



Sizewell B Power Station  
Nr Leiston  
Suffolk  
IP16 4UR

07 December 2014

Dear resident

### **Sizewell Nuclear Power Stations - Emergency Planning Arrangements**

We are writing to update you on emergency planning arrangements around Sizewell nuclear power stations in Suffolk and to explain how this affects you.

Every nuclear power station in the UK has an area around it where well-established emergency planning procedures, developed by the local authority and emergency services, are regularly tested for the unlikely event of a release of radioactive material from the site. Countermeasures, such as sheltering and taking potassium iodate tablets (stable iodine), are put in place for local people within a predefined area. It is important to stress that an incident of this nature is extremely unlikely but emergency planning measures are in place.

Historically there was a zone around the Sizewell power stations where urgent actions could be required to protect the public in the event of an Offsite Nuclear Emergency which extended to 2.4km from the site. This was defined by a potential accident on the older Magnox Sizewell A station when it was operating.

As Sizewell A has come to the end of its operating life and the nuclear fuel has been removed from the site, the potential for accidents resulting in a release of radioactive material offsite from Sizewell A is significantly less than before. As a result, the focus for a 'reasonably foreseeable' accident has shifted to the more modern Sizewell B power station. The nuclear safety regulator the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has assessed the risk from Sizewell B and found this to be significantly less than that from Sizewell A when it was operating.

### **Public Information**

In 2014, ONR revised its determination principles. As a result, and including consideration of the reduced hazard at the site, ONR made a determination under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness & Public Information) Regulations 2001 of a new increased REPPiR off-site emergency planning area that would apply around Sizewell. This area is also the area within which information must be supplied to the public by the operators of the sites (EDF Energy and Magnox).

**EDF Energy**  
Sizewell B Power Station

Tel 01728 653653

**edfenergy.com**

*EDF Energy plc,  
Registered in England and Wales.  
Registered No. 2366852.  
Registered office: 40 Grosvenor Place,  
Victoria, London SW1X 7EN*

### **Urgent Countermeasures<sup>1</sup>**

Suffolk's Director of Public Health, NHS England, and Public Health England have considered the need for urgent countermeasures as a result of the reduction in risk from the Sizewell site. It has been determined that the urgent countermeasures of taking potassium iodate tablets (stable iodine) and sheltering can now be reduced in line with the reduction in risk, and would now only be required in a 1km zone around Sizewell B in the case of a reasonably foreseeable accident. Background information on countermeasures can be found in the accompanying PHE leaflet 'Nuclear Emergencies'.

### **What does this mean for me?**

Your address is in the area in which urgent countermeasures were required, and is still in the new 1km area in which urgent countermeasures may be required. (Postcodes IP16 4UD, IP16 4UE, IP16 4UH, IP16 4UJ and IP16 4UR). There is no change in the arrangements for your personal protection.

You will continue to receive the information calendar on an annual basis, and will continue to receive potassium iodate tablets (stable iodine). You are also able to register your details for the PETIS telephone warning system, and we would encourage you to do so if you have not done so already (details are in the calendar).

Information can also be found on the websites of Suffolk Resilience, EDF Energy, Magnox and Public Health England.

### **Alerting**

If there is an off site nuclear emergency, notification will be made by the following communication methods:

- by police officers
- by loudspeakers on police patrol vehicles
- by local radio and/ or television
- by automated telephone notification system

We would like to reassure you that the potential for an emergency at the Sizewell power stations is extremely unlikely, and that EDF Energy and Magnox have a total focus on nuclear safety at all stages of design, construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning. Even so, we have well developed and well rehearsed emergency arrangements in place should the worst happen.

<sup>1</sup> Countermeasures would be agreed by the Suffolk Strategic Coordination Group at Police HQ. Shelter would be on advice from Public Health England and the site operator. The taking of stable iodine tablets would be on advice from Public Health England and the site operator, and implemented by NHS England. Evacuation would be on advice from Public Health England, and implemented by the Police. Food restrictions would be on advice from the Food Standards Agency.

Yours sincerely

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Jim Crawford" and the second is "Tim Watkins".

Jim Crawford  
Station Director  
EDF Energy  
Sizewell B Power Station

Tim Watkins  
Site Director  
Magnox  
Sizewell A Site

**Enclosed:**

Sizewell Power Stations – Information for Residents (Calendar)

Nuclear Emergencies – Information for the Public

Basic Concepts of Radiation



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Every nuclear power station in the UK has an area around it where well-established emergency planning procedures, developed by the local authority and emergency services, are regularly tested for the unlikely event of a release of radioactive material from the site. Countermeasures, such as sheltering and taking potassium iodate tablets (stable iodine), are put in place for local people within a predefined area. It is important to stress that an incident of this nature is extremely unlikely but emergency planning measures are in place.

Historically there was a zone around the Sizewell power stations where urgent actions could be required to protect the public in the event of an Offsite Nuclear Emergency which extended to 2.4km from the site. This was defined by a potential accident on the older Magnox Sizewell A station when it was operating.

As Sizewell A has come to the end of its operating life and the nuclear fuel has been removed from the site, the potential for accidents resulting in a release of radioactive material offsite from Sizewell A is significantly less than before. As a result, the focus for a 'reasonably foreseeable' accident has shifted to the more modern Sizewell B power station. The nuclear safety regulator the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has assessed the risk from Sizewell B and found this to be significantly less than that from Sizewell A when it was operating.

### **Public Information**

In 2014, ONR revised its determination principles. As a result, and including consideration of the reduced hazard at the site, ONR made a determination under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness & Public Information) Regulations 2001 of a new increased REPPiR off-site emergency planning area that would apply around Sizewell. This area is also the area within which information must be supplied to the public by the operators of the sites (EDF Energy and Magnox).

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### **What does this mean for me?**

Your address is in the area in which urgent countermeasures were required. The reduction in hazard at the site means that this area has reduced in size and your address is now outside the area in which urgent countermeasures may be required, but remains in the area in which information must be supplied to the public which means that;

- There is no longer a requirement for you to be on the PETIS telephone warning system. Your details will be removed from the PETIS system at the end of 2014.
- There is no longer a requirement for you to hold potassium iodate tablets (stable iodine), and you are asked to dispose of them by returning them to your local pharmacy
- The most likely impacts in your area would include food restrictions which would be advised at the time of the event.<sup>2</sup>
- A further countermeasure of evacuation could be required in extreme circumstances; however it is unlikely that this would be immediately advised.
- There is still a requirement for you to receive certain prior information on the general risks of radiation. This information will now be provided by the accompanying leaflets on a 3 yearly basis. The calendar which you have received in the past is delivered annually only to those who may be required to take urgent countermeasures in an Off Site Nuclear Emergency and will be retained for those in the 1km area in which urgent countermeasures may be required - (Postcodes IP16 4UD, IP16 4UE, IP16 4UH, IP16 4UJ and IP16 4UR).

Information can also be found on the websites of Suffolk Resilience, EDF Energy, Magnox and Public Health England.

<sup>1</sup> Countermeasures would be agreed by the Suffolk Strategic Coordination Group at Police HQ. Shelter would be on advice from Public Health England and the site operator. The taking of stable iodine tablets would be on advice from Public Health England and the site operator, and implemented by NHS England. Evacuation would be on advice from Public Health England, and implemented by the Police. Food restrictions would be on advice from the Food Standards Agency.

<sup>2</sup> If you are sheltering, it should be safe to drink/ use mains tap water, and to consume food and drink stored indoors unless instructed otherwise. People are advised not to eat food stored outdoors, nor fresh produce, nor use private water supplies.

### Alerting

If there is an off site nuclear emergency, notification will be made by the following communication methods:

- by police officers
- by loudspeakers on police patrol vehicles
- by local radio and/ or television

We would like to reassure you that the potential for an emergency at the Sizewell power stations is extremely unlikely, and that EDF Energy and Magnox have a total focus on nuclear safety at all stages of design, construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning. Even so, we have well developed and well rehearsed emergency arrangements in place should the worst happen.

As you live outside the 1km area in which urgent countermeasures may be required, the likelihood of an event happening that would require you to take countermeasures is vanishingly small. We do not ignore this possibility, and we work with Suffolk County Council and the local and national responders to ensure that the detailed emergency plans can be extended if needed.

Yours sincerely

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Jim Crawford' and the second is 'Tim Watkins'.

Jim Crawford  
Station Director  
EDF Energy  
Sizewell B Power Station

Tim Watkins  
Site Director  
Magnox  
Sizewell A Site

### Enclosed:

Nuclear Emergencies – Information for the Public

Basic Concepts of Radiation



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Historically there was a zone around the Sizewell power stations where urgent actions could be required to protect the public in the event of an Offsite Nuclear Emergency which extended to 2.4km from the site. This was defined by a potential accident on the older Magnox Sizewell A station when it was operating.

As Sizewell A has come to the end of its operating life and the nuclear fuel has been removed from the site, the potential for accidents resulting in a release of radioactive material offsite from Sizewell A is significantly less than before. As a result, the focus for a 'reasonably foreseeable' accident has shifted to the more modern Sizewell B power station. The nuclear safety regulator the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has assessed the risk from Sizewell B and found this to be significantly less than that from Sizewell A when it was operating.

### **Public Information**

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### **What does this mean for me?**

People who live close to the station who could be required to take urgent action in an Off Site Nuclear Emergency have always been given specific information. This is still the case, although the size of this area has shrunk due to a reduction in hazard at the site.

The regulator (ONR) has determined that general information should be provided to the public in a wider area, although there is no requirement to take urgent action in an Off Site Nuclear Emergency.

The most likely impacts in your area would include food restrictions which would be advised at the time of the event<sup>2</sup>.

- A further countermeasure of evacuation could be required in extreme circumstances; however it is unlikely that this would be immediately advised.

Your address is in the revised area in which information must be provided to the public, and 2 leaflets are attached to provide this background information. This information will be revised and reissued on a 3 yearly basis.

Information can also be found on the websites of Suffolk Resilience, EDF Energy, Magnox and Public Health England.

### **Alerting**

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As you live outside the 1km area in which urgent countermeasures may be required, the likelihood of an event happening that would require you to take countermeasures is vanishingly small. We do not ignore this possibility, and we work with Suffolk County Council and the local and national responders to ensure that the detailed emergency plans can be extended if needed.

Yours sincerely

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Basic Concepts of Radiation