

## **Introduction**

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & B nuclear sites and related issues.

## **Radioactive substances regulation**

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with the permit by making regular inspections at Sizewell A & B.

Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCAR) detailing our inspections and non-compliances found are put on the Public Register.

## **Sizewell A**

There have been no reported environmentally significant events since our last report to the SSG.

Our work at Sizewell A has been focussed on the following themes and issues in the last quarter:

- A low level solid waste inspection took place in January focussing on how different LLW streams are characterised, treated and disposed of. Physical inspection conducted on associated waste management plant and equipment. Some minor improvements were identified and have been logged with the operator to be actioned.
- Assessment of how Best Available Techniques are being applied to gaseous effluent management and a look at how gaseous discharges may change as the site becomes fuel free.
- As notified previously, we have been carrying out a permit variation to prevent further use of the site's oil burner and

incinerator. This should be issued by the end of February 2014.

- Combustible waste is now being sent to modern commercial waste incinerators. A check on this process formed part of the low level waste inspection in January.

## **Sizewell B**

Our work at Sizewell B has been focussed on the following themes and issues in the last quarter:

- Assessment of how Best Available Techniques are being applied to gaseous effluent management.
- Working with colleagues from the Office for Nuclear Regulation on the development of the design for the proposed Dry fuel Store.
- Working with colleagues from the Office for Nuclear Regulation on the site's plans to manage spent ion exchange resins that are intermediate level waste now that the plant has been commissioned.

## **Enforcement**

No enforcement action has been necessary at either A and B sites since the last report to the Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group in December 2013.

## **Discharge reports**

The operators at Sizewell A and B are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. These reports are placed on the public register and a digest of information is available via the Environment Agency website- 'What's in your backyard?' facility <sup>[1]</sup>.

---

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37793.aspx>

Liquid and gaseous discharges from the Sizewell A site are at levels well within the requirements of its permitted limits and no Quarterly Notification Levels (QNLs) have been exceeded in the period.

Liquid and gaseous discharges from the Sizewell B site are at levels well within the requirements of its permitted limits and no Quarterly Notification Levels (QNLs) have been exceeded in the period.

### Environmental impact

Nuclear sites are required to carry out a rigorous environmental monitoring programme that requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment

Additionally, the Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published annually in the report "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment" (RIFE) <sup>[2]</sup>.

In the RIFE report, the Sizewell sites are considered together for the purposes of environmental monitoring because the effects of both are on the same area. The RIFE report presents a yearly assessment of radiological dose to the group of people in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from the sites. In 2012, the total dose to this group of people as a result of discharges from the sites was very low at less than 0.005 mSv. This radiological dose is far below the Government Dose limit of 1 mSv/year and even smaller compared to the average amount of radiation we all receive from natural sources each year which is around 2.2 mSv.

### Change in site regulator

Andrew Pynn has now taken over as lead regulator for Sizewell A, effective from March 2014.

Gary McMeekan will be replaced as lead regulator for Sizewell B by Stuart Parr in April 2014.

### Further information

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency website <sup>[3]</sup>.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Sizewell A and Sizewell B sites are Andrew Pynn and Gary McMeekan respectively. Andrew and Gary are both Nuclear Regulators and part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

Andrew, Gary and Stuart undertake environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England and Wales. They work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

**Address:** Environment Agency  
Red Kite House  
Howbery Park  
Wallingford  
Oxfordshire  
OX10 8BD

**Email:**  
[andrew.pynn@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.pynn@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[gary.mcmeekan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:gary.mcmeekan@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[stuart.parr@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.parr@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01491 828629

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/110281.aspx>

<sup>[3]</sup> <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/32517.aspx>