

Environment Agency Report to the Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

March 2026

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & Sizewell B nuclear sites and related issues for the period November 2025 to March 2026.

Our Regulation

We regulate solid radioactive waste disposals, aqueous and gaseous 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 a variety of regulatory activities to check for compliance with our regulatory requirements, including site inspection, review of documents, and arrangements, and any reports of events.

Details of our assessments and any non-compliances identified are included in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs), which are placed on our public register. See the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request documents from our public register.

We regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including but not limited to surface water discharges to surrounding water bodies and emissions to air, for example from emergency diesel generators. We are also the joint competent authority, alongside the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), for the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) regulations that apply to Sizewell B.

Information on environmental permits and our regulation of the Sizewell sites can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sizewell-nuclear-regulation>

Site Regulation

Sizewell A

We continue to hold monthly meetings with Nuclear Restoration Services Limited (NRS) to discuss the work taking place on site that could have an environmental impact. We also review quarterly gaseous and aqueous discharges and environmental monitoring returns.

On 26th November 2025, we undertook an inspection which focussed on the arrangements NRS has in place at the Sizewell A site to monitor, sample and report radioactive gaseous emissions to ensure compliance with the environmental permit.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

We found NRS has robust procedures and on-site arrangements to ensure reported gaseous emissions data are accurate and in compliance with the permit conditions and CEAR requirements. We have made several observations where the management system or on-site arrangements could be improved. We have also noted examples of good practice regarding the way NRS carries out its intelligent customer role, to assure the environmental monitoring programme data provided to us are accurate. During the inspection we did not identify any non-compliance issues.

Our next site inspection will focus on the arrangements NRS has in place to monitor, sample and report radioactive aqueous emissions to ensure compliance with the environmental permit.

Sizewell B

Alongside our inspection programme, we have maintained bi-weekly telephone and regular email contact with EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Limited (subsequently referred as EDF), and routine review of returns.

On 8th December we attended the Annual Review of Safety, Security, Safeguards and the Environment (AROSSE) meeting held at Sizewell B power Station. The AROSSE provided an overview of the station's performance across security, safety, safeguards and environmental aspects and included a plant walkdown.

On 21st and 22nd October 2025, we carried out an inspection focusing on environmental asset management arrangements including ensuring assets are maintained in good repair and checks and requirements are carried out at an appropriate frequency. We collected information demonstrating that EDF has sufficient management systems and uses suitably qualified people to support permit compliance. During the inspection we did not identify any non-compliances with the RSR permit and found one example of good practice (this related to minimising risks from components obsolescence).

As noted in the previous SSG, we carried an inspection focusing on solid waste on 25th March 2025 and made three recommendations relating to company procedures. Since then, we have received and reviewed additional information from EDF relating to the recommendations. Our review concluded that two of the recommendations relating to the process for keeping Best Available Techniques (BAT) documents up to date and implementing company procedures at Sizewell B (relating to higher activity radioactive waste management) are resolved. One recommendation relating to the process for reviewing Radioactive Waste Management Cases (RWMCs) at Sizewell B remains open. We will now seek further clarification from the EDF corporate environmental team and provide update at the next SSG.

As noted in the previous SSG, following a notification from EDF relating to a duct corrosion event, we issued EDF with a warning letter and made five regulatory recommendations. The recommendations related to the implementation of operational experience (OPEX) review and future ductwork inspections to minimise future potential non-compliances. Since then, EDF have submitted and we have reviewed additional information to progress and close out the recommendations. Our assessment concluded that there is sufficient OPEX exchange fleet wide relating to duct corrosion (and wider environmental matters)

and EDF adopted robust procedures for identifying pipework corrosion on environmentally critical equipment. Two recommendations relating to the review of a corrosion management programme at Sizewell B and reports on planned walkdowns at areas of the plant remain outstanding (we have asked EDF to provide additional information). We will update the SSG going forward on the progress of the remaining recommendations.

EDF are planning to make a change to primary circuit water chemistry in line with international light water reactor operational experience (OPEX). The change involves zinc acetate injection which both reduces primary circuit contamination and protects certain parts against stress corrosion cracking. Benefits expected are reduction in worker dose and reduction of the need to replace parts (which would be consigned as radioactive waste). EDF have supplied a BAT assessment; our assessment of the report is ongoing. Project works that will be undertaken in the upcoming reactor fuel outage 20 (RO20) include resin replacement within the primary circuit. Implications of this change will be assessed as the BAT case is developed by EDF. We will update the SSG as work progresses.

Enforcement

Sizewell A

We have not taken any enforcement actions at Sizewell A in the period since the previous SSG meeting (27th November 2025).

Sizewell B

We have not taken any enforcement actions at Sizewell B in the period since the previous SSG meeting.

Environmental Permitting

Sizewell A

There have been no changes to NRS's Sizewell A permits in the period since the previous SSG meeting (27th November 2025).

Sizewell B

As noted on previous SSG, on 8th August 2025 we received joint partial permit transfer application from Sizewell B (EDF ENGL) and Sizewell C Limited, to transfer an area of land, currently within the Sizewell B permitted site, from EDF ENGL to Sizewell C Ltd.'s permit. The application has been duly made, and we are currently determining it. There will not be any changes to permitted waste types, disposal outlets, disposal routes and discharge limits for Sizewell B as a result of the partial permit transfer.

Discharge Reports

The sites' environmental permits require the operators to use Best Available Techniques (BAT) to manage their operations so that wastes are minimised along with their impacts on the public and wider environment. Disposal of wastes – as solids, liquids, or gases – can only be made via permitted routes or by transfer to permitted sites.

NRS and EDF ENGL are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a quarterly basis, within 30 days of the end of the quarter. These

reports are placed on the public register. We examine these reports and detail our assessment of their performance through RASCARs.

Sizewell A

For Sizewell A, NRS reports received in January 2026, covering the reporting period October to December 2025 (inclusive) showed that gaseous discharges from Sizewell A were at levels well within permitted limits. No aqueous active effluent discharge to the North Sea were made in this reporting period. The last aqueous discharge had been made in September 2025. NRS have recently identified particulates in the aqueous effluent which appears to be linked to corrosion in the discharge system. The exact cause is still under investigation. NRS will not be making any discharges of aqueous effluent until this issue is resolved.

Low volumes of treated effluent were discharged from the sewage treatment plant, which serves both Sizewell A and Sizewell B sites. The plant is managed by NRS. Effluent is monitored at quarterly intervals for the presence of tritium and caesium-137. No radioactivity above limits of detection was reported in samples taken during the period covered in this report.

Gaseous discharges from Sizewell A are very low compared to when the site was operational (pre-2007). The site's reactors are now "breathing" passively. This means there is no forced flow of air through the reactors and discharges follow a seasonal pattern across the year influenced by barometric pressure and weather conditions.

Sizewell B

Liquid and gaseous discharges made from Sizewell B permitted routes have remained within permitted limits between September 2025 to December 2025, and returns were submitted to us within the required timescales.

The 12-month cumulative gaseous discharges of carbon-14 remained less than 72% of the annual limit, with other gaseous discharges less than 14% of respective annual limits. The 12-month cumulative liquid discharges were in-line with expected levels and remain less than 21% of the annual limit for tritium, and less than 7% for caesium-137 and other radionuclides. No quarterly notification levels (QNLs) were exceeded for gaseous or aqueous discharges and were in-line with expected levels.

Environmental Monitoring

Radioactivity in food and the environment report

Our annual report for 2024 was published in October 2025 on GOV.UK [Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) 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 2024. It demonstrates that the public's exposure to permitted discharges and direct radiation near nuclear and non-nuclear sites is low and within dose limits.

For Sizewell, the total dose for the representative person was 0.014mSv in 2024, up from 0.010mSv in 2023. This is 1.4% of the public dose limit. The increase in 'total dose' was mostly attributed to a higher estimate of direct radiation in 2024 due to changes in the estimated background dose rate. Levels of radioactivity found in the environment remain low.

In parallel to this programme, the operators are required to carry out their own programme of environmental monitoring and to submit the results of this programme to us on a periodic basis. This is conducted jointly by NRS and EDF ENGL.

In December 2025, we received the environmental monitoring reports covering the period from July to September 2025 (inclusive). A review of the returns identified no results or trends of concern. No non-compliances were identified. The report covering October to December 2025 is due by the end of March 2026.

Sizewell A

The reported results are consistent with our independent programme and do not indicate any results or trends of regulatory concern. We make the information from both operator and our own environmental monitoring programmes available on our public register.

Sizewell B

Following the review of the EMP report we note that sampling commenced in July 2025 at the passive shade located within the site boundary (TF102); this was not sampled for the 1st and 2nd quarter of the EMP in 2025. We have reviewed the EMP results for the passive shades within the site boundary and confirmed the activity on each shade to be below the minimum detectable activity of the laboratory analytical equipment (including around TF102).

As a precaution against the loss of location F1 due to Sizewell C construction activities, quarterly grass/herbage sampling was started at a new location F101 in August 2025. This location was added as part of the recent Sizewell B EMP changes, and the results from the two locations are comparable.

The results of the EMP indicate radioactivity in the environment remains below regulatory concern and demonstrates the effectiveness of the Operator's programme and analysis in identifying and informing results of interest. The results continue to be consistent with our independent programme and do not indicate any other concerning results or trends.

Further Information

The Environment Agency's Nuclear Regulation Group is responsible for the environmental regulation of radioactive waste disposals on or from nuclear licensed sites in 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 Sizewell A and Sizewell B are James Heavingham and Themis Kantara. From April 2026, Aidan Kelly will be the lead regulator for Sizewell A with James Heavingham providing support.

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 \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://environment-agency.gov.uk/nuclear-consultations)

National news items

Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce

In February 2025 Government [announced](#) its plans for nuclear energy, including setting up a review of nuclear regulation. The Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce reported directly to the Prime Minister and was led by John Fingleton. Read about [its role and Terms of Reference](#).

On 24 November the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce published [its final report](#).

The Environment Agency supports the work of the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce to deliver a stronger and more streamlined regulatory framework. We welcome the publication of this report and will work closely with the government as it assesses these recommendations and prepares a full response.

Chief Regulator's report

We have published the second Chief Regulator's report. It summarises the performance of the businesses and activities regulated by the Environment Agency in England in 2024-25.

[Environment Agency Chief Regulator's report 2024-25 - GOV.UK](#)

You can [read a summary](#) of our nuclear and radioactive substances work during 2024-25 in the evidence report.

Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports

Our annual report was published on GOV.UK on 16 October 2025.

[Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Through our joint scrutiny work, the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) provide regulatory advice to Nuclear Waste Services about implementing geological disposal.

Read the press release [Scrutiny report about radioactive waste disposal is published - GOV.UK](#)