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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT SIZEWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

Marianne Fellowes
Janet Fendly
Jenny Kirtley
Joan Girling
Pat Hogan
Cllr Tom Daly
Cllr Lesley Hill
Trevor Branton
Cllr Bill Seale
Mike Taylor

Independent Chair
Friends of the Earth
TASC
Co-Opted Member
Sizewell Residents
East Suffolk Council Portfolio Holder
Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Co-Opted Member
Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Friends of the Earth

Operators and Officers

Alan Walker
Robert Gunn
Sean Verrall
Loris Pirroni
Niki Rousseau
Kayleigh Ridley
James Heavingham
Themis Kantara
Paul Mountford-Lister
David Prescott
John McNamara
Matthew Dent

Sizewell A Station Director
Sizewell B Station Director
EDF, SZB
EDF, SZB
EDF Communications
NRS Comms & Socio-economic Lead – South East Sites
Environment Agency, Sizewell A
Environment Agency, Sizewell B
Environment Agency
ONR, Sizewell B
NDA Head of Stakeholder Relations
Minute Taker

Members of the Public

Jan Lovell

Apologies

Alan Warner
Bill Hamilton
Cllr Nicky Corbett
Andrew Bull
Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf
Cllr Russ Rainger

Sizewell Resident
NRS
Leiston Town Council
ONR, Sizewell A
Suffolk County Council
Snape Parish Council

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4935. WELCOME

Marianne Fellowes opened the meeting at 09.43 and noted apologies from Alan Warner, Andrew Bull, Bill Hamilton, Cllr Nicky Corbett, Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf and Cllr Russ Rainger. Additionally, Janet Fendly would be arriving late.

There were no new declarations of interest.

4936. TRIBUTE TO PETE WILKINSON

Following a slide show of photographs Marianne Fellowes in paying tribute to Pete Wilkinson said:

Pete served on this SSG from the early days in 2005. He was well respected for his level of knowledge, expertise and passion for the environment, and a measure of that was that an ex-member of staff was the person who nominated him. He also served for many years on CoRWM (Committee of Radioactive Waste Management). Following his sudden and tragic death I received many tributes from across the industry. I would like to read one in particular.

"Pete really changed the way I view the industry and what I'm doing in it. I guess he would have been pleased at that! I'm teaching a new generation of Inspectors at the moment and we talk a lot about our principles of enforcement: two of which are; accountability and transparency. It was really my time working with the Sizewell SSG and especially with Pete that shaped what they (accountability and transparency) mean to me. I'm very grateful I got the chance to meet him."

You saw in the photographs Pete in the Antarctic with Greenpeace, but also Pete as a father and husband. On our numerous train journeys to national meetings after we had discussed SSG business Pete would always talk fondly about his family of whom he was so rightly proud. Pete was a huge inspiration to me, personally and as our Vice Chair. His service to the environment locally, nationally and internationally is irreplaceable. We send our sincere condolences to Gaye, Emily and Amy. The family are accepting donations of live plants for the flood defence bund to protect their cottage, in memory of Pete. He will be greatly missed."

4937. SIZEWELL B REPORTS

Robert Gunn (Site Director, EDF)

Robert Gunn presented his report.

SZB had been running at full capacity since the last outage in December, providing power to around 2.5 million homes.

In the period since the last SSG, there had been no safety events to report. At the last meeting, an update had been given around an injury from September, where a colleague had suffered broken toes. Regulatory intervention had taken place by the ONR, with a formal enforcement letter received. Additional work had been done on contractor safety. The ONR had been satisfied with the investigation and the actions taken, and the colleague was back at work.

Every 10 years there was a review of the nuclear safety case. This had been submitted to the ONR in January. SZB had an action from the ONR to come back with some work on gaps to be done by July. There had been no short-term operational issues.

A review of nuclear safeguards had taken place recently, looking at how nuclear materials on site were recorded. This had been very detailed, and there were a few actions on the back of it, which had not been specific to Sizewell.

On the SZB life extension programme, SZB was due currently to close in 2035. This was planned to be extended to 2055. £800 to 900 million of investment was taking place in pursuit

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of this. The technical case had been created around what would need to be done. The commercial case was currently being worked on.

The outage at the end of 2024 had been very successful. Around £75 million had been spent on the plant. This had included work on the conventional plant as well as the reactor. Some corrosion had been picked up on one of the HVAC systems and a small pinhole leak which had formed in the last year. From a discharge point of view this meant that the gas had come out not through the normal route, though it had already been filtered by this point. This had now been sealed up. EA is investigating. All but one of the seals in the forebay had been removed at the cost of several hundred thousand pounds. The point of ingress had been identified and sealed up.

The normal headcount on site was around 600 people, but over the last few years the headcount at SZB had been increased by 10% to get ready for the life extension programme. A lot of work was also taking place with local businesses and suppliers to be ready for the life extension, with a view to using as many local suppliers and workers as possible.

A parcel of land had been transferred from SZB to SZC, and as part of that a number of the buildings at the north end of the SZB site would be knocked down and relocated to the south end of the site. This included the training building, one the administration buildings, an outage store, and a new visitor centre. The new control room simulator was now up and running. It was anticipated to be able to move into the new buildings towards the end of 2025/start of 2026. SSG members were invited to visit the new visitor centre when it opened. Work on the new land management facility would start later in the year, with communications going out as soon as a date was fixed. There would be no weekend working or outwith normal working hours. All permissions were in place for the new facility.

Dates for emergency training arrangements in 2025 were shared, taking place on 4, 11, 18 and 25 June, 2, 9, 16 July and 14 October.

The SZB sponsorship fund was still available to offer funding for local groups needing support, and Robert Gunn invited any such groups to get in touch.

Joan Girling noted that around 10 years previously, Robert Gunn's predecessor had provided a complete breakdown of the amount of water intake in terms of both seawater and potable water, as well as a breakdown of all water onsite and its disposal. She asked whether this could be provided anew.

ACTION: Robert Gunn to investigate the provision of data around water usage at SZB.

Joan Girling asked whether the 660 employed onsite and 300 contractors included the building contractors. Robert Gunn explained that the 300 contractors were permanent onsite contractors, and the number did not include contractors working on project work. The building team was around 130 individuals. Joan Girling noted there had been a lot more traffic on the road and queried whether this was coming from the building work. Robert Gunn said he would provide the number of temporary contractors onsite in his report to the next SSG meeting. On an average day, SZB would have 600 to 700 people onsite, with around 1,200 to 1,300 during an outage. Car sharing was encouraged, but there were no bus services available.

Trevor Branton stated he had been asked by someone who had regularly come to Sizewell to walk along near the old District Survey Lab (DSL) and had recently found it was blocked off. This individual had been told it would remain closed until SZC was completed, but the person they had spoken to had not been certain. Robert Gunn stated he would need to take this away to get an answer. His understanding was that alternative routes would be made available. Marianne Fellowes added that she would take this to the SZC transport forum and speak to Suffolk County Council's right of way officer. She believed there was community interest in having the DSL community building and was disappointed that SZB was handing the land to SZC without consultation. Trevor Branton also noted that the local group thanked SZB for support to PATest essential safety equipment.

ACTION: Robert Gunn to find out from SZC the duration of the DSL closure.

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ACTION: Marianne Fellowes to take the questions around the DSL to the SZC Transport Forum and Suffolk County Council.

Jenny Kirtley noted concerns around accommodation within the town during outages, and queried how many workers coming in were local and how many needed accommodation. Robert Gunn noted that until now the issue had been under control. A winter outage was not such an issue, but a summer outage would be a challenge.

Marianne Fellowes queried what the average travel to work mileage and number of vehicles was on a daily basis out of the 663 staff on site. She queried the shift pattern. Robert Gunn said 80 to 90% of the staff were within half an hour of the site. The standard shift was 08.30 to 17.00, which applied to 70 to 80% of staff. Operations and security staff worked shift work, but that was a very small number. Marianne Fellowes asked whether SZB would consider a bumper decal for their traffic, as SZC had implemented. Robert Gunn noted that this would be difficult to enforce for private vehicles.

ACTION: Robert Gunn to provide a formal report on mileage to work and number of vehicles.

There was a question about the long-term commercial case for SZB and whether the price of electricity generation would be projected forward compared to other electricity generation. Robert Gunn said once this was published, he would bring it back to the SSG. The target was to be ahead of 4th generation renewables. It was asked whether the cost of dealing with waste was factored in. Robert Gunn confirmed it was. Marianne Fellowes noted that with the AGR model, EDF were paying for removal of the fuel to storage, but not full decommissioning.

Pat Hogan raised the concern of Sizewell residents around traffic and road closures. There had been poor communication from the SZC team, especially in comparison to SZA and SZB. Robert Gunn noted that all feedback would be passed on.

Mike Taylor queried what the issue had been with the cooling system. Robert Gunn explained that a section of grating had moved slightly. Mike Taylor asked if there was any intention to use MOX fuel? Especially aware of the issue of availability of uranium world wide. To which the answer was given "No, we are still using stock from previous to the restrictions, which will last until 2028 when the current contract ends." Mike Taylor noted that previously EDF had stated they would not use Russian fuel and asked whether there had been any change to this. Robert Gunn explained that fuel was purchased by EDF at an international level, and sanctions had to be complied with. The target was by 2028 to be completely removed from Russian fuel, when the current contract expired. Mike Taylor noted that Westinghouse had gone into liquidation but noted it had been an American company, and asked about whether the political situation in the US was being monitored. Robert Gunn noted that Westinghouse was the manufacturer of the SZB reactors, but there were no long-term contracts.

Joan Girling questioned who owned the property by the railway line, and the DSL. Niki Rousseau would find out.

ACTION: Niki Rousseau to find out who owned the property by the railway line and provide a detailed map of who owns what between SZA, SZB and SZC.

4938. David Prescott (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

David Prescott presented his report.

A residual removal inspection had been carried out, as had a seasonal readiness inspection, and a dry fuel store inspection, and in the current week a quality inspection looking at projects was being carried out. Of the inspections completed, all had returned an adequate rating with some observations and advice. A safeguard inspection had been carried out, which had revealed administrative shortfalls with respect to qualifying nuclear accounting. This was more related to the EDF fleet than SZB, and enforcement notices had been issued.

OFFICIAL

The ONR had issued an enforcement notice with respect to the incident where a worker had suffered broken toes. This notice had been issued to EDF and contractors involved.

The ONR had a new chair, with Dr Nicola Crauford replacing Dame Judith Hackitt, who had served as interim chair. Dr Crauford was intending to visit Sizewell in the summer. Additionally, Mark Foy would be retiring as Chief Nuclear Inspector in October, to be replaced by Mike Finnerty.

Janet Fendly asked David Prescott to expand on the safeguarding issues he had mentioned. David Prescott explained that it had been around safeguards of nuclear material, where Euratom had formerly been the oversight body. The ONR had had to carry out the safeguarding process, with all nuclear sites having to provide information. Under the post-Brexit regime, the ONR required slightly more information than Euratom had previously required. Shortfalls had been revealed in EDF and other duty holders. David Prescott's report to the next SSG would cover this. Loris Pirroni explained this related to very small amounts of non-fuel materials, and how this was accounted for and reported.

Joan Girling asked whether the ONR had an overview of the SZB computer systems and how secure they were from outside influences. David Prescott said ultimately this was a site responsibility, but the ONR had oversight of cybersecurity. Joan Girling asked what would happen if there was a breach. David Prescott said the site needed to have arrangements in place.

Mike Taylor noted that a lot of SZC's work involved working across current highways for construction work, some of which may take some time. There was a Suffolk County Council evacuation plan. Mike Taylor queried how the population of Leiston would be affected by any evacuation planning given the expansion of SZC. The current evacuation planning did not include the population of Leiston. Marianne Fellowes noted this was another reason to hold a meeting with the three sites and the Suffolk County Council highways team.

Marianne Fellowes queried whether cannister 19 was still in the dry fuel store. Sean Verrall confirmed it was. There was a safety case for it to stay there. Marianne Fellowes asked when this would be reviewed. Sean Verrall explained that the safety case was for 15 years, but all storage in the building was reviewed every 10 years.

4939. Themis Kantara (Environment Agency)

Themis Kantara presented her report.

The Environment Agency had carried out an inspection ahead of the outage, which had confirmed the waste arrangements for the site. No issues or non-compliances had been found. During the outage, a gaseous flow had been found, which had been immediately rectified and returned to high standards. More details would be provided to the SSG once the investigation had been concluded.

The Environment Agency had received notification around the environmental water programme. It had been confirmed from the site that the discharges had been well below limits on tritium.

Marianne Fellowes noted that the SSG needed more on actions taken during the outage and changes to the startup. She further noted that the online discharge monitoring reports were very difficult for a member of the public to read as it required knowing the reference number of the monitoring device. Whilst the information was available, it was not accessible.

Cllr Tom Daly queried the impact on marine life, and whether this fell within the Environment Agency's remit. He queried where data could be found on fish kill in terms of water extraction, and the effects of outflow on the marine biosphere. Themis Kantara confirmed this was not within her remit. She suspected that the Marine Management Organisation would have the relevant information and would take it away as a question. Cllr Tom Daly noted that it would be good for the MMO to attend the SSG meetings.

OFFICIAL

ACTION: Themis Kantara to provide more information about the impact of water extraction and outflow on marine life.

Jenny Kirtley asked when SZC started work on the jetties whether it was the Environment Agency which would be responsible for testing what was dredged up. Themis Kantara said this would not be within the Environment Agency's remit to regulate. She was not able to comment on SZC matters.

Pat Hogan noted that fish were sampled on a regular basis by CEFAS for contaminants, and by EDF themselves. Themis Kantara explained that as part of the environmental monitoring programme which SZB undertook, sampling and testing of local fish was included. This data was in the public domain.

Joan Girling noted there had used to be a survey of local people about foods they ate, but this had stopped happening. Paul Mountford-Lister noted that this still took place and was a national survey, but Sizewell had not been on the list of surveyed locations for a few years. James Heavingham added that Sizewell had been re-added to the list for the present year.

Joan Girling noted that the permissible level of dischargeable tritium went up and down and queried whether there was a level it became a danger to the public. Themis Kantara said there was not. Marianne Fellowes asked what the worst-case scenario was if someone ingested tritium. Themis Kantara was not able to answer this, as it was not her area of expertise. Joan Girling asked whether there was any notification to the public about when discharges were to be made. Robert Gunn said there was no notification, and discharges were based on tides, with discharge on an outgoing tide.

Marianne Fellowes asked what caused a change in tritium level linked to a shutdown and restart. Themis Kantara explained feedback from the station had been that preparations for an outage included drainage of the reactor, meaning an increase in the volume of liquid to be processed. Sean Verrall added that tritium was a naturally occurring radioactive product, and the amount produced in a given year would not change, but discharges would vary through the year around outages.

The date of the next EA webinar (virtual) is noted as 13 May. The meeting is open to all, and the Chair asked for any questions to be forwarded so they could be raised.

4940. SIZEWELL A REPORTS

Alan Walker (Site Director, NRS)

Alan Walker presented his report.

There had been no injuries on site since the last SSG meeting, despite delivering a lot of high hazard work within that period. A number of NRS sites had suffered storm damage during the winter period, but it had been very minor at SZA.

A successful corporate asset management inspection had taken place in January with the Environment Agency looking at corporate arrangements and how they were implemented on site. This had been a follow up to an inspection previously held in 2017/18. A successful LRQA audit had also been completed, looking at reaccreditation against ISO standards: ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 and ISO 55001. A number of internal exercises had taken place, looking at safety arrangements and security. The care of substances hazardous to health management system had been reviewed and updated, including a new database management system and appropriate training across the site.

There had been a reduced number of duty managers onsite due to retirement and sickness, and senior managers onsite had been identified for that programme, meaning there were now six additional duty managers trained. A new site induction package had been rolled out for new starters and those new to the site.

An initiative was beginning on PPE recycling. Up to 25 bags of used PPE would be recycled each month. A number of cameras had been set up in the area where peregrine falcons

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nested to help understand when the birds were active. This would help better inform project work onsite, and to avoid disturbing the birds.

The first phase of the reactor fire door improvements had been completed, with the second phase to follow in the next financial year. There was still bulk asbestos in the reactor building, so continuous inspections and remediation was taking place. There had been a number of targeted welfare improvements onsite, including toilet facilities and pathways. Three legacy scaffolds had also been removed from the boiler domes.

All radioactive waste shipments had been completed ahead of schedule, and over 6,000 tonnes of controlled waste removed in the final year. 97% of waste had been diverted away from landfill by treatment or recycling. In April, processing would commence of redundant fuel skips loaded with metal deplanted Pond furniture. This waste would be monitored, segregated and dispatched for treatment and disposal. This was expected to take approximately a year.

Following asbestos removal from the turbine hall, deplant had taken place. Most of the large plant had been removed using 'hot works', size reduction of the steel. Cranes onsite had been recommissioned as part of the project and used to remove the heavier components. Explosives had been used to weaken the four concrete plinths supporting the turbines and alternators. The condenser boxes had been removed, and the material of the plinths had been processed through a crusher. Once no longer needed, the two large overhead cranes had been removed.

The boiler isolations project had continued with nearly 800 cables cut and isolated in the current financial year. In the active effluent a project was ongoing around right-sizing the plant and equipment, given the limited number of discharges in the current phase of the site lifecycle. Work had started on this, with fabrication and installation of pipework and pumps, which would continue through the next financial year.

NRS had been allocated £540 million for the next financial year for sites excluding Dounreay. In reality this was a flat level of funding and not allowing for inflation. Projects across the sites had been looked at in light of this, with some slowed down or not started as planned. At SZA, the Fuel Element Debris (FED) retrieval and disposal project had been due to start in the new financial year, but at the moment would be on hold. The turbine hall decommissioning, pond decommissioning and boiler house care and maintenance preparations would be continuing. The waste enablers work would only be delivered with an in-house team. Reactor building preparations and reactor voids would not be starting as planned in the new financial year. In around June, the outcome of the spending review up to 2029/30 would be known and projects would be reprioritised.

On socio-economic funding, seven projects had been funded to-date totalling £147,000. The good neighbour application requests should be sent to Kayleigh Ridley.

Marianne Fellowes expressed concern at the government reducing funding for decommissioning at the same time as increasing funding for new build. She asked whether the loss of pace of work would have an impact on the number of staff retained. Alan Walker explained that no compulsory redundancies were anticipated and there was more than enough work for the next financial year. Beyond that it could become more difficult.

Joan Girling thought the information regarding the decommissioning would be fascinating to many people in the town, and requested it be shared on social media. She queried where the outfall pipes connected. Kayleigh Ridley noted that NRS used YouTube and LinkedIn. Marianne Fellowes noted that 2025 was the 20th anniversary of the SSGs, and there was a plan to celebrate good practice. She hoped that this would include recognition of Pete Wilkinson. Information about the work of decommissioning could be shared with local residents as part of that. Alan Walker explained that the intake tunnels came into the forebay area and the two discharge tunnels entered the site at the seal pit.

Mike Taylor expressed a concern that the funding reductions could set back the decommissioning process for years, and hoped politicians would understand the importance

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

of the work. Alan Walker added that at some stage the turbine hall void would need to be filled, but it would really need to be done all at once to minimise impact on the environment.

4941. Andrew Bull (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

Andrew Bull was not present at the meeting. David Prescott explained that the report was on the website.

Marianne Fellowes noted that the reactor was adjacent to the turbine halls, and queried whether there had been any weakening of the structure from the demolition works. Alan Walker confirmed the demolition works had been localised to the turbine hall. Marianne Fellowes queried whether the void would be filled with material. James Heavingham explained there were some environmental sensitivities around filling the void, so currently it would be managed as a void space.

4942. James Heavingham (Environment Agency)

James Heavingham presented his report.

The Environment Agency continued to hold monthly remote meetings with the SZA environmental team, as well as reviewing the quarterly discharge returns.

In November 2024, an inspection had been carried out looking at the environmental leadership and culture on site. NRS had a clear leadership strategy to ensure environmental risks and issues were considered alongside management of safety. Real progress had been made in embedding the sustainability strategy. There was also an active sustainability group, which was made up of different functions of the site.

In January 2025, a large asset management inspection had been undertaken, to check NRS were appropriately managing facilities onsite to minimise risk of failure. The corporate arrangements had been looked at ahead of onsite inspection. A positive improvement had been found in terms of NRS's approach to asset management. NRS had achieved ISO 55001 accreditation, which had also been audited. Opportunities to improve had been identified, and one recommendation was to benchmark against other large organisations outside of the nuclear industry.

There had been no change to SZA permits since the last SSG meeting. An administrative variation was expected to be submitted in the next few months, to tidy up permitting inconsistencies, and recognise the reduction in size of the active effluent plant.

An aqueous discharge had been made in November 2024, which had been the first from the site since May 2023. Gaseous discharges were very low, as expected.

Marianne Fellowes noted a question from the previous SSG meeting regarding the Waverider buoy. Pat Hogan confirmed this had been replaced.

Marianne Fellowes noted a question from the previous SSG regarding the location and operation of the SZC desalination plant.

ACTION: Ongoing request for information regarding desalination plant to be forwarded to SZC.

4943. NDA REPORTS

John McNamara presented his report.

David Peattie, the chief executive of the NDA had appeared in front of the DESNZ committee at Parliament just before Christmas. This was available to be watched by the public.

An announcement had been made that 140 tonnes of plutonium stored at Sellafield would be made safe and put out of reach to eventually enter the geological disposal facility. At some

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point over the next 20 years a major new facility would need to be built at Sellafield to carry this out. The plutonium will be encased in ceramics, and a £5m research project with 25 x PHDs is being created with Sheffield University.

2025 was the 20th anniversary of the NDA and the SSGs, and a review of the SSGs had been launched. This was to support improvement of the SSGs, to engage more of the community and less represented demographics. The NDA would like to see the press back in attendance. A 20th anniversary presentation would be brought to an SSG meeting later in the year.

The NDA had a remit to look at the history of nuclear energy as well and had set up the National Nuclear Archive a few years previously. Joan Girling emphasised the need for the local heritage to remain local. Cllr Lesley Hill noted that there was an interest in the Longshop Museum to have the history of nuclear power there.

The spending review presented a challenge, with a difficult fiscal environment as far as government was concerned. NDA accounted for 40% of DESNZ's budget and would still be able to make a huge impact, but some projects would have to be slowed down or paused.

Mike Taylor noted that at present EDF was still responsible for defueling, and at present there were no stations at the point of NRS taking them over. John McNamara noted that two of the AGRs, Hunterston B and Hinkley B, would be coming over to NRS in 2026. Mike Taylor asked whether the funding would follow them. John McNamara said they were still with EDF at present. EDF paid for 98% of the removal of radioactive material.

4944. MATTERS ARISING AND QUESTIONS FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER (NOT COVERED BY REPORTS ABOVE)

All of the outstanding actions had been raised via the reports.

4945. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR REPORT

The Vice-Chair role would be an agenda item for the AGM on 21 May, at which the constitution would also be reviewed. Anyone interested in the chair or vice-chair role should speak to Marianne Fellowes or the secretariat.

The NDA stakeholder survey was open until 27 March.

The SZC community forum would take place at 18.30 on 2 April. Anyone who wanted to do so was welcome to attend as an observer.

4946. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Lesley Hill noted that the minutes of the previous meeting had been first supplied with the agenda. Kayleigh Ridley explained that there was a complex arrangement of sending the draft minutes around the various presenters.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 13.07.

Next Meeting dates: 21 May, 1 October