



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT SIZEWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

Marianne Fellowes
Janet Fendly
Jenny Kirtley
Joan Girling
Pat Hogan
Trevor Branton
Cllr Lesley Hill
Cllr Bill Searle
Cllr Nicky Corbett
Cllr Sara Fox
Cllr Russ Rainger
Mike Taylor

Independent Chair
Friends of the Earth
TASC
Co-Opted Member
Sizewell Residents
Co-Opted Member
Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Aldeburgh Town Council
Snape Parish Council
Co-Opted Member

Operators and Officers

Alan Walker
Mark Scrancher
Tom Richley
Richard Parlone
Niki Rousseau
Kayleigh Ridley
James Heavingham
Themis Kantara
David Prescott
Katharine Walker
John McNamara
Matthew Dent

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

Members of the Public

Alan Warner

Apologies

Robert Gunn
Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf
Cllr Sarah Whitelock
Cllr Tom Daly
Bill Hamilton
Andrew Bull

Site Director, SZB
Suffolk County Council
East Suffolk Council
East Suffolk Council
NRS
ONR, Sizewell B

4947. WELCOME

Marianne Fellowes opened the meeting at 18.31 and welcomed the attendees to the AGM.

Marianne Fellowes noted the safety benefits of the location app what3words.

There were no new declarations of interest.

4948. SIZEWELL A REPORTS

Alan Walker (Site Director, NRS)

Alan Walker presented his report.

There had been no work-related injuries since the last SSG. There was currently a company focus on task observations and safety observations around events in which no harm had come to anybody, but in different circumstances, there could have been a different outcome. These were largely around routine activities like moving materials and equipment. There was an NRS initiative running currently called high performance culture (HPC) training. This develops skills and capability in the organisation and helps support goals and initiatives. This training had been rolled out to 75% of staff and was continuing. Hazard perception training had also been rolled out on site to 15 individuals at the frontline in terms of work delivery.

The turbine hall crushed aggregate had been being prepared for transfer to SZC for reuse.

A positive report had been received from the Environment Agency regarding an inspection on asset management in January. Good practices had been identified, as had areas for improvement.

An NDA annual employee survey had been carried out to get feedback from the whole of the workforce. The general feedback had been more positive than it had been a year previously in terms of conditions, working environment and reward.

The EHSS&Q manager retired in January, and Lucy Welsh had taken on the position. Ben Taylor had been appointed to fill Lucy's previous role of head of radiological protection and environment.

The trunked radio system replacement was still in progress, and the physical components were now being assembled on site. The commissioning phase would begin shortly. Phase 1 of the fire door replacements had been completed, and 31 doors had been replaced. Surveys had been undertaken on the pile cap roof and ponds roof, which had looked at the asset condition and what investment would be required in future years. A number of welfare improvements were planned for the coming financial year. In the next three months, phase 2 of the fire door replacement would continue for a further 40 days. Inspections and light-touch repairs of the weather envelope were planned, including checking of the cladding on the reactor building. A small team would continue to undertake asbestos remediation.

On waste operations, there had been no rad waste shipments from site since the last SSG. Six shipments were forecast for the coming financial year, and these would be distributed throughout the year. In the previous year, over 8,000 tonnes of controlled waste had been dispatched from site, the majority of which had been from the turbine hall demolition, and 95% of which was recycled. In the current financial year, over 1,000 tonnes of controlled waste had been dispatched.

Electrical isolations were being carried out in the boiler house. There are four boilers per reactor. Electrical isolations had been completed in R2AB cells, and work was taking place on R2CD cells. This would enable handover of these areas for asbestos removal at a later date.

On ponds decommissioning, work was taking place to size reduce some of the skips containing waste and help the waste team work through a campaign that would take the rest

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of the financial year to complete. The ponds team was also working on the reconfiguration of the active effluent treatment plant (AETP), which was progressing well and would reduce the size of the plant to around an eighth of its current capacity.

£1.1 million in socioeconomic funding had been contributed across NRS sites in the previous financial year. £147,000 of this had gone to Sizewell area projects. Four projects had been supported through good neighbour funding, totalling £4,246. £142,000 had also gone to multi-year projects. £25,000 had been allocated for the position of director of the Longshop Museum, with the aim being to move towards a digital hybrid model and increase interest and accessibility of the information. To date, the museum had engaged 150 children through educational outreach, and 26 initiatives had been undertaken around good mental health and wellbeing.

Pat Hogan asked how much more heavy demolition would be taking place. Alan Walker explained that a concrete wall around the turbine hall would be profiled to a lower level, and some concrete uprights had been removed in recent days. There was also some pipework in the basement, but removal of this should not be too loud. Once everything had been demolished, there would be some new fencing to go around the void. The next two to three weeks would see the conclusion of the louder activity.

Cllr Lesley Hill expressed her thanks to NRS on behalf of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council for its help with the parking arrangements for the VE Day 80th anniversary event. Cllr Russ Rainger expressed thanks on behalf of the Longshop Museum trustees for the support with the Longshop Museum.

Trevor Branton queried the intention for the turbine hall basement. Alan Walker said it would be managed as an 'empty void' and would be fenced off. Trevor Branton noted that the basement was close to sea level. Alan Walker confirmed that all inlets and outlets had been sealed.

Trevor Branton noted that SZA had been a forerunner in setting standards with international safety recognition and queried whether NRS's current initiatives were linked in with external bodies. Alan Walker explained that these were initiatives that NRS considered necessary based on what events had been seen in the field.

Alan Warner queried whether the offshore structures would be demolished. Alan Walker stated that these structures would ultimately be removed, but not for the next 10 to 15 years.

Mike Taylor asked about the AETP changes and whether there would be real-time monitoring. He noted a concern around how the SZC desalination plant would be receiving seawater. Alan Walker explained that the current plant's tanks had 160 to 180m³ capacity. Discharges will be reduced to around 20m³ and would be shorter in duration and smaller in quantity and with favourable tidal conditions. There was no link to the SZC desalination plant.

Marianne Fellowes noted that the original Turbine Hall demolition plan had included recycling some materials and storage onsite. Based on not having enough to fill the void, she asked whether this recycling had still been able to take place or whether it had resulted in additional traffic movements. Alan Walker confirmed that there had been no crushed aggregate movements offsite on the public highway. Approximately 17,000 tonnes of crushed aggregate had arisen from the project to date, which would be transferred to SZC via the internal roadway.

Marianne Fellowes noted that, at the previous SSG, Alan Walker had presented a revised decommissioning plan based on the money received from the government. She queried whether an update was available. Alan Walker reported that NRS had been allocated £540 million for 2025/26. Additional funding had not come through into SZA projects, so the picture presented at the last SSG was unchanged. Final results of the comprehensive spending review were expected in June, following which things could be revisited in more detail. Marianne Fellowes asked Alan Walker to come back on this at the next meeting.

ACTION: Alan Walker to report on the updated programme of works in light of the comprehensive spending review.

4949. Katharine Walker (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

Katharine Walker presented her report.

During the period from January to March, there had been one inspection on 18 February, which had covered maintenance, inspection and testing. The inspection outcome had been green.

4950. James Heavingham (Environment Agency)

James Heavingham presented his report.

There had been no site inspections since the previous SSG, but one was scheduled for 4th June and would look at the management of non-radioactive and low-level radioactive waste. This would include an assessment of the turbine hall demolition and the management of the subsurface void. Using the crushed aggregate on SZC was a good example of recycling, and the Environment Agency was pleased with how it had been managed.

An asset management investigation had been undertaken onsite, and the report had now been finalised. A number of areas of good practice had been identified, as had a few areas for improvement. Overall, the Environment Agency had found an improving picture on asset management and infrastructure care.

An administrative variation application had been received for the SZA environmental permit. This did not make any changes toward discharges to air or sea. There had been no discharges to the North Sea in the last quarter, and gaseous discharges remained at a low level.

Janet Fendly noted that Alan Walker had spoken about very low-level radioactive waste (VLLW) and queried what the difference with this was. James Heavingham explained that VLLW was at a level at which it was appropriate to be disposed of with conventional waste. Alan Walker explained that it could go only to authorised landfill sites. Themis Kantara explained that these landfill sites had specific permits for VLLW, with set amounts that could be accepted. Richard Parlone said it tended to be large-volume fairly inert materials which would be suitable for disposal and reduce in hazard over time due to radioactive decay.

Mike Taylor noted that a permit application had gone into the local newspaper that day for SZC, and this had mentioned the sewage treatment plant. Mike Taylor asked which plant this referred to. James Heavingham stated that he had no knowledge of this application. Alan Walker noted that, for SZA and SZB, there was a shared sewage plant operated by SZA. Joan Girling queried whether the SZA and SZB sewage works would still be used for SZC and asked about the impact on SZA and SZC. James Heavingham said it sounded like a permit application for a standalone sewage plant for SZC. He had not been notified of any changes affecting SZA and SZB. Cllr Nicky Corbett suggested taking this question to the SZC main development site forum.

4951. NDA Reports

John McNamara presented his report.

There was not yet full clarity on the comprehensive spending review. The settlement for the current year had been slightly lower overall than the previous year. Consideration was therefore being taken of which projects could be paused and which could be delayed. The outcome of the comprehensive spending review, which would cover multiple years, was anticipated in June. This would define the NDA group's budget.

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A lot of work was taking place around NRS sites with big projects underway. A lot of work was also going into the geological disposal facility. Preparation for the older AGRs site coming over to the NDA had been taking place, particularly at Hunterston B and Hinkley B. The third site would be Dungeness B, but this was not as advanced as the other two sites.

The NDA had hosted the NGO forum on a tour of the Sellafield waste depository in April. A review of SSGs had been taking place marking the 20th anniversary of the NDA and SSGs. The intention was to standardise SSGs to a degree. Marianne Fellowes had been very closely involved in this work.

Joan Girling noted that, on the gov.uk website, she had found a document about SSGs. This had directed to the SSGs website, which had provided no information. Marianne Fellowes noted that this had been noticed and reported back.

Mike Taylor asked whether it was becoming clearer how liability for decommissioning of the EDF sites would be funded. John McNamara confirmed that this would come from the nuclear liability fund (NLF). Marianne Fellowes reported that she had been advised by the NDA that EDF would cover defueling and then the nuclear liability fund would cover post-defueling, but there was not enough money to cover the whole of the works. Alan Walker added that representatives from the EDF, NLF and the NDA had visited the Bradwell site to look at the decommissioning works there.

Marianne Fellowes stated that she understood from the UKHSA that there was a current review of arm's-length bodies and asked whether the NDA was subject to this. John McNamara confirmed that the NDA would be subject to the review but noted that it had not heard much on it yet. Marianne Fellowes further noted that the government had formed a new regulatory taskforce, and this would cover new build. John McNamara explained that there was a review of regulators to look at how to modernise and streamline them. Marianne Fellowes noted that there had been public concern about the prospect of reduced consultation. John McNamara noted that there was a consultation currently open on the review.

Joan Girling noted that John McNamara's report had referenced the nature recovery plan, and the production of a living document concerning biodiversity and conservation. She queried whether this would apply to SZA and the land surrounding it. There had been mention of a new fence, and she was curious about the possibility of new planting. John McNamara explained that the NDA sustainability team wanted to come to SSG meetings to report on this plan. John McNamara would bring more detail to the next meeting.

ACTION: John McNamara to bring more detail regarding the nature recovery plan to the next SSG.

4952. SIZEWELL B REPORTS

Mark Scrancher (Business Manager, EDF)

Mark Scrancher presented his report.

Since the last fuelling outage in December, SZB had operated at full capacity generating low-carbon electricity for 2.5 million homes. There had been no recordable injuries, nuclear reportable events or environmental incidents since the last SSG. In relation to the recordable injury in September 2024 during the construction of the new outage store, an ONR enforcement letter had been received. A cause investigation had resulted in a number of actions, all of which had been closed out to the satisfaction of the ONR.

The third safety review, which marked 10 years, had been submitted to the regulator in January, and feedback had been received. There were a number of ONR actions, which would take time to close, but no immediate safety concerns had been noted.

There had been an event during the last outage in which a pinhole leak had been discovered on the discharge ductwork. This had been repaired to the satisfaction of the Environment

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Agency. There were further actions, and EDF was working with the Environment Agency to close these.

SZB employed 659 EDF staff, with around 300 contractors and a further 120 working on the relocated facilities project. EDF continued with plans to extend SZB's life to at least 2055. There was confidence in the technical case, and work was continuing on commercial plans to enable it.

The new training facility was in its final stages and was expected to be in use over the summer. The new visitor centre was a few months behind in terms of progress.

The Labour MP for Suffolk Coastal, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, had visited and toured the SZB site.

Emergency testing was coming up, with the first exercise happening in two weeks' time and a steady run of weekly exercises thereafter.

The SZB sponsorship fund was open and contact regarding access to the fund should be made via Niki Rousseau.

Cllr Lesley Hill expressed her thanks to EDF on behalf of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council for the help of SZB apprentices with the VE Day 80th anniversary event.

Marianne Fellowes noted the duct corrosion event. The Environment Agency had reported that EDF had not been compliant with SZB's environmental permit permissions. This needed to be taken seriously. Mark Scrancher explained that a warning letter had not yet been received from the Environment Agency, but acknowledged that it showed a permit breach, and this was taken very seriously.

Marianne Fellowes noted that she had attended the emergency consultative planning committee meeting as an observer. It had been very helpful to hear lessons learned across the whole EDF fleet. She suggested that it would be useful for SSG attendees to hear feedback about issues across the rest of the fleet. Mark Scrancher noted that lessons were learned internally as a fleet community.

Marianne Fellowes noted an open action to investigate the provision of data around water usage at SZB. Niki Rousseau explained that she had submitted a full-page action report detailing how actions had been addressed. Some members of the SSG had not received this. Niki Rousseau noted that the detailed map was being finalised and would be sent separately.

Trevor Branton noted that several people had mentioned to him that SZC was tankering water in, which was seen by the public as going to 'Sizewell' rather than specifically to SZC. He asked that this be raised at the next meeting of the SZC forum. Marianne Fellowes noted that a question had been raised at the last forum meeting about how much water was being tankered in, and the Environment Agency had confirmed it was the responsibility of the local authority. Cllr Nicky Corbett noted that she had a question drafted for the next SZC main development site forum around the impact of the prolonged dry weather.

Marianne Fellowes noted that Mike Taylor had forwarded to her a planning application to replace the emergency planning boards at the Sizewell car park. Marianne Fellowes had raised this at the emergency planning committee. Mark Scrancher noted that this had been internally followed up by EDF. Marianne Fellowes said it had been made by SZC. There were emergency planning elements for the whole area, but emergency planning arrangements differed between a decommissioned site and an operational site, and it was important that there was communication. Marianne Fellowes noted that Suffolk Resilience Unit had received a sum of money for increasing resilience and communications with communities, and this noticeboard would likely fall under that.

4953. David Prescott (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

David Prescott presented his report.

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At the last SSG meeting, a number of inspections had been reported on, and these had now taken place. The periodic safety review had resulted in an enforcement letter. No safety case issues had been found; rather, the letter concerned how EDF had approached the review.

EDF had approached the ONR for its views on SZB life extension, to which the ONR had responded. This was not something the ONR commissioned, but close attention had been paid to international guidelines.

Marianne Fellowes queried the situation around cannister 19. David Prescott reported that there were no changes.

Mike Taylor noted that the ONR was reviewing SZC's site justifications on coastal process, which he felt was relevant to SZB.

4954. Themis Kantara (Environment Agency)

Themis Kantara presented her report.

The solid waste inspection had been completed in March. The report was still to be finalised, but no areas of noncompliance had been identified. Regarding the duct corrosion event, the information submitted by EDF had been reviewed and there had been prompt notification. Actions were currently being discussed. A warning letter would be issued.

The Environment Agency had confirmed that the gaseous discharges for SZB had remained below the limits in their permit. The proposed changes to the environmental monitoring plan had also been reviewed in light of construction activities at SZC. It had been confirmed that proposed reallocations still met the Environment Agency monitoring requirements.

Themis Kantara was aware of an outstanding action around impact on marine life from the cooling water system. She had held further discussions with colleagues who had confirmed that the Environment Agency had issued a permit at the beginning. This was not continually reassessed. Information had also been provided by the Environment Agency as part of the DCO. Themis Kantara's colleagues had confirmed that there would be no significant impact on marine life. The Marine Management Organisation and Natural England had been consulted as part of the permitting process.

Cllr Nicky Corbett noted that there were no representatives from East Suffolk Council or Suffolk County Council at the SSG, which was 'a shame'. The minutes of the previous SSG had mentioned seeking an MMO representative to attend. Themis Kantara suggested that the SSG invite the MMO. She had not been able to identify a specific contact. John McNamara noted that the NDA had a role to play, as the review of SSGs had prioritised attendance. The starting point was that local authorities should attend SSG meetings.

4955. MATTERS ARISING AND QUESTIONS FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER (NOT COVERED BY REPORTS ABOVE)

Marianne Fellowes noted that Robert Gunn had provided information regarding comparative discharges at other sites. Provision of data around water usage at SZB had been investigated and data supplied demonstrating that it was below permitted levels. Marianne Fellowes did not think the answer to the question about the DSL closure and footpath had answered the question. Robert Gunn had provided information about where staff were travelling from and shift times.

4956. REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION AND ANY AMENDMENTS NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE

Marianne Fellowes reported on the work to review the SSG alongside other stakeholders. There had been three national meetings and two additional meetings that Marianne Fellowes had attended. An independent contractor had been brought in to redraft the constitution, as it

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had been 20 years since the SSGs had started. Marianne Fellowes went through the changes to the constitution, including a common code of conduct.

Marianne Fellowes noted that Sizewell SSG had been held up as a positive example of the SSG members reflecting their communities. For MPs to be able to attend, consideration needed to be given to holding meetings on a Friday, when they would be in their constituencies. Trevor Branton noted that, some time previously, MPs would send a representative if they were not able to attend. Marianne Fellowes noted that an SSG newsletter had been sent out to the local community previously, and this might be worth reviving. An induction pack would be developed for new joiners to the SSG.

Marianne Fellowes explained that the constitution, the new NDA guidance and the summary of the changes would be sent out to SSG attendees, who were invited to contribute their thoughts within the next two weeks.

4957. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR REPORT

Marianne Fellowes reported that the ECPC had provided details of future exercises onsite, and she would request permission to share these with the public. It had been noted that resources were being constrained within the fire service to be able to attend such meetings.

Marianne Fellowes had attended the SZC forums as an Aldeburgh Town Council representative. All of the minutes were on the East Suffolk Council website. Marianne Fellowes had also previously met with regulators and station managers between SSG meetings, which had been very helpful.

Marianne Fellowes thanked the SSG attendees for their support and contributions. The SSG would celebrate its 20th anniversary at the September meeting and was hoping to have displays of photography and artefacts.

4958. CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION OF ANY NEW MEMBERS

Formal requests had been received to continue co-option for Trevor Branton, Joan Girling and Jenny Kirtley. Additionally, requests for co-option had been received from Mike Taylor and Alan Warner. Janet Fendly would continue as the Friends of the Earth member of the SSG.

Marianne Fellowes asked anyone who was interested in co-option to get in contact.

4959. NOMINATION FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR TO BE RECEIVED

Joan Girling proposed Marianne Fellowes for chair, which was seconded by Janet Fendly. Marianne Fellowes was re-elected uncontested.

Marianne Fellowes proposed Jenny Kirtley for vice-chair, which was seconded by Trevor Branton. Jenny Kirtley was elected uncontested.

Jenny Kirtley thanked Marianne Fellowes for everything she did for the SSG.

4960. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Joan Girling noted there had used to be a Sizewell SSG newsletter which had been helpful to distribute to people who were interested. Marianne Fellowes agreed with this. Joan Girling suggested that people with ideas around this could contact Marianne Fellowes or Jenny Kirtley. Marianne Fellowes noted that one of the parts of the new NDA guidance was that the press should attend.

Joan Girling thanked the officers for their attendance at the SSG. She also thanked officers from SZA and SZB for attending the funeral of Pete Wilkinson.

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There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.20.

Next Meeting dates: TBC