us to consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future.
- Nuclear week in Parliament took place at the end of January and was a very positive platform for engagement with parliamentarians. The NDA, Sellafield Ltd and NRS were all involved in special events and receptions during the week.
- As you will be aware preparation is underway for **Strategy V**. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. The strategy is planned to go out to consultation in May 2025.



- The NDA has been working closely with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) to establish a **Cross-Party Group on the Civil Nuclear Industry in the Welsh Parliament**. The first meeting took place on the 21st January.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- We have now published our **Annual Report** which has also been laid in Parliament. The Annual Report sets out the progress made against our mission, from safely decommissioning existing sites to preparing to take responsibility for more, while managing radioactive waste for our existing programme and new nuclear
- As previously advised we expect the Scottish Government to start its review into its policy for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). The policy framework is set out in a 2011 Policy and the 2016 Implementation Strategy. The anticipated timeline is: Commence review – late 2024, hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction has now been published and can be found via the following link [Decommissioning Sellafield: managing risks from the nuclear legacy - NAO report](#). The Public Accounts Committee will visit Sellafield in February with a hearing taking place later this Spring.
- We have recently published our [Nuclear Heritage Strategy](#). The NDA are tasked with decommissioning the UK's legacy nuclear sites, sites and facilities which have been at the heart of delivering nuclear benefits for the UK, including national defence programmes and supplying safe, low-carbon power, for decades. The heritage strategy enables the NDA group to identify and preserve the tangible and intangible assets, objects, and memories of the nuclear industry, the people who worked in it, and the communities that supported it.
- NDA has published its **Socio Economic Report for 2023/24**, detailing a record investment in projects across the UK - [NDA group investing in our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Following the publication of the Chapelcross masterplan in August 2024 the NDA has been leading work to identify a strategic partner for the development that will deliver the vision for the sites transformation into a green energy hub. We are now evaluating the proposals from potential partners and hope to be able to make an announcement this Spring.



- The NDA funded a [project](#) in North Wales which has delivered a range of successful outcomes for the low-carbon sector across North Wales. M-SParc's Egni team, based on Anglesey, has worked with a range of partners throughout the three-year programme to deliver impactful projects that support businesses, drive investment and educate the next generation.
- The Egni team was created in 2021 with a £360,000 grant from the NDA's Socio-Economic Fund. The team is now permanently established - with four full-time team members, four associate members and two interns - and will continue to meet the needs of the low-carbon sector as it develops in the future.

Mission delivery

- The NDA recently launched its brand-new, specialised cyber facility to accelerate collaboration and innovation across nuclear operators and the supply chain, enhancing the collective ability to successfully defend against cyber threats. The Group Cyberspace Collaboration Centre (GCCC) provides a space for experts in cyber, digital and security to come together and share knowledge and learning on how best to defend against evolving threats
- Future plans for our Chapelcross site in Dumfries and Galloway were unveiled in August, with a long-term vision to develop the site into a Green Energy Hub: [Chapelcross Masterplan - CX Project](#)
- NWS and the NDA have established an innovative partnership for the enhanced management of asbestos waste, awarding two contracts to establish the **Asbestos Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will work with the NDA group and the supply chain, to test and develop new solutions to treat asbestos waste, helping to deliver efficiencies and enable more effective waste management.
- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.



Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or raise with the NDA official at the SSG meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority

Environment Agency Report Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council March 2025

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services Limited (NRS) at Bradwell Site, over the period from September 2024 to March 2025.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals and discharges to the environment. We do this by placing limits and conditions in environmental permits, which helps us to ensure that radioactive waste discharges are minimised, and that the environment is protected. We carry out regular checks of NRS's compliance with our regulatory requirements.

We also regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including surface water discharges to surrounding water bodies and emissions to air.

Radioactive substances compliance assessment reports (RASCARs) summarising our inspections, and any non-compliances found, are made available to the public on request.

Permitting

NRS holds a radioactive substances activity permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Bradwell site (EPR/ZP3493SQ). No changes have been made to the permit since the last LCLC meeting.

Compliance activities

Bradwell site is managed by NRS staff based at Sizewell A. We hold monthly meetings with Sizewell A's environmental management team to discuss any updates to projects or emerging issues at Bradwell site. We also participate in routine quarterly tripartite (NRS, EA and ONR) review meetings.

We review NRS reports of operational events and incidents that have occurred on site and follow-up on these where appropriate. No significant matters of regulatory concern have been raised.

In this period, we have continued our review of the Care and Maintenance management arrangements in place at the Bradwell site. This is a detailed review that will be completed in 2025. The objective of the regulatory review will be to assess the overall effectiveness of the Care and Maintenance Strategy at the Bradwell site.

In September 2024, we inspected NRS's site operating processes. The aim of this inspection was to verify that NRS have adequate operating processes in place to manage gaseous and aqueous disposals from the site and maintain environmentally critical assets and equipment to ensure the impact to the environment is minimised. We reached the following conclusions:

With regards to aqueous waste, only surface water (rainwater) runoff has been discharged from the Bradwell Site since entering care and maintenance. This is a simple and well-

understood system, and the management system provides assurance that the required number of pumps to manage the water will remain available.

There is groundwater ingress into the waste vaults, and we are satisfied that this is being adequately monitored. It is our opinion that NRS should further consider options for prevention or minimising the water ingress as this is the most effective long-term solution.

There is a clear process for managing and monitoring the gaseous emissions with an adequate training programme in place. NRS were able to demonstrate that the actual gaseous emissions have remained consistent with the levels expected.

The environmentally critical assets and equipment at Bradwell have been identified and are included in the Asset Management Database. Their condition is well understood and there is an appropriate maintenance regime in place for the assets.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the record keeping, planning and optimisation for the final site clearance and the management of on-site contractors. This is the final part of our Care and Maintenance management review and on completion, we will produce a summary report about the suitability of the on-site arrangements and recommend changes to NRS's approach if required. We will report our findings at the next LCLC meeting.

Enforcement

We have not identified any permit non-compliances or taken any enforcement action at Bradwell in the period since our last report to the Local Community Liaison Committee in March 2024.

Discharges from site

The site's environmental permit requires NRS to use best available techniques (BAT) to manage its operations and ensure their impacts on the public and wider environment are minimised. Disposal of wastes – as solids, liquid or gases can only be made via permitted routes or by transfer to permitted sites. A report of the liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment, and the results of the environmental monitoring programme must be submitted to us on a periodic basis. We assess these returns to review compliance with requirements of the permit and to review any trends and summarise our findings in a RASCAR.

The discharges from Bradwell site are reported annually, within three months of the end of the calendar year. We received the annual discharge returns for Bradwell site for the 2024 calendar year on time, in February 2024. We are satisfied the levels of reported discharges from site did not cause any regulatory concern and we did not identify any trends of concern.

Liquid radioactive effluent discharges and most gaseous emissions are based on standard reporting values because the dose impact of these emissions is expected to be very low. The standard reporting values are based on historic discharges, measured over an appropriate period. In the case of the reactor buildings, emissions were measured from when defueling was completed in 2006, until 2010. NRS periodically monitor emissions

and compare these results with standard reporting values. If the measured result is greater than a standard reporting value plus four standard deviations from the mean, NRS will reassess the standard reporting value used. Emissions from the reactors were most recently monitored in September 2022. No change to standard reporting values was required.

Discharges from mobile extraction units (MEU's), when used during inspection and maintenance work, are monitored when required and reported in total. There were no discharges from MEUs in 2024.

Discharges of active liquid effluent from the site have ceased. Rainwater drains to a single point on site (the Main Drains Pit) and is periodically discharged to the Blackwater Estuary. Activity concentrations measured in the main drains pit from February 2015 until January 2017 were averaged to derive initial standard reporting values for liquid discharges from Bradwell site. Reporting values were re-assessed in early 2020 using data collected in 2019. This assessment resulted in a small increase to the standard reporting values but did not indicate any significant impact on the environment.

Environmental impact

Radioactivity in food and the environment report

Our annual report was published in November 2024 on GOV.UK [Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) report](https://www.gov.uk/rife-report) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This report gives a detailed assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment and the public's exposure to radiation during a specific year. It shows that the public's exposure to permitted discharges and direct radiation near nuclear and non-nuclear sites is low and within dose limits.

The report brings together the nationwide monitoring programmes of the UK's food standard agencies and environment agencies. This monitoring is independent of, and is also used as a check on, the monitoring carried out by site operators.

This is now the second year we've published the whole report as a HTML document with associated ODS files. We no longer issue a PDF or print copy. Previous reports are on the National Archives website.

The annual report highlights:

- Overall, between 2022 and 2023 there were no significant changes to the radioactivity measured in food and the environment.
- The dose received by the public near to nuclear licensed sites and industrial and landfill sites in the UK is low and again well within legal limits.
- Food remains safe and the public's exposure to artificial radiation is within legal limits.
- Radioactivity from natural background, rather than nuclear sites, continues to be the more significant source of exposure to communities in all areas of the UK.
- Around 10,000 analyses and dose rate measurements were completed in 2023.
- The data from our monitoring programme in this report demonstrates that radioactivity in food and the environment is safe.

For Bradwell, the total dose for the representative person was less than 0.005mSv in 2023, unchanged from 2022, and less than 1% of the government derived limit to protect members of the public. Levels of radioactivity found in the environment remain low.

Bradwell site's permit requires NRS to carry out a programme of environmental monitoring to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. NRS report on the results of this programme annually, within three months of the end of the calendar year. The results of the environmental monitoring programme for the 2024 calendar year were received on 26 February 2024. A review of the returns found that they were consistent with previous years and identified no results or trends of concern.

Further Information

The Environment Agency's Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG(S)) is responsible for the environmental regulation of radioactive waste disposals on or from nuclear licensed sites in southern England. We also support NRW in this role in Wales. We work closely with local Environment Agency teams as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulators for Bradwell is James Heavingham.

NRG(S) Address Environment Agency, Nuclear Regulation Group, Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BD

Email nrg@environment-agency.gov.uk

Local Office Address Environment Agency, Icen House, Cobham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP13 9JD

For regular updates on our work in regulating radioactive substances and nuclear sites visit our LinkedIn page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/regulating-radioactive-substances>

A public register service is available on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index>

Alternatively, you can request access to public documents directly by contacting the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office. Please email:

WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information on how we regulate different types of nuclear sites, and protect people and the environment is available on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nuclear-sites-environmental-regulation>

Our enforcement and sanctions policy is publicly available on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy>

Our public participation statement on when and how we consult on permit applications is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permits-when-and-how-we-consult>

UK Health Security Agency has placed guidance on ionising radiation dose comparisons on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons>

All our open consultations will appear on this webpage

Nuclear consultations - Environment Agency - Citizen Space (environment-agency.gov.uk)

National news items

Assessing new nuclear power station designs – Have your say

Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is an open and transparent process. A nuclear power station design company going through GDA must set up a website to:

- publish information about the design
- invite the public to ask questions and make comments

The design company must respond to any comments or questions they receive. The regulators will see the comments and questions and the responses provided. We can also use this information to help inform our assessment work.

The Environment Agency has:

- completed step 2 and started step 3 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Rolls-Royce SMR Limited's 470MWe small modular reactor on 30 July 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Holtec International's small modular reactor SMR-300 on 1 August 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 small modular reactor on 12 December 2024. GDA Step 1 of the GE-Hitachi SMR: statement of findings - GOV.UK The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.

Learn more about assessing new reactor designs [New nuclear power stations: assessing reactor designs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Read our blog [Ensuring nuclear reactor designs meet high standards of environmental protection – Creating a better place \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Updated guidance: Regulatory expectations for successful land quality management at nuclear licensed sites

The environment agencies and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) have [published updated guidance](#) that sets out our high-level regulatory expectations for the prevention and management of radioactive and non-radioactive contamination of the ground and water on nuclear licensed sites.

It updates joint guidance issued in 2014, reflecting how some land quality issues can also now be covered through the Site Wide Environmental Safety Cases and Waste Management Plans created under our guidance on "Management of radioactive waste from decommissioning of nuclear sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation" (the GRR).

The guidance highlights the five key principles that we expect operators / licensees to consider when preventing and managing land and water contamination, namely:

1. establish strategies and plans for land quality management
2. prevent new contamination of land or the water environment
3. understand the land quality and contamination characteristics of the site
4. manage land quality to mitigate safety and environmental risks
5. work with stakeholders and other interested parties

The guidance describes our shared and complementary interests in land quality matters, explains how we expect climate change and sustainability to be taken into account and provides a reference list of further reading.

[Land quality management | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

Chief Regulator's Report

We've published the first Chief Regulator's report. It summarises the performance of the businesses and activities regulated by the Environment Agency in England in 2023-24. It outlines key outcomes of our regulation, providing assurance and transparency across our wide regulatory remit, and it sets out the aims and ambitions of our Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Nettleton.

The report covers our work regulating the nuclear industry and radioactive substances during 2023-24.

[Environment Agency Chief Regulator's report 2023-24 - GOV.UK](#)