Sizewell A & B Site Stakeholder Group
16 July 2026
Friston Village Hall

Attendees:

Members:

Marianne Fellowes	Independent Chair
Jenny Kirtley	Vice Chair / TASC
Trevor Branton	Co-opted member
Janet Fendley	Friends of the Earth
Pat Hogan	Sizewell resident
Cllr Kerstin Davey	Aldeburgh Town Council
Cllr Bill Searle	Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Cllr Dr Charlotte Fox	Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council
Cllr Paul Nicholson	Friston Parish Council
Cllr Tristan Gale	Suffolk County Council, Portfolio holder for Nuclear
Peter Langford	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Rachael Tecklenberg	Suffolk County Council, representative for Aldeburgh & Leiston
Courtney Walsh	Suffolk County Council, Joint Emergency Planning Unit

Operators and Officers:

Alan Walker	NRS, Sizewell A Site Director
Robert Gunn	EDF, Sizewell B Station Director
Niki Rousseau	EDF Communications
Sean Verrell	EDF, Sizewell B Technical & Safety Manager
Robert Rigler Gillingham	Environment Agency, Sizewell B, via MS Teams
James Heavingham	Environment Agency, Sizewell A, via MS Teams
Themis Kantara	Environment Agency, Sizewell B, via MS Teams
Kayleigh Ridley	NRS, Comms & Socio-economic Lead, South East Sites
Cara Webb	NRS, Sizewell A, Minute Taker
Katharine Walker	ONR, Sizewell A, via MS Teams
David Prescott	ONR, Sizewell B, via MS Teams
John Rostron	ONR, Sizewell B, via MS Teams

Apologies for Absence:

Representative	Knodishall Parish Council
Richard Parlone	EDF, Sizewell B, Staff Representative
Philip Matthews	CEO, NuLeaf
Joan Girling	Former co-opted member
Mike Taylor	Former co-opted member, Friends of the Earth
Cllr Nicky Corbett	Leiston Town Council

Before the meeting commenced, members took part in a walk to view the works for SPR EA1N & EA2.

[4984] 1. Welcome and Introduction – Marianne Fellowes

- Marianne Fellowes opened the meeting at 18:15, welcomed attendees and gave safety and welfare information.

- Regulators joined remotely. Speakers were asked to identify themselves before contributing to support participation and accurate minute-taking.
- Friston Parish Council was thanked for the use of the village hall. Marianne Fellowes noted that meetings are held at venues across the area to support local communities and encourage participation.
- The Group formally thanked Joan Girling and Mike Taylor following their resignation after many years of service to the SSG.
- Members were reminded that discussions should be conducted with courtesy, patience and respect.

[4985] 2. Sizewell A Site Report – Alan Walker (NRS, Site Director)

Key Updates

- Sizewell A marked 60 years since the start of electricity generation at the site.
- Safety performance remained strong, with no significant injuries and both Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and Days Away Case Rate (DACR) at zero. A recent Environment Agency aqueous waste inspection had gone well.
- Engagement included a visit by around 40 Young Generation Network members, two work experience programmes for ten students and the NRS Community Roadshow in Leiston.
- Site personnel had contributed 140 volunteering hours, including a Sizewell beach clean and vegetation clearance at Dunwich Heath.
- Investigations continued into unexpected contaminated, jelly-like material found in the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP). No aqueous discharges would take place while the issue remained under investigation.
- Hot weather had required additional controls and temporary suspension of some work involving respirators and protective clothing.
- The site employees 148 staff and 13 contractor personnel. Sixteen roles had been filled during 2026, 22 positions were under recruitment, and three further apprentices were due to join in September.
- Asset care work included reactor building weather-envelope inspections, trunk radio replacement, fire-door improvements, asbestos management, roof investigations and welfare-facility upgrades.
- Four radioactive waste consignments were planned for the financial year. To date, 27 tonnes of controlled waste had left site, with 87% recycled. The new Waste Inventory Management System continued to be implemented.
- The third boiler cell isolation was around 95% complete and due to finish in August. Repairs to the Ponds Building five-tonne hoist would continue for several months.
- Design work continued on an Intermediate Level Waste facility that would package and condition waste for later transfer to Bradwell.
- The Boiler House Asbestos Removal Project had begun mobilisation and was expected to be one of the site's largest decommissioning projects.
- The Turbine Hall Demolition Project received the NDA Outstanding Project and Programme Award.
- Community funding remained available through the main socio-economic programme and Good Neighbour Scheme.

Questions Raised

- **Q:** Janet Fendley asked whether the unexpected AETP material was radioactive.
  Response: Alan Walker confirmed that it was contaminated material within the active effluent system. Its precise nature and origin remained under investigation.

- **Q:** Janet Fendley and Rachael Tecklenberg asked about recruitment challenges and the wider skills shortage.
  Response: Technical recruitment remained difficult. Sizewell A was using development roles, qualifications and internal progression to build capability, but public-sector pay constraints and regional competition continued to affect recruitment.

- **Q:** Tristan Gale asked whether the advertised roles were long term.
  Response: The roles were permanent and aligned to a decommissioning programme expected to continue for at least 15 years.

- **Q:** Janet Fendley asked whether the Ponds Building roof would be radioactive waste.
  Response: The roof was not assumed to be radioactive, although small areas of very low-level contamination could be identified during characterisation after removal.

- **Q:** Pat Hogan asked whether work on the offshore structures was routine maintenance.
  Response: Alan Walker confirmed that it formed part of the established inspection and maintenance regime.

- **Q:** Trevor Branton asked about the Boiler House Asbestos Removal Project scope.
  Response: The upper and lower main ducts were currently expected to remain in place, but asbestos and associated plant and pipework would be removed throughout relevant boiler-house areas.

- **Q:** Rachael Tecklenberg requested community funding eligibility information.
  Response: Kayleigh Ridley agreed to circulate the relevant criteria to members.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked about additional sewage tanker movements during the Sizewell B outage.
  Response: Approximately 348 cubic metres had been removed, equating to around ten tanker loads or about twenty vehicle movements (depending on tanker size) including return journeys. The waste was managed by an approved contractor through authorised routes.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked whether Sizewell A might eventually be unable to support Sizewell B outage sewage requirements.
  Response: Alternative arrangements would need to be considered if circumstances changed. Current arrangements remained efficient, with planned tankering used during outage peaks.

Actions

- Kayleigh Ridley and Niki Rousseau to explore joint recruitment and careers engagement opportunities.
- Kayleigh Ridley to provide members with eligibility criteria for Sizewell A community funding schemes.

[4986] 3. ONR Report (Sizewell A) – Katharine Walker via MS Teams

- No ONR inspections or formal interventions had taken place during the reporting period, although regular engagement with the Site Director continued.
- An intervention was scheduled for August, focusing on Construction (Design and Management) Regulations and client responsibilities for construction and asbestos-removal projects.

- ONR confirmed it remained informed of Sizewell A's planned projects and emerging activities.
- Members were invited to submit further questions through the Secretariat where reporting periods did not align with SSG meetings.

[4987] 4. Environment Agency Report (Sizewell A) – James Heavingham via MS Teams

Key Updates

- Aidan Kelly had taken over as Lead Regulator for Sizewell A. James Heavingham presented the update in his absence.
- Monthly engagement continued, including review of gaseous and aqueous discharges and environmental monitoring returns.
- A June inspection reviewed monitoring, sampling and reporting of radioactive aqueous discharges and the particulates found in the AETP.
- The Environment Agency was satisfied that Sizewell A management had treated the matter seriously and prioritised the investigation.
- No aqueous discharge had taken place since September 2025. The site retained sufficient storage capacity for its current low volumes of aqueous effluent.
- Work to divert rainwater away from the active liquid effluent system was welcomed, with further opportunities recommended for consideration.
- No enforcement action had been taken and there had been no permit changes. Gaseous discharges remained below 1% of quarterly notification levels, and environmental monitoring showed no concerns or adverse trends.

Questions Raised

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked whether similar particulate issues had occurred elsewhere.
  Response: James Heavingham confirmed that similar issues had occurred at other ageing effluent systems operating at much lower flows. No discharge would be permitted until the issue was resolved and Best Available Techniques requirements were met.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked about available storage capacity.
  Response: Alan Walker advised that one existing delay tank would provide approximately 12 months of storage at current generation rates. The unusual material appeared buoyant rather than settling, requiring further investigation.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked how learning would be shared.
  Response: NRS would use its established operational-learning processes once the cause was understood. The Environment Agency had been shared information through its regular decommissioning-regulator forums.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked whether the former substation laydown area was being used by Sizewell C.
  Response: Robert Gunn confirmed the area was used by Sizewell B for storage of materials and equipment, not by Sizewell C.

[4988] 5. Sizewell B Report – Robert Gunn (EDF)

Key Updates

- An agreement with the UK Government supported extension of Sizewell B's operating life to at least 2055 through a Contract for Difference mechanism.
- The agreement enabled approximately £800 million of EDF investment in the station and supported long-term employment.

- The station recorded its first Lost Time Injury in almost two years when a delivery driver fell from a vehicle. A second contractor injury required stitches but did not result in lost time.
- Two minor environmental permit non-compliances had been identified: overdue document reviews and incompatible chemical containers stored together. Both were addressed promptly.
- EDF staffing had increased by around 10%, with approximately 55 additional employees. The station had nearly 650 EDF staff and around 300 permanent contractors.
- Approximately 11,000 of 13,000 planned outage tasks had been completed. Refuelling and inspections were complete, with no adverse inspection findings, and consent to restart had been requested from ONR.
- A diving programme had removed accumulated silt from the forebay ahead of return to service.
- Traffic controls included local accommodation, buses, staggered shifts and additional parking. Contractor parking issues had been addressed when identified.
- Community sponsorship and the Amenity and Accessibility Fund remained open to applications.

Questions Raised

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked whether Russian-produced fuel remained in use.
  Response: A small quantity remained in the reactor, but EDF expected to complete its transition away from Russian supply by 2028 in compliance with UK sanctions.

- **Q:** Pat Hogan asked whether Sizewell C rock armour formed part of the Sizewell B safety case.
  Response: The interim sheet-piled sea defence interfaces with Sizewell B coastal protection. Sizewell B was required to demonstrate that the arrangement provided at least equivalent protection, with rock armour forming part of that justification.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked about potential coastal and erosion impacts.
  Response: Sizewell C had undertaken modelling, but Robert Gunn could not comment in detail on its behalf. Existing modelling showed Sizewell B retained sufficient safety margins, and future periodic safety reviews would identify any need for further protection.

- **Q:** Jenny Kirtley asked why rock armour was being transported by road rather than through the Sizewell C jetty.
  Response: Robert Gunn could not provide a definitive answer and advised that clarification should be sought from Sizewell C.

- **Q:** Pat Hogan and Marianne Fellowes asked about higher sea temperatures.
  Response: Higher seawater temperatures could slightly reduce thermal efficiency and, if necessary, power output. They did not currently present a significant operational concern.

- **Q:** Trevor Branton asked whether Sizewell C coastal works could cause shoreline scour affecting Sizewell B.
  Response: Coastal changes were monitored through the Shoreline Management Group. Robert Gunn agreed to provide an update.

- **Q:** Tristan Gale raised concern that Suffolk County Council learned of the lifetime extension through the media.
  Response: Robert Gunn apologised and explained that communications were constrained by a government embargo. EDF would consider the feedback for future announcements.

- **Q:** Tristan Gale asked about Sizewell B community funding criteria.
  Response: The Sizewell A and Sizewell B schemes were separate but broadly similar. Members could contact Niki Rousseau for criteria and application support. EDF funding was not intended for direct business support.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked about Canister 19 in the dry fuel store.
  Response: It remained safely segregated under the existing safety case. There were no current plans to return it to the ponds.

Actions

- Marianne Fellowes to obtain information from Sizewell C on the rock armour installation and potential coastal and erosion impacts.
- Marianne Fellowes to obtain information from Sizewell C on jetty availability and use for transporting rock armour.
- Robert Gunn to provide an update on shoreline monitoring and potential coastal impacts from Sizewell C works.

[4989] 6. ONR Report (Sizewell B) – David Prescott via MS Teams

Key Updates

- David Prescott clarified that ONR inspections had continued during the previous reporting period, although no representative had attended the March SSG to present the reports.
- ONR generally undertook around one inspection per month. Recent work had focused on the Sizewell B outage, including maintenance, structural integrity, control and instrumentation, operations, supervision and training.
- No inspection during the period had identified regulatory non-compliance or significant concern.
- ONR was completing its assessment of the restart submission. Formal consent, if satisfactory, would be issued by an ONR Director.
- This was David Prescott's final SSG meeting before responsibilities transferred to John Rostron, expected to take up the role in September.

Questions Raised

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked how ONR would regulate an ageing station and draw on international experience.
  Response: Long-term PWR operation was well established internationally. ONR used experience from comparable US stations, including Wolf Creek and Callaway, to inform inspections and expectations.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked whether the 18-month outage cycle would change.
  Response: There was no current requirement to alter the outage frequency.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked how continued operation would be assessed.
  Response: EDF must maintain an adequate safety case and implement any necessary evidence, inspections, modifications or investment. ONR assesses a Periodic Safety Review every ten years, with PSR4 expected shortly before 2035.

- Marianne Fellowes noted that cumulative effects of future Sizewell B and Sizewell C outages on workforce, accommodation, traffic and communities should be considered in local planning and impact assessments.

[4990] 7. Environment Agency Report (Sizewell B) – Themis Kantara and Robert Rigler Gillingham via MS Teams

Key Updates

- A joint Environment Agency and ONR inspection in March covered solid radioactive waste management, outage preparations and environmental protection measures.
- Good practice was identified in planning for outage waste and preventing waste accumulation.
- Two minor non-compliances were identified: incompatible waste chemicals stored together and overdue formal reviews of Radioactive Waste Management Cases.
- The chemicals were promptly moved to segregated storage and procedures reviewed. The overdue document reviews were administrative, with no material change to the waste arrangements.
- Both findings were classified at Compliance Classification Scheme Level 4, the lowest level of non-compliance, with no environmental impact expected. Advice and guidance were considered sufficient.
- January to March discharges remained within permitted limits and quarterly notification levels.
- The partial permit transfer between Sizewell B and Sizewell C remained under determination and would not change Sizewell B waste types, disposal routes, outlets or discharge limits.
- Environmental monitoring remained effective and showed no regulatory concerns.

Questions Raised

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked whether the lifetime extension would affect Environment Agency resources.
  Response: Environmental permits do not expire. The Environment Agency would continue to resource regulation and enforcement for as long as the station operated.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked about the potential consequences of the incompatible chemicals.
  Response: The regulator could not assess a specific reaction without the chemical names and quantities. The containers were suitable and intact, and the materials were segregated promptly once identified.

- **Q:** Marianne Fellowes asked how long the chemicals had been stored together and requested information to support learning.
  Response: Sizewell B agreed to provide the chemical types, quantities, duration, potential risks and lessons learned. The Environment Agency also offered further explanation of its compliance classification system for member induction material.

Action

- Sizewell B to provide further information on the chemical-storage non-compliance, including chemicals, quantities, duration, risks and lessons learned.

[4991] 8. Matters Arising and Questions from the Minutes of 11 March 2026 and Action Tracker

- Marianne Fellowes advised that the Secretariat was reviewing how the Action Tracker was maintained so that responses received between meetings were recorded consistently.
- The previous minutes required correction to show that ONR inspections had taken place and reports had been issued, but no ONR representative was present to provide an update.

Action

- SSG Secretariat to amend the 11 March 2026 minutes accordingly.

[4992] 9. Chair's Report – Marianne Fellowes

- Marianne Fellowes reported on an NDA stakeholder event in Manchester involving NRS, Nuclear Waste Management, Nuclear Transport Solutions and Sellafield. Presentation material would be circulated when received.
- The Chair and Vice Chair also attended a meeting of SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs from across the UK.
- Marianne Fellowes had contributed to work on equality, diversity and inclusion across stakeholder groups, considering representation, accessibility and barriers to participation.
- The Group discussed the importance of stakeholder forums reflecting their communities and of holding meetings at accessible times and locations.
- Marianne Fellowes will attend a further industry, stakeholder and supply-chain event in Manchester in September and report relevant information back to members.

[4993] 10. Co-option of Members and Confirmation of New Members

- No requests for co-option had been received.
- Members were encouraged to promote the SSG and invite interested local people and organisations to future meetings.
- Councillors Rachael Tecklenberg and Tristan Gale were welcomed as Suffolk County Council representatives, together with Courtney Walsh from the Joint Emergency Planning Unit.

[4994] 11. Any Other Business

- Tristan Gale confirmed that Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project matters in the area fell within his Suffolk County Council remit. He was receiving briefings on major projects and intended to visit affected communities.
- Marianne Fellowes encouraged continued engagement between members, Suffolk County Council and local communities.
- Trevor Branton proposed formal letters of thanks to Joan Girling and Mike Taylor for their longstanding service. The Group agreed, and Robert Gunn offered EDF support.
- Marianne Fellowes thanked attendees, including those joining remotely, and encouraged regulators to share planned inspection dates so future meetings could be aligned where practicable.
- The meeting closed with thanks to Friston Parish Council and all participants.

Action

- Letters of thanks to be sent to Joan Girling and Mike Taylor recognising their longstanding contribution to the SSG.

[4995] 12. Summary of Actions

Ref	Action	Who	When
4985.1	Explore joint recruitment and careers engagement opportunities.	Kayleigh Ridley / Niki Rousseau	TBC
4985.2	Provide members with Sizewell A community funding eligibility criteria.	Kayleigh Ridley	TBC
4988.1	Obtain information from Sizewell C on rock armour and potential coastal and erosion impacts.	Marianne Fellowes	TBC
4988.2	Obtain information from Sizewell C on jetty availability and use for rock armour transport.	Marianne Fellowes	TBC
4988.3	Provide an update on shoreline monitoring and potential impacts from Sizewell C coastal works.	Robert Gunn	Next SSG
4990.1	Provide details of the chemical-storage non-compliance, including chemicals, quantities, duration, risks and lessons learned.	Sizewell B	Next SSG
4991.1	Amend the 11 March 2026 minutes to reflect ONR inspections and reports issued, with no oral update because no representative attended.	SSG Secretariat	TBC
4994.1	Send letters of thanks to Joan Girling and Mike Taylor.	SSG / EDF	TBC

Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.