

**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 11.00**

PRESENT

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cllr M Fellowes | - Aldeburgh Town Council | <i>SSG Chairman</i> |
| Mr M Taylor | - Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth | <i>SSG Deputy Chairman</i> |
| Mr J Abbott | - representing Dr T Coffey (MP for Suffolk Coastal) | |
| Mr C Betson | - Leiston Business Association | |
| Mr T Branton | - Co-opted Member | |
| Mr J Carey | - Sizewell A Representative | |
| Cllr J Fisher | - Saxmundham Town Council | |
| Mr D Foy | - Sizewell B Staff Representative | |
| Ms J Girling | - Co-opted Member | |
| Mr T Griffith-Jones | - Co-opted Member | |
| Cllr T Hodgson | - Suffolk Association of Local Councils | |
| Ms P Hogan | - Sizewell Residents Association | |
| Cllr W Howard | - Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council | |
| Mr M Whitby | - Dunwich Parish Meeting | |
| Mr P Wilkinson | - Co-opted Member | |
| Cllr H Williams | - Westleton Parish Council | |
| Mr T Woodward | - The Country Land and Business Association East | |

IN ATTENDANCE

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| Ms L Baker | - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Programme Manager |
| Dr C Barnes | - Suffolk Coastal District Council |
| Ms M Barnes | - EDF Energy Communications |
| Mr M Cubitt | - Sizewell B Plant Manager |
| Mr P Fahey | - Environment Agency Sizewell A Inspector (incoming) |
| Dr L Franks | - SSG Clerk |
| Mr M Koskelainen | - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Strategy Development Programme Manager |
| Mr B Hamilton | - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Head of Communications |
| Mr P Hetherington | - SSG Secretariat |
| Mr A Pynn | - Environment Agency Sizewell A Inspector (outgoing) |
| Ms N Rousseau | - Sizewell B Community Liaison Officer |
| Mr T Watkins | - Sizewell A Closure Manager |

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr C Barnett | - Shut Down Sizewell Campaign (SDSC) |
| Mrs P Lampard | |
| Mr D Green | - East Anglian Daily Times |
| Mrs M Johnson | |
| Mrs J Kirtley | |

CHAIR'S OPENING COMMENTS

2876 Chair welcomed all attendees, provided domestic arrangements and asked all speakers to introduce themselves. Chair paid tribute to Barry Skelcher, advising that SSG representatives had attended the funeral and the condolences of the SSG had been passed to the family.

I PUBLIC FORUM

2877 Mr Barnett introduced himself as speaking on behalf of the Shut Down Sizewell Campaign (SDSC) representing 200-300 members. He questioned whether there had been a response to the actions agreed at the 04.06.15. meeting (para 2713) regarding the forthcoming Sizewell B Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) inspection and (para 2716) requesting formal ONR response to the recommendation of the Belgian Nuclear Regulator, FANC, to implement worldwide, accurate inspections of all 430 RPV nuclear power plants. Chair advised that a holding email providing a partial response had been received from Mr Moorcroft (ONR Sizewell B Inspector) and that a formal response was awaited. Mr Barnett stressed the importance and urgency of this matter. Mr Barnett did not recall receiving a copy of the holding email; the secretariat advised that this had been emailed to him. **Chair offered to resend a copy of the holding email to Mr Barnett and agreed to chase a formal response.**

2878 Mr Barnett referred to an article written in the Daily Telegraph on 10.06.15. titled "Faulty valves in new-generation EPR nuclear reactor pose meltdown risk, inspectors warn" (see Appendix 1), expressing his grave concern. **Chair agreed to circulate this article and request a formal response to the DT article from EDF Energy.** Mr Barnett questioned whether the SSG were fulfilling their role. Chair advised that the remit of the SSG was as a conduit of information between the community and the industry, with many SSG members representing community groups and members of the public. Chair advised that replies to questions are pursued and that the Action Tracker ensured that questions and actions were not lost in the minutes. Chair thanked Mr Barnett for attending and raising these concerns and reminded him that questions could be raised by members of the public after each starred agenda item.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2879 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Bailey, Ms R Carrington, Dr T Coffey (represented by Mr J Abbott), Mr A Jakeways, Cllr M Jones, Cllr G McGregor, Mr G Moorcroft, Mr A Moseley, Mr A Osman, Mr S Parr, Cllr R Rainger, Cllr N Smith, Sgt D Thompson, Mr C Tucker.

3 SIZEWELL A REPORTS

3a. Closure Manager's Report

2880 Attendees received the Sizewell A written report dated 01.09.15. and heard a presentation from Mr T Watkins regarding the following matters:

- Safety & Compliance: good during last period despite lots of change on site and workers being distracted with thoughts of their future.
- Organisational restructuring: company-wide reorganisation. Closure Manager, previously called Site Director, ensures all work undertaken on site remains compliant. Work now organised into programmes with company-wide regional leads that are accountable for the project work undertaken.

- Lifetime Plan: first site within Magnox fleet to update lifetime plan. Key changes, subject to permissioning, are:
 - No Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store; all ILW to be stored at Bradwell utilising spare ILW store capacity.
 - Fuel Element Debris (FED) packaged for disposal at Drigg Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR).
 - Conventional demolition moved to circa 2022/23 closer to planned entry to Care & Maintenance (C&M) in 2027. Enables increased cost-efficiencies.
- Projects Update:
 - no longer require Euratom Inspection as redundant depleted uranium test weights have now been disposed of.
 - asbestos encapsulation completed on all four boilers with work ongoing to clad the four apertures. Ongoing maintenance to boiler house roofs to ensure they are watertight.
 - Low level waste processing facility has had both the electrical and fire systems installed, tested and commissioned. Funding awaited to complete final stages prior to commencement of ILW processing work.
- Staffing: Previous post-defueling transition worked well. Now expecting core staff reductions of circa 25% to enable infrastructure costs to be reduced. Lots of additional project work underway that will utilise some of these former core staff.
- Draft Socio-economic Plan: will be made available on 30.09.15. for stakeholder feedback and comment. Consultation period 30th Sept to 16th Nov 2015. Final plan expected by end of 2015.

2881 Questions were invited and Chair thanked Mr Watkins for his openness and transparency.

2882 Cllr Howard sought confirmation that there would be no dissolution of FED at Sizewell and this was confirmed.

2883 Cllr Howard questioned likely staff numbers after next phase of transition. Mr Watkins advised that as this phase of transition had yet to be agreed, he was only able to speak in broad terms. He estimated a reduction of 40-50 (of 200) site based staff and observed that the majority of these would be made up of staff that want to leave or retire. Mr Watkins emphasised that there were opportunities for future employment within Cavendish Fluor companies.

2884 Mr Branton thanked Mr Watkins for his candidness and sought clarification of whether any of the regional leads covering Sizewell would actually be based at Sizewell. Mr Watkins advised that amongst the Closure Managers, one would be the Lead for each region and that the Regional Lead for Sizewell would be Paul Wilkinson, Closure Manager for Dungeness. Mr Wilkinson clarified that some work areas, like HR, would be provided regionally from a central office with some site presence amongst the respective teams. He confirmed that there was a drive to utilise existing Magnox staff where possible, re-skilling as required.

2885 Mr Branton questioned what would be remaining on site after conventional demolition had occurred. Mr Watkins advised that the reactor building plus a few appendages would remain. Mr Watkins used the turbine hall as an example to explain the cost benefit of not having to electrically isolate each building in turn but wait until the mains supply could be switched off for all before demolishing, despite having the cost of maintaining each building in a safe condition until that time. He acknowledged that the appearance of the site would not be improved until final demolition.

2886 Cllr Hodgson sought clarification about the asbestos encapsulation of the boilers, questioning whether all eight boilers on site had now been treated accordingly; this was confirmed.

- 2887 Mr Wilkinson questioned whether any LLW would remain on site and Mr Watkins explained that the onsite LLW facility would be used for processing and collation of LLW prior to final disposal at the LLW Repository (LLWR) in Drigg. Mr Wilkinson questioned whether the LLW would be encapsulated and heard that it would be placed in drums, encapsulated and compressed as appropriate then collated awaiting dispatch.
- 2888 Mr Wilkinson questioned the likely volume of Sizewell generated Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) that would be stored at the Bradwell ILW store and heard that the plan was for 10/12 containers but that this was currently a proposal and not yet agreed.
- 2889 Chair stated that the LLWR was no longer referred to as the Drigg LLWR but simply as the LLWR with Drigg solely used as the name for the local village.
- 2890 Chair sought confirmation that the encapsulation process to be deployed would not require the construction of a concrete manufacturing plant on site. Mr Watkins confirmed this and explained that as this was LLW, the volume of cement required was small. Chair confirmed that the SSG had been pressing for encapsulation rather than dissolution of FED to be the preferred processing route.
- 2891 Chair expressed concern that any delay to final demolition would impact on the local skyline, reiterating that the Government had promised that decommissioning would be progressed as far as possible during current lifetimes. Chair sought confirmation that the final C&M buildings would no longer be reduced in height or clad but left as is and patched up as required, negatively impacting upon the appearance of the site. Mr Watkins advised that the overarching strategy has not changed; reducing the height of the reactor building had been previously considered but found too costly hence the reactor building was always to be left at current height during C&M. The appearance of the reactor building has been considered more recently and the amount of money to be spent on cladding reviewed. Current strategy is to minimise costs where possible.
- 2892 Mr Taylor asked about the plans for the on and off shore cooling water plant. Mr Watkins advised that the current plan on shore is to seal the culverts and remove the plant. Off shore is to relocate the Kittiwakes and remove the plant in circa 2024.
- 2893 Mr Taylor asked whether workers would benefit from a relocation package if asked to move to an alternative site. Mr Watkins advised that this would be considered on a case by case basis.
- 2894 Ms Girling thanked Mr Watkins for his contribution to SSG meetings. Ms Girling suggested that the remaining Sizewell A buildings would be an ugly blot on the landscape and proposed that the SSG support a drive to improve their appearance. Ms Girling expressed concern that the Cavendish Fluor Partnership is using cost effectiveness as the excuse to diminish services. Mr Watkins clarified that in terms of the buildings, they would not look any different from their current appearance and that this would simply be maintained for longer than previously planned.
- 2895 Ms Girling suggested that having a Regional Closure Director would have a negative impact on communications between the site and the community. Mr Watkins reiterated that each site would have a Closure Director and of these, one individual from each region would also be the Regional Lead.
- 2896 Questions from members of the public were invited and Marjorie Johnson sought clarification of what the consultation about the socio-economic plan will involve, suggesting that the timeframe (30.09.15 – 16.11.15.) was too short. Chair advised that the SSG would host a public meeting to explain future funding for local projects advising that one of the proposed changes was to move from funding numerous small projects to fund joint larger projects. Chair confirmed that this socio-economic plan was specifically not due to any new build but was to mitigate against the effects of closing Sizewell A. Chair offered to speak with Mrs Johnson after this meeting.

2897 Chair concluded this session by proposing that the SSG track changes to the lifetime plan and to question why these changes were being implemented.

3b. Office For Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Report

2898 Chair drew attention to the ONR Inspector's report for Sizewell A (dated 01.04.15. - 30.06.15.) and invited questions. None were forthcoming. Chair had earlier reminded attendees that representatives of the ONR usually attend SSG meetings and apologies had been received when today's meeting had been rescheduled (at the request on the NDA).

3c. Environment Agency Report (EA)

2898 Mr Andy Pynn, Environment Agency Sizewell A Inspector, advised that this would be his last SSG meeting and introduced his replacement Phil Fahey. He apologised for his short tenure, advising that the plan was for Mr Fahey to remain in post for approx five years.

2899 Mr Pynn drew attention to the outstanding actions:

- ref 2786 regarding microbial monitoring of local sea water – Mr Pynn reported that this is undertaken for bathing waters. Locally, this includes sea water at Lowestoft and Southwold, not that at Sizewell.
- ref 2686 regarding monitoring of sewage outlet from Sizewell A and B – Mr Pynn confirmed that a compliance check is undertaken on the effluent. **Written clarification of what this check involves is awaited and will be forwarded to the SSG.**

2900 Mr Fahey provided a brief update of EA actions undertaken in the last period (details in report) and more recently including auditing the handover of the Environmental Monitoring Programme from Sizewell A to Sizewell B. Minor improvements have subsequently been actioned. Sizewell A remains responsible for compliance with their permit but will use data provided by Sizewell B. The reporting arrangements have also been inspected and found to be satisfactory. Mr Fahey confirmed that this will continue to be monitored.

2901 Mr Fahey advised the following:

- 29.7.15 there was a regulatory update meeting that reviewed actions resulting from previous inspections. The majority of these had been implemented. Outstanding actions will be monitored until completed.
- An asset management inspection has been undertaken recently that reflected good compliance with only a few recommendations for improvements.
- Ponds and ponds drainage update meeting undertaken; monitoring of this area to be ongoing.
- Discharges have all been below limits

2902 Questions about either nuclear power station were invited. Ms Hogan expressed concern that bathing water at Sizewell was not being monitored. Mr Pynn advised that comprehensive water quality was monitored at Sizewell but that this did not include microbial monitoring. Mr Pynn reminded attendees that a report describing local water quality monitoring had been previously circulated to all members.

2903 Ms Girling suggested that people swim in sea water all along the coast and questioned why microbial monitoring was not more comprehensively undertaken. She questioned whether the EA warned of locations that were not safe to bathe in on their website. Mr Pynn advised he was unable to comment on the extent of information provided on the EA website. He asserted that the monitoring undertaken was compliant with the bathing water directive and that whilst additional monitoring was undertaken the extent of this was limited by funding. **Mr Pynn advised that he awaited a response from the water quality team to his question about why microbial monitoring was not undertaken at Sizewell and would forward this upon receipt.** Ms Girling stressed her concern. Chair added that tourism on the coastline south of Sizewell involved being able to swim in the sea and

suggested that the local coastline should be designated a bathing area. **Mr Pynn agreed to take this comment back to EA colleagues.**

2904 Mr Wilkinson stated that the EA presides over the poisoning of the environment and has no teeth to do anything about local concerns about water quality. He firmly asserted that the EA should be doing more, should take note of their critics and should certainly comprehensively monitor the outfall from the outlet pipe. He suggested that the EA have no credibility.

2905 Chair expressed concern about reductions in EA monitoring. Mr Pynn advised that there had been no reduction of radiological monitoring and agreed to take back comments about environmental monitoring, reminding attendees that the final approval of changes to the environmental monitoring programme was awaited. Mr Wilkinson strongly reiterated his concerns. Mr Pynn offered to request that a member of the specialist environmental monitoring team attend a future SSG to hear these concerns. Mr Wilkinson expressed concern that no one can be certain of the health impact of exposure to low levels of radiation. He strongly recommended that this should be properly debated with all agencies and their critics and stated that the EA could certainly be more assertive in assisting this process. Mr Pynn advised that the EA were not the regulators for public health. A heated exchange ensued. Chair suggested that the SSG engage with Public Health England regarding this matter. Mr Wilkinson expressed his frustration.

3d. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Report

2906 Bill Hamilton introduced himself, explained that he would set the NDA draft Strategy in context and that his colleague, Markku Koskelainen, would then provide an overview of the key content of the strategy. Mr Hamilton advised the following key points about the development of this draft strategy:

- Energy Act 2004 requires NDA to review, update and consult on their strategy every 5 years.
- This draft is the third iteration and formal Government approval is required by end of March for final strategy plan implementation from 1st April 2016.
- DECC have steered the NDA to reflect any implications for the strategy that may result from the Government spending review.
- Changes to the management of Sellafield are planned and will affect the strategy.
- NDA are keen to hear views of stakeholders on this 'current thinking' version of the strategy by the end of November before producing a final draft by end of January 2016 for formal 6 week public consultation.
- National Stakeholder Event scheduled for 24th Sept 2015 has been moved to January 2016 to coincide with the 6 week formal consultation period. Tour of Sellafield for Chair/Vice Chair will be arranged.

2907 **Chair advised the intention to convene a sub group meeting to consider and collate comments about the NDA proposed strategy before the end of November. The SSG will then host a public meeting during the formal consultation period early next year.**

2908 Mr Wilkinson sought clarification of the term 'National Stakeholders' and questioned whether this was limited to the Chair and Vice Chair of the SSG groups. Mr Hamilton advised that the National Stakeholder event would include representatives from DECC, British Government, Scottish Government, Foreign Governments and National Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) in addition to Magnox SSG's. Mr Wilkinson questioned whether an NGO not currently invited could apply to attend. This was confirmed providing the NGO was National.

- 2909 Mrs Kirtley asked whether the NDA draft strategy was available and heard that it had been published on the NDA website yesterday (www.nda.gov.uk/publication/draft-strategy-early-version/)
- 2910 Mr Koskelainen clarified the changes incorporated into the new strategy explaining that, for example, the previous theme 'Business Optimisation' was now captured under the theme 'Critical Enablers' and that 'Funding' had been removed as a topic under 'Critical Enablers' and was now given prominence as an overriding influence on the final strategy. He explained that site decommissioning and remediation was the driving strategic theme and that all the other strategies support or enable its delivery.
- 2911 Mr Koskelainen briefly ran through the key topics in the document and hi-lighted changes from the previous version. He stressed that in the next five years that the THORP and Magnox reprocessing plants will complete reprocessing. Chair interjected with clarification that the NDA strategy did not include Sizewell B and was limited to the Magnox estate that includes Sizewell A.
- 2912 The following key points were made by Mr Koskelainen:
- The topics included within Integrated Waste Management had been revised to just three; Radioactive Waste; Liquid and Gaseous Discharges; Non-radioactive Waste. In the previous version the level of radioactivity in the waste had been differentiated. The strategy now focuses on dealing with waste through its lifecycle including new treatment and alternative disposal options.
 - Critical Enablers theme now includes more plans to describe how the strategic goals will deliver benefits to the public.
 - Critical Enablers split into 12 different topics and the draft plan describes each in detail.
 - The plan can be downloaded from the NDA website. Comments about this version are welcome until the end of November.
- 2913 Ms Girling expressed concern that the SSG were not mentioned in the draft strategy despite being funded by the NDA. She commented that there had been significant reductions to the secretariat support for the SSG which has negatively impacted upon the smooth running of the SSG. Ms Girling questioned whether the NDA planned to continue to fund SSG's and if not what will happen to them. Mr Hamilton responded by reminding attendees that the NDA had been established in 2004 to bring about the most safe and cost-effective decommissioning programme for the legacy nuclear power stations and nuclear waste.
- 2914 Mr Wilkinson interjected with heckling at this point and Chair asked that all questions and comments be directed through the Chair.
- 2915 Mr Hamilton continued by describing the competition for the parent body to enable the programme to be carried forward in the most cost effective manner and enable all Magnox sites to enter care and maintenance within the next 14 years. This has led to efficiencies throughout, including the way in which stakeholder engagement is administered. The NDA has directed that site stakeholder engagement will continue and must be facilitated to the satisfaction of the NDA. The concern of SSG's has been heard and Mr Hamilton has attended two meetings with the Chairs of SSG's, Magnox and the PBO to ensure that the new system will be fit for purpose. He advised that a second National SSG support worker would be brought in for at least the next 6months to help introduce the new system. Magnox will monitor the new system on a monthly basis.
- 2916 Chair advised that whilst she understands and supports the drive to be cost effective, the previous system of an administrator for regional SSG's was only just operable and to reduce this to a single person to cover all 12 sites just was not feasible. She illustrated her argument by estimating that each meeting takes a total of 3 days simply to convene, that 12

sites each hosting 4 meetings would mean 48 meetings each year and that a single coordinator would be restricted to just convening a meeting and wouldn't have time to chase up outstanding actions etc. and that was assuming that the timing of each meeting was discrete and never overlapped. Chair advised that she has already seen her own workload increase as a result of efficiencies. Ms Girling commented that as a long serving member of the SSG she had seen deterioration in the quality of the coordination of SSG meetings; not a reflection of the individuals concerned but an indicator that the workload was too great for the number of people involved. Ms Girling stressed that if the NDA valued SSG's as a conduit of information they need to give them greater consideration and re-instate an appropriate level of support.

2917 Mr Wilkinson stated that he will carefully consider the NDA Draft Strategy and provide a considered response but that he would like this to be taken into consideration. He stressed that consultation responses take time and effort and should be treated appropriately and not ignored. Mr Wilkinson expressed frustration that a key objective is stated as reducing the risk of hazards on site yet the Government are allowing new nuclear build to occur which will produce nuclear waste. Mr Wilkinson stated that the goal to end reprocessing within the next 5 years was laughable when ten years ago the regulators, operators, Government, NGO's etc agreed to end reprocessing in 2012. He referred to the goal to place plutonium beyond reach and yet this would be used as MOX fuel which was not beyond reach. He further illustrated his grave concerns about the current draft strategy, agreed to provide a considered response and asked that this was taken seriously. Mr Koskelainen advised that the draft strategy was informed by Energy Act 2004 and subsequent parliamentary papers. Mr Wilkinson encouraged the NDA to challenge Government policy if this contradicts common sense, giving the example of 'don't put Plutonium into MOX fuel if you want it to be beyond reach'. He concluded that regulators do not challenge Government policy sufficiently.

2918 Chair interjected that Adrian Simper had attended a previous SSG meeting and had been made aware of stakeholders concerns about plutonium. Chair reiterated the intention to convene a subgroup meeting and a public consultation (para 2907).

4. MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM THE SSG MEETING HELD 04.06.15.

4a. Minutes

2919 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 4th June 2015 were agreed as an accurate record. Ms Girling later raised concern about para 2866 re item 2.2 and after some discussion it was agreed to change the sentence to read:
"Cllr T Hodgson advised that Mr Michael Clark was from Dunwich *but did not represent Dunwich parish meeting.*"
Ms Girling sought confirmation that Mr Clark was no longer a member of the SSG and this was confirmed.

4c. Matters Arising, the Action Tracker and Correspondence since 04.06.15.

2920 Mr Griffiths-Jones referred to para 2860 of the minutes dated 04.06.15. advising that he was still awaiting a response from Dr Coffey regarding why she had voted against his co-option onto the SSG. At the request of the Chair, **Mr Abbott (Dr Coffey's representative) agreed to raise this matter with Dr Coffey.**

2921 Mr Wilkinson referred to two letters received by Mr Taylor from DECC, dated 4th June and 17th June respectively, previously circulated to all attendees. Chair advised that a fuller response to the three questions (review of REPPiR; HERCA/WENRA proposals; emergency planning criteria) has been requested, an invitation to attend an SSG meeting has been extended to DECC and Mr Hamilton has agreed to assist the SSG in getting a reply to matters outstanding. Mr Wilkinson drew attention to the letter dated 4th June from Amber Rudd, Secretary of State, that referred to 'delivering secure, affordable, home-

grown, innovative and low carbon energy' and disputed each description, stating that nuclear power was none of these things. Chair reiterated how this matter was being taken forward and suggested that the SSG ask that the local MP is more receptive and supportive of the concerns being raised. Mr Griffith-Jones added his support, stating that describing nuclear as 'low carbon' was a deception.

2922 Mr Wilkinson raised the matter of the dry fuel store footprint and Chair advised that concerns about this had been recorded on the action tracker and a response was being chased.

2923 Mr Wilkinson also raised the matter of the revised environmental monitoring programme and Chair reminded attendees that this had already been noted as a matter in progress. Mr Pynn advised that formal approval of the changes had not yet been received and that as soon as this was approved this would be circulated. Mr Wilkinson asked whether the suggested monitoring for steam venting would be incorporated and Chair confirmed that a request for this to be considered had been fed back to the EA.

4b. EEPZ Leaflet, Emergency Planning and HERCA/WENRA update

2924 Chair advised that Mr Osman had sent his apologies to this meeting and promised to attend the next meeting. Chair offered to obtain an update of the EEPZ leaflet to circulate amongst members. This is due to be sent to the public in January with the usual calendar.

5. GDF CONSULTATION

2925 Chair held up a hard copy of the "Call for evidence" document dated 01.07.15. available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-geological-disposal-working-with-communities> advising that whilst the end date for consultation had officially ended 08.09.15., she had been granted an extension to be able to send in responses from this meeting. Chair asked that all responses be sent to her within one week to enable collation and submission. Hard copies were noted as available at this meeting.

2926 Chair reminded attendees that they had been sent the link (<http://www.nda.gov.uk/rwm/national-geological-screening/consultation>) to the next phase of consultation regarding Radioactive Waste Management's draft National Geological Screening (NGS) Guidance. The consultation will remain open until 4th December. The consultation will be supported by public workshops across the UK.

2927 Mr Taylor questioned how the general consultation can be concluded without considering the outcomes of how suitable locations are identified. Chair advised that the first consultation was about the process in general and would be informed by subsequent consultations for specific details.

2928 Ms Girling suggested that a subgroup was convened to collate responses and Chair advised that for the deadline for the 'Call for evidence' consultation prevented this, however, the NGS guidance would be the subject of an SSG meeting.

The meeting paused for a short lunch break at this point.

2929 Chair reconvened the meeting at 13.30pm and advised that outstanding matters from the Action Tracker (item 4c), Membership Matters (item 6.) and the Chairman's Report (item 7.) would be considered after the Sizewell B reports.

5. SIZEWELL B REPORTS

5a. Plant Manager's Report

2930 Martin Cubitt introduced himself as the Plant Manager at Sizewell B and drew attention to the written report dated September 2015. He provided a presentation that covered the following points:

- Safety: 250 year round contracting partners. 1751 days since last nuclear reportable event, 183 days since last EDF Energy lost time incident, 295 days since last contractor lost time incident, 289 days since last environmental reportable event.
- Staff: 522 staff and 39 apprentices.
- Dry Fuel Store (DFS) Update: [picture] progressing rapidly with frame now constructed all internal cladding and most of external cladding complete. Inactive commissioning underway. **Carbon footprint report for the DFS** is being updated by an independent contractor and **will be circulated to the SSG**.
- Environmental Monitoring Programme: [picture] new facility with state of the art equipment that is significantly more sensitive than that previously used. Two day inspection by EA to ensure Best Available Techniques are enabling delivery of a satisfactory monitoring programme.
- Operational Safety Review Team (OSART): review being undertaken for 3 weeks in October. Team of 16 International Experts measuring performance against internationally accepted standards published by the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www-ns.iaea.org/standards/>). Summary published early 2016 and follow up visit after 18 months.
- Supporting the Community: site has hosted 18 work experience students. Apprentices have supported the Aldeburgh Carnival.
- Visitor Centre: over 400 children attended an activity programme over the summer holidays.

2931 Cllr Howard asked whether all contractors now receive a living wage. Mr Foy confirmed that this was now the case.

2932 Cllr Howard questioned when responsibility for the dry fuel store passes to the NDA. **Mr Cubitt agreed to confirm this in writing**, advising that it would be several years after Sizewell B had been decommissioned.

2933 Mr Taylor asked whether vehicles moving flasks would interrupt Visitor Centre operations and heard that flask movements would be timed to coincide with when the Visitor Centre was shut. Chair clarified that this questioned referred to the movement of flasks into the DFS.

2934 Mr Wilkinson drew attention to para 2823/2824 on the action tracker that stated that Mr Cubitt would provide the carbon footprint of the DFS at this meeting. Mr Cubitt advised that he had provided a sustainability report that described the carbon footprint for the whole site including the DFS and has since arranged for an independent contractor to prepare a report of the carbon footprint of just the DFS. Mr Cubitt advised that he would send this report to the SSG as soon as this was available.

2935 Mr Wilkinson advised that he had also asked for details about the final inventory of the DFS in terms of volume of waste, radionuclide content, half-lives etc and had been told that this was security confidential. **He proposed that the SSG send a Freedom of Information request to the ONR to ascertain this information**. Mr Wilkinson described as 'scandalous' the fact that a substantial amount of radioactive waste could be generated and stored in the midst of a community without telling the community any details about it.

- 2936 Mr Griffith-Jones referred to the environmental monitoring undertaken and asked for details of where the 180 samples were collected from and what measurements they underwent. Mr Cubitt advised that this information had already been shared with the SSG. **Chair agreed to re-issue this information.**
- 2937 Mr Whitby questioned how many monitoring stations there were and suggested that 180 samples seemed too few. Mr Cubitt advised that he could not recall specific details and that the scope of monitoring was agreed with the EA as appropriate.
- 2938 Mr Whitby questioned what the rateable value of the DFS was and Mr Cubitt advised that it was included as part of the whole site. Chair advised that part of the planning application for the DFS would have involved a discussion of the impact on the business rate value. **Chair agreed to ascertain the rateable value of the DFS from Suffolk Coastal District Council.**
- 2939 Mr Taylor referred to para 2827 on the Action Tracker regarding the EDF Energy quality standard for reactor components. **Mr Cubitt advised that he brought a written copy with him and Chair agreed to ensure this was circulated to all SSG members.**
- 2940 Mr Wilkinson asked whether his proposal that the SSG send a Freedom of Information request to the ONR (para 2935) would be enacted. Chair advised that as the SSG do not vote that unless a member speaks against a proposal that it is taken as an agreed action. Chair confirmed that she would send a FOI request to the ONR.
- 2941 Mr Wilkinson referred to para 2733 on the Action tracker regarding expanding the EA environmental monitoring programme. Chair reminded attendees that this matter had been raised with the EA again today and that EA representatives had noted the request for an expanded remit. Members debated this matter and concern was expressed that steam venting could release radioactivity. Mr Cubitt advised that this discussion had been held at length at several SSG meetings previously, that the secondary side was monitored prior to any venting and that there had never been any leaks detected at Sizewell B. Chair advised that the community were obviously concerned and that to reassure them, EDF Energy could provide dates, duration, wind direction and weather conditions for steam venting. Mr Cubitt advised that this had been asked for several times previously and that each time he had stated that EDF Energy were not prepared to provide this detail as they had an effective monitoring system and that data from this had previously been provided. There was a heated exchange and Chair asked why EDF Energy could not provide the information requested. Mr Cubitt explained that there was an overhead of effort required to collate the information requested. After further exchanges, **Mr Cubitt agreed to review the previous EDF Energy response.**
- 2942 Mrs Kirtley expressed her dismay that this data was not in the public domain. Mr Cubitt advised that all of the discharge data was in the public domain. Mr Whitby stated that this did not include steam venting and this was disputed by Mr Cubitt who reiterated that **all** discharge data was reported to the EA who then made it available in the public domain. Mr Wilkinson asserted that an expert has alerted the SSG to the fact that steam venting contains tritium, which in some forms is 250 times more dangerous, and questioned why EDF Energy would not reassure the public by providing the information requested. Mr Cubitt advised that he had stated before and would state again that the tritium levels in the secondary circuit were at a similar level to the World Health Organisation level for drinking water. Mr Wilkinson reiterated that the impact of low doses of radiation on human health was not known. Mr Cubitt reiterated that he would review the previous EDF Energy response and **Chair added that she would discuss this matter with Mr Cubitt before the next SSG meeting.**
- 2943** Chair sought clarification of the term 'inactive commissioning' as applied to the DFS, commenting that a news article dated 20.08.15. had reported that the ONR had given permission for this 'inactive commissioning' of the DFS. Mr Cubitt advised that this was performing all of the operations without involving any radioactive material; effectively a dry run or practice. Chair asked when active commissioning would commence and heard early

2016. Chair asked if there would be any public consultation prior to this happening. Mr Cubitt advised that active commissioning necessitated permissioning and therefore active use could not commence without permission from the ONR. **Chair advised her understanding that the ONR were not planning to consult the public about this matter and advised she would seek clarification from the ONR.**

2944 Mr Griffith-Jones sought confirmation that the planned refuelling operation next March / April could not be undertaken unless the ONR gave permission for active commissioning. This was confirmed. Mr Griffith-Jones asked what margin there was and heard that the next refuel was possible and that some capacity in the ponds would remain but that this would be insufficient for the subsequent refuel.

5b. Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Report

2945 Chair advised that the ONR report (dated 01.04.15 – 30.06.15.) from the Sizewell B Inspector, Mr Moorcroft, had been previously circulated. She invited questions. Later Ms Girling referred to the ONR presentation at the 04.06.15. meeting and questioned **whether the response to the counter terrorism exercise described included Suffolk Constabulary and other blue light services in addition to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.** She asked **whether the local people were made aware of when these exercises were planned.** Chair agreed to forward this question.

5c. Environment Agency Report

2946 Chair reminded attendees that there had been an opportunity to raise questions to the Environment Agency when the Sizewell A EA Inspectors had taken the floor. Chair invited any further questions and none were forthcoming.

6. NEW MEMBERS

6ii Application for Co-option

2947 Chair advised that as Robert McGibbon had been unable to attend, that his co-option would be deferred until the next meeting.

6iii Any Other Matters Regarding Constitution or Membership

2948 No other matters were arising.

4c. Matters Arising, the Action Tracker and Correspondence since 04.06.15. (cont'd)

2949 Chair advised that many of the actions had been considered today and invited any further comment either now or by email after this meeting.

2950 Mr Taylor referred to para 2556 re the Sizewell B RPV and asked whether there was any update regarding the materials of construction. Mr Cubitt advised that this was a matter of testing the materials of construction and that the RPV at Sizewell B had passed these tests. Chair concluded it was more a matter of appropriate testing of the materials to be used in the construction of new build RPV's. Mr Whitby asked if the testing programme was identical to that used to identify the problems with the RPV at Flamanville, suggesting that the regime used recently would be more robust and revealing than that used at Sizewell B. Mr Cubitt advised that he could not confirm that it was the same testing regime, however when Sizewell B replaced the RPV head in 2006 the current testing regime at that time was deployed. He was unsure whether there had been any further technological advances in the testing regime since that time but as it was a matter of only a couple of years before the Flamanville reactor was tested, it was unlikely.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 2951 Chair verbally reported that the last period had been a lot quieter than usual, that she had taken on more tasks to facilitate SSG meetings and had participated in extensive consultation regarding the future of the SSG secretariat. She stated her view that any further reductions in resources would mean that running workable meetings would become increasingly difficult.
- 2952 Chair advised that currently documents are collated and emailed in batches to members. She suggested that as documents arrive with the secretariat that these could be either immediately emailed to members or uploaded to the website and members alerted that a new document had arrived. Chair asked members to consider the feasibility of these suggestions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 2953 Chair advised that when she left the site after her meeting at Sizewell A yesterday, she had counted some 37 vehicles before anyone would let her join the stream of traffic leaving Sizewell B. She had followed in convoy into Leiston and had stopped and counted a further stream of 42 cars, all with just one or two people in, all leaving Sizewell B at 16.30. She questioned whether her experience was a daily occurrence and expressed concern that new build nearby would significantly magnify this problem. Ms Rousseau and Mr Foy explained the mitigation that EDF Energy deploys (encouraging car shares, cycling to work and utilising rotating shift patterns). Mr Foy advised that it was not unusual to have a mass exodus from a large industrial site, particularly when public transport near the site was so poor. Chair asked that workers were reminded to be courteous to other road users and pedestrians. Mr Whitby endorsed this, adding that speed awareness was vital. Mr Cubitt advised that EDF Energy already encourage this and regularly remind workers that they represent EDF Energy when travelling to and from the site.
- 2954 Ms Girling questioned whether a representative of Suffolk County Council (SCC) was present today. Chair noted that Cllr McGregor, the SCC representative, was absent (apologies were received by the secretariat) but had attended the previous meeting. Chair advised that Cllr Pratt, the Suffolk Coastal District Council representative had similarly attended the last meeting but was absent today. Ms Girling advised that Cllr Pratt was currently in hospital. Ms Girling expressed her disappointment that no representative from SCC was present and suggested that it was incumbent upon this representative to send a replacement if unable to attend. Chair advised that this absence maybe because of the change of meeting date (at the request of the NDA to enable presentation of their draft strategy).
- 2955 Mr Griffith-Jones asked whether meeting dates could be set in advance to ensure the availability of the permanent Clerk and Chair advised that this would require liaison between the SSG Chairs to prevent date clashes. Chair advised that due to the General Election more meetings happened in June this year that would normally occur in May.
- 2956 Chair led a vote of thanks to the current secretariat for their work, adding that requesting an increase to resources was not a reflection upon their hard work.

Meeting closed at 14.20

Next SSG meeting:

10am on Thursday 3rd December at Aldeburgh Community Centre

Faulty valves in new-generation EPR nuclear reactor pose meltdown risk, inspectors warn

Flamanville third-generation EPR nuclear reactor - the same model Britain plans to use for two new plants at Hinkley Point - has multiple faults in crucial safety valves, inspectors warn

By Henry Samuel, Paris

Nuclear safety inspectors have found crucial faults in the cooling system of France's flagship new-generation nuclear power plant on the Channel coast, exposing it to the risk of meltdown. The third-generation European Pressurised Reactor currently under construction in Flamanville is the same model that Britain plans to use for two new plants at Hinkley Point in Somerset. State-controlled nuclear giant Areva is responsible for the design and construction.

France's nuclear safety watchdog found "multiple" malfunctioning valves in the Flamanville EPR that could cause its meltdown, in a similar scenario to the 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear accident in the US. The inspectors listed the faults in a damning presentation obtained by Mediapart, the investigative French website.

This is the latest setback for what is supposed to be France's atomic energy showcase abroad, following the revelation last month that its steel reactor vessel has "very serious anomalies" that raise the risk of it cracking. The vessel houses the plant's nuclear fuel and confines its radioactivity. The findings were listed in a presentation by the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) to France's top nuclear safety regulator (ASN). The watchdog reportedly cited "multiple failure modes" that could have "grave consequences" on the safety relief valves, which play a key role in regulating pressure in the reactor.

Owned by state-controlled French utilities giant EDF, Flamanville lies close to the British Channel Islands and about 150 miles from the southern English coast. Designed to be the safest reactors in the world and among the most energy-efficient, the €9 billion (£6.5 billion) EPR has suffered huge delays in models under construction in France, Finland and China. It is now due to enter service in 2017, five years later than originally planned.

In April, it was revealed that excessive amounts of carbon in the steel in the top and bottom of the reactor's vessel, which forms a shell around it, could cause cracks which could prove disastrous, as the vessel cannot be replaced during the lifespan of the reactor. The faulty safety relief valves are situated on the pressuriser, which regulates the high pressure within the primary circuit where water cools the nuclear fuel by releasing steam when necessary.

The failure of a pilot-operated relief valve in the primary circuit was a key factor in the partial meltdown of a reactor at the Three Mile Island plant in the US in March 1979, and which led to the halting of America's civil nuclear power programme. In that accident, nuclear reactor coolant escaped through a valve that was stuck open, sending the reactor into partial meltdown.

At Flamanville, IRSN noted "opening" and "closing" failures concerning the pilots that operate the safety valves and "risks of fluid leaks" of the reactor coolant. It warned that the multiple faults could have "grave consequences". On Tuesday, IRSN confirmed tests conducted by EDF showed "difficulties in opening and shutting valves". But it played down the gravity of the findings, saying: "For now, one cannot conclude it is serious as we haven't fully judged the quality "of the valves" – a view it will announce this summer. "We are examining dossier handed in by EDF with a view to starting up the EPR. There are remarks on all subjects. It's classic," said Thierry Charles, deputy director general of IRSN.

Last week, the French government announced Areva NP, the nuclear reactor arm of state-controlled Areva, is to be sold to EDF, its former client which also operates all of France's 58 nuclear reactors. The move followed Areva's announcement in March that it had racked up record losses in 2014 of €4.8 billion.

EDF is in the final phase of negotiations with the British government on building the two Hinkley plants in Britain, which in February it said would be "possible in the next few months". The European Commission estimates the development will cost £24.5 billion.