

Environment Agency Report to the Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

July 2026

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

Our Regulation

Operators of nuclear sites in England must have a permit for radioactive substances activities from the Environment Agency. The environmental permits we issue contain strict conditions and limits that must be followed at all times. Permit conditions are designed to make sure that operators' activities do not harm people or the environment. The conditions also specify that operators must use Best Available Techniques (BAT) to minimise the amount of radioactive waste produced, and radioactivity discharged. 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 on nuclear sites that require environmental permits, including surface water discharges and combustion activities. 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 the operator, 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.

We have not carried out a site inspection since our last report. In our most recent inspection, on 26th November 2025, we assessed the arrangements NRS has in place

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

at the Sizewell A site to monitor, sample and report radioactive gaseous emissions. We found NRS had robust procedures and on-site arrangements to ensure reported gaseous emissions data are accurate and in compliance with the permit conditions and CEAR¹ requirements. We did not identify any non-compliances with the environmental permit, however we made several observations where the management system or on-site arrangements could be improved. We 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.

Our next site inspection will take place on 23rd June. This inspection will assess the arrangements NRS has in place to monitor, sample and report radioactive aqueous emissions against the requirements in 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 (EDF), and routine review of returns.

In March 2026, we carried out a joint inspection with the ONR focusing on management arrangements of solid radioactive waste. We also reviewed preparations for the planned reactor fuel outage 20 (RO20), which commenced in May 2026. EDF demonstrated proactive arrangements for the waste management activities necessary for RO20, and we identified examples of good practice relating to management of anticipated waste arisings.

We identified two minor non-compliances against the RSR permit relating to the process for reviewing Radioactive Waste Management Cases (RWMCs) and management arrangements for storage of chemicals in the radioactive waste building waste segregation cages. The non-compliances relate to minor administrative issues that present no foreseeable or negligible environmental impact (see enforcement section).

As noted at the previous SSG, EDF is 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. EDF has supplied information relating to the project works that highlight expected benefits in reducing worker dose and the need to replace and dispose of parts. We will continue to review information to ensure BAT is implemented.

Enforcement

Sizewell A

We have not taken any enforcement actions at Sizewell A in the period since the previous SSG meeting (11th March 2026).

Sizewell B

We have taken enforcement action for two issues at Sizewell B in the period since the previous SSG meeting.

Management of RWMCs

¹ Compilation of Environment Agency Requirements, Approvals and Specifications.

During the inspection in March 2026, we identified that the RWMCs were last reviewed in 2016 or 2018. These documents are produced by EDF's corporate function. Whilst no substantive review was required, EDF's own company specification requires that the documents are updated within a shorter defined period. We therefore determined that EDF was not compliant with condition 1.1.1 of its RSR permit (EPR/XB3539DH) to manage and operator the activities in accordance with a written management system.

We have issued EDF with a single non-compliance score of CCS4. A CCS4 represents the lowest level of permit non-compliance and is applied to minor administrative issues or errors that present no foreseeable or potential environmental impact.

We have issued an action in relation to this non-compliance for EDF to update its RWMCs for Sizewell B, to be completed by 31st December 2026. We consider advice and guidance to be a sufficient regulatory response and do not intent to take any further enforcement action unless repeat incidences occur.

Radioactive Waste Building Waste Segregation Cages

During the inspection we noted a cage used for storing an assortment of chemical waste. EDF confirmed this was not in line with good practice due to the potential reaction between different chemicals. We therefore determined that EDF was not compliant with condition 1.1.1 of its RSR permit. We have issued EDF with a single non-compliance score of CCS4.

EDF confirmed that the chemicals were subsequently removed from the cages promptly, did not contain radioactive waste and were stored in an alternative location pending off-site disposal. We have issued EDF with two recommendations relating to this non-compliance: to provide evidence of the appropriate chemical storage training delivered to the relevant staff, and to ensure the relevant management processes are sufficient to prevent the generation of unnecessary radioactive waste. We consider advice and guidance to be a sufficient regulatory response and do not intend to take any further enforcement action unless repeat incidences occur.

Environmental Permitting

Sizewell A

There have been no changes to NRS's Sizewell A permits in the period since the previous SSG meeting (11th March 2026).

Sizewell B

As noted at the previous SSG, we are currently in the process for determining a 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. 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 BAT to manage their operations so that radioactive 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 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

We received liquid and gaseous discharge returns from NRS in April 2026, for the reporting period January to March (inclusive). The data shows gaseous discharges from Sizewell A remain well below permitted levels and less than 1% of the quarterly notification levels. Gaseous discharge activity is significantly less compared to when the site was operational (pre-2007). The site's reactors are defueled and now “breathe” passively. This means there is no forced flow of air through the reactors and discharges follow a seasonal pattern influenced by variations in barometric pressure across the year.

NRS did not make any radioactive liquid discharges during the reporting period. The last aqueous discharge was made in September 2025. NRS continue to investigate the cause of particulates in the effluent discharge system. Until the investigation is complete NRS will not make further liquid discharges.

Low volumes of treated sewage 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.

Sizewell B

Liquid and gaseous discharges made from Sizewell B permitted routes have remained within permitted limits between January 2026 to March 2026, and returns were submitted to us within the required timescales.

The 12-month cumulative gaseous discharges of carbon-14 remained less than 79% of the annual limit, with other gaseous discharges less than 16% of respective annual limits. The 12-month cumulative liquid discharges of tritium remained less than 25% of the annual limit, and less than 4% for caesium-137 and other radionuclides. No quarterly notification levels (QNLs) were exceeded, and gaseous and aqueous discharges 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/rife-report-2024.pdf) - 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 around Sizewell 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.

In March, we received the environmental monitoring reports covering the period October to December 2025 (inclusive). Our assessment of the returns found all reported results were within the expected ranges and did not indicate any trends of concern. We did not identify any non-compliances with the environmental permit. The report covering January to March is due by the end of June 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 we note that several passive shade samples were collected early. The locations have consistently reported below minimum detectable activity, therefore we do not consider these results to present environmental risk, but will review future results to ensure they remain below minimum detectable activity levels

The results of the environmental monitoring programme indicate radioactivity in the environment remains below regulatory concern. 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 Aidan Kelly and Themis Kantara respectively.

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

Customer service line 03708 506 506
Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

Floodline 03459 88 11 88

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 2025 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](#)