

# Report to Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

September 2015

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period between June 2015 and August 2015.

## Our 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 check compliance with the permits by making regular inspections at Sizewell A & B.

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

We also regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including surface water discharges to surrounding water bodies and emissions to air from emergency diesel generators. We are also the joint technical authority, alongside the Health & Safety Executive for the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) regulations that apply to Sizewell B.

## Current Regulatory Activities

### Sizewell A

Environmental Monitoring program

From 1<sup>st</sup> July Sizewell B has taken over the operation of the Environmental Monitoring Programme around the Sizewell power stations. The monitoring was previously done by Sizewell A. Sizewell B will report the results directly to us and to Sizewell A. Sizewell A station will still be responsible for compliance to its own permit but will use the data provided by Sizewell B. An inter-comparison study between the monitoring operations of both sites was undertaken by Sizewell A. This study showed good correlation

between the results of measurements performed at each site.

### Sizewell B

In June, the Environment Agency inspected the new management arrangements for environmental monitoring around the Sizewell sites. Our permits require that every nuclear site has an environmental monitoring programme and one operator will usually run the programme where there is more than one site at the same locale, such as Sizewell. Until recently, the operator of Sizewell A station ran the Sizewell environmental monitoring programme. Over the past year work has been taking place to handover responsibility of running the programme to Sizewell B. This has included modernising the equipment used to analyse samples and running a cross-comparison study between Sizewell A and Sizewell B equipment to understand how the different performance levels between the monitoring equipment. A period of shadow working, when both Sizewell A and Sizewell B analysed samples, also took place.

Our inspection looked at arrangements being used by Sizewell B to collect and analyse environmental samples, including the training given to staff members who carry out the programme. Arrangements for reporting the data to us were also inspected. We found that the Sizewell B arrangements were compliant with the requirements of their Environmental Permit.

At present, there are no plans to make any changes to the environmental monitoring programme, the details of which have been previously reported to the SSG, but the programme will be subject to review in the next six months. We will report any significant changes made to the SSG.

The results of the environmental monitoring programme are reported to us every three months and the reports are placed on the Public Register.

### Enforcement

No enforcement action has been necessary at Sizewell A or B since the last report to the Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group in June 2015.

## 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 section on the gov.uk website: *What's in your backyard?*

Liquid and gaseous discharges from both Sizewell A and Sizewell B sites were at levels well within permitted limits and no Quarterly Notification Levels (QNLs) were exceeded in the period.

## Other News

### Sizewell Habits Survey 2015

The habits survey was completed by our contractors in June.

We use information about the habits of local people when assessing the impact of radioactive discharges made around nuclear sites. We use this information to identify the most exposed sections of the community and calculate the total radiation dose to the most exposed person. We publish these figures in the annual RIFE report (Information from our monitoring around nuclear sites is published annually in the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment report - RIFE, in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Food Standards Agency).

The results of the survey will be used to ensure that we are identifying the most exposed persons in the area and that we are taking into account changes within activities and populations in the area. We routinely undertake habits surveys around nuclear site to ensure we are using up-to-date information.

Previous habits surveys can be found on our contractor's website:

<http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk/publications-and-data/scientific-series/environment-reports.aspx>

### Annual Report and Accounts

If you want to know more about what the EA as a whole did last year and what we spent money on then you can find our annual report and accounts on the internet:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015>

Among many other things, you can find out:

- how many households we have protected from flooding
- how much water we used
- how much we spent on sheet piling
- how much the Thames Barrier is valued at
- what our total carbon emissions were

### Contacts

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

Andrew 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.

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