

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)  
HELD AT MARKET HALL, SAXMUNDHAM  
ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 AT 19.00**

**PRESENT**

Cllr M Fellowes	- Aldeburgh Town Council	<i>SSG Chairman</i>
Mr M Taylor	- Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth	<i>SSG Vice Chairman (outgoing)</i>
Cllr D Bailey	- Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council	
Cllr J Fisher	- Saxmundham Town Council	
Ms J Girling	- Co-opted Member	
Mr T Griffith-Jones	- Co-opted Member	
Cllr W Howard	- Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council	
Cllr M Jones	- Aldringham-cum-Thorpe & Knodishall Parish Councils	
Cllr R Rainger	- Snape Parish Council	
Cllr H Williams	- Westleton Parish Council	
Mr P Wilkinson	- Co-opted Member	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr C Barnes	- Suffolk Coastal District Council	
Ms M Barnes	- EdF Energy Sizewell B	
Mr M Cubitt	- Sizewell B Plant Manager	
Dr L Franks	- SSG Clerk	
Mr S Fox	- SSG Secretariat	
Mr A Holt	- Office for Nuclear Regulation Structural Integrity Specialist	
Mr P Montague	- Sizewell A Closure Manager	
Mr G Moorcroft	- Office for Nuclear Regulation Sizewell B Inspector	
Mr P Morton	- Sizewell B Station Director	
Mr A Osman	- Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit	
Mr S Parr	- Environment Agency Sizewell B Inspector	
Ms N Rousseau	- Sizewell B Community Liaison Officer	
Ms A Vincent	- SSG Secretariat	
Ms V Thomas	- Environment Agency	
Ms C Dowds	- Environment Agency	

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mrs F Lampard  
Mrs J Fendley  
Ms R Fulcher

## CHAIR'S OPENING COMMENTS

3115 Chair welcomed all attendees, provided domestic arrangements and asked all speakers to use the microphones and to introduce themselves. Chair invited attendees to suggest alternative times / venues for the SSG meetings to enable maximum attendance and members suggested avoiding the dates of key sporting events.

### I PUBLIC FORUM

3116 Members of the public were invited to speak and no comments or questions were forthcoming.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3117 Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Branton, Dr T Coffey, Mr P Fahey, Cllr T Hodgson, Cllr G Holdcroft, Mr A Jakeways, Mr J Jenkin, Mr R MacGibbon, Supt J Powell, Cllr R Rainger, Cllr N Smith, Mr C Tucker, Cllr M Whitby, Mr D Foy, Mr J Carey, Ms P Hogan.

3118 Additional declarations of interest were sought but none were forthcoming.

### 3 SIZEWELL B REPORTS

#### 3a. Station Director's Report

3119 Paul Morton, Station Director at Sizewell B, introduced himself advising that he had been in role for approx 4 months and was in the process of relocating to the area. He drew attention to the written report dated June 2016 and provided a presentation that covered the following points:

- Safety and Staffing: No significant safety events; time elapsed since last events provided. 522 EDF Energy staff, 23 apprentices and 250 year round contracting partners.
- Refuelling Outage 14: Turbine 1 shut down on 12<sup>th</sup> April; turbine 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Over 13,000 tasks undertaken in addition to reactor refuelling. Key projects include 10year inspection of the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV), internal inspection and cleaning of all four steam generators, replacement of rotating elements in reactor 2 coolant pump motor, turbine 2 low pressure rotor exchange and valve inspection, work on generator transformer and overhaul of 1 of 4 main cooling water pumps. Outage utilised many local suppliers.
- Performance: 499 days of uninterrupted power supply between outages. UK generation record during 2015 of 10.51TW (10<sup>12</sup>watts).
- 10year Periodic Review of RPV: pictures illustrating the robotic arm test equipment and its use under water within the pressure vessel. No issues were detected and ONR consent has been received for return to service.
- Creusot Forge: media coverage recently reported falsification of records. Sizewell B contains components made at this forge. EdF Energy has received confirmation from Areva (current forge owners) that issues do not affect Sizewell B components. EdF Energy has independently investigated all records held at the forge, checked their own records and all the third party checks undertaken at the time of manufacture and are entirely satisfied that no Sizewell B components were involved in the falsification issue.

3120 Mr Wilkinson questioned how the Station Director was able to satisfy critics and local people, commenting that the falsification issue affected 400 components of which 50 have

been used in operational reactors. He asked to see the paperwork that EDF Energy has examined and asserted that EDF Energy had a financial imperative to return to generation as quickly as possible. He questioned how EDF Energy intended to restore public confidence that Sizewell B components were unaffected. Mr Morton advised that EDF Energy took this matter very seriously and that considerable time had been spent using stringent criteria to gain the confidence to be entirely satisfied that Sizewell B contained only clean components. He described the criteria used as well documented and understood within the industry, involving external experts in an assessment panel that meets Internationally recognised standards. He concluded that the evidence was clear that the components used within Sizewell B do not contain defects.

- 3121 Mr Wilkinson reiterated his question about satisfying critics and seeing evidence. Mr Morton advised that this satisfaction was evident by meeting the International Standards and being validated by all the independent bodies that are experts in these matters. Mr Wilkinson restated his desire to see hard evidence stating that he did not trust the industry or the regulators as they all had a vested interest in agreeing that they were satisfied. Mr Morton reminded the audience that independent verification had been gained and that the purpose of the regulators was to enable the wider community to be confident that matters were fully investigated and that sufficient evidence to prove that Sizewell B was operating safely had to be provided before authority to restart was granted. Mr Moorcroft confirmed that he would share the procedures undertaken during his presentation. Mr Wilkinson stated that this was not good enough and questioned who paid the independent experts.
- 3122 Chair noted that the Government pay the ONR and questioned who the other independent bodies were and how these were paid. She expressed her concern that there had been falsification of records and concurred with Mr Wilkinson that evidence beyond the work undertaken by EDF Energy and ONR was needed to reassure the public. She stated that the SSG remit was to provide a conduit of information between the public and the operators/ regulators and restated that the public are seeking further reassurance about this matter. Mr Moorcroft, ONR, added that the full assessment report will be published shortly which supports the ONR decision to permit the restarting of the reactor and states the reasons for confidence in the components from the Creusot Forge. Chair stated she felt it was premature for the ONR to permit Sizewell B to restart when the outcomes of ongoing tests at the forge were not yet known.
- 3123 Mr Morton continued his presentation and the following point was noted:
- Dry Fuel Store (DFS) Update: Inauguration of DFS held 31.03.16. Next phase is active commissioning to prove capability of the process.
- 3124 Cllr Howard questioned when the spent fuel within the DFS would transfer from EDF Energy to public ownership. Mr Morton advised that EDF Energy were responsible for loading the DFS, commenting that this was likely to commence during Q3/2016, with the intention of medium term storage prior to disposal into a geological facility. Chair commented that potentially EDF Energy could cease trading whilst there was still spent fuel in the DFS and questioned who would manage this facility. Mr Morton concurred and stated that the DFS would have to continue to meet the recognised standards for storage of spent fuel. Chair expressed concern about the costs involved.
- 3125 Mr Morton continued his presentation:
- Local Community - Funds associated with Sizewell B power station: Amenity and Accessibility Fund (AAF) - administered by Suffolk Coast and Heath AONB [www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org). Summary details of projects awarded funding, totalling £19,321, provided.
- 3126 Cllr Howard commented that the host community was disenfranchised from the Amenity and Accessibility fund, clarifying that no funds were allocated to the people of Leiston.

Chair added that Leiston were excluded from the proceeds of this fund and questioned why the allocation of these funds was decided by the industry and not by an independent board.

3127 Mr Wilkinson stated that when the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CORWM) made their recommendations about deep geological disposal, the principles of volunteerism and community benefit were suggested for host communities. He asserted that the Leiston community were hosting the *de facto* long term spent nuclear fuel store and as such that Leiston deserved recognition and funding.

3128 Mr Morton continued his presentation:

- Local Community - Funds associated with Sizewell B power station cont'd: details of other funds provided as below:
  - I. *Sizewell B Sponsorships and Donations Fund* - £10k/annum managed by EDF Energy, applications by email to Niki Rousseau. List of recent beneficiaries provided.
  - II. *Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund* – £25k/annum managed by The Suffolk Foundation, initial lease agreement for 6 years with option to renew.
  - III. *Leiston and Sizewell Community Fund* – New fund launched Spring 2016 re the Galloper Offshore Wind Farm. £12,500/annum for 7 years to be administered by EDF Energy and Community Action Suffolk.

Mr Morton concluded that the total combined annual funds equalled £65,000 to support local community projects.

3129 Questions were invited. Mr Taylor referred to the written report section 3 'Company Update' regarding the Creusot Forge components in relation to the Hinkley Point C project. He stated that the report was incorrect in that the head of the RPV destined for Hinkley Point C was to be destructively tested as part of ensuring that Flamanville 3 RPV was safe, meaning that this component would need to be remade. Mr Morton advised he was unable to comment and that the statement reported had originated from the new build part of EDF Energy. **He asked that a written question was posed directly to the new build group and this was agreed as an action.**

3130 Mr Wilkinson asked that future reports included the downsides of nuclear generation; how much spent fuel has been generated and a detailed breakdown of the profile and quantity of radioactivity discharged in the environment including probable impact. Mr Morton advised that all discharges from the site were subject to environmental limits that were well documented and specific data was publicly available. He offered to include the link to where this information was available in future reports. Chair commented that reports should reflect a balanced view. Mr Morton agreed to provide discharge levels against limits in future reports.

3131 Chair requested that the recent outage data was made available and Mrs Rousseau confirmed that this was being collated currently and would be sent to the Secretariat for circulation to SSG members

3132 Janet Fendley (member of public) referred to the safety and performance slide that stated that a nuclear reportable event had occurred over 5.5years ago and asked where she might be able to access information about this event. Martin Cubitt, Plant Manager Sizewell B, summarised this event as releasing a monitor from service despite the technical specifications requiring that it remained in service. He advised that there were six other monitors in service at this time. **He agreed to provide a link to this information.** He responded to a question for clarification by explaining that these were steam line radiation monitors. **Mrs Rousseau advised that this event would have been reported in the Sizewell B Community Newsletter and agreed to send a copy to Mrs Fendley.**

### 3b. Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Report

- 3133 Mr Moorcroft, Sizewell B Inspector, drew attention to his quarterly report dated 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, summarising that this reflected a period of safe operation with no reportable events. The following points were noted:
- Visits each month for routine licence condition inspections (LC32, LC34 & LC36) and throughout quarter for two system based inspections. No significant issues found.
  - Specialist inspection of DFS to support decision to consent to active commissioning undertaken by an ONR project inspector
  - Inspection reports and project Assessment Reports are published on the ONR website.
  - Dr Richard Savage appointed as Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI).
- 3134 Questions were invited and none were forthcoming.
- 3135 Andrew Holt, ONR lead for structural integrity of operational reactors, introduced himself and prepared to provide a pictorial presentation to describe the safety review of the Sizewell B Reactor Pressure Vessel.
- 3136 Mr Wilkinson referred to the statement made by the ONR during a press conference, in which they stated that they would not give consent for Sizewell B to restart until the review of the component controversy had been completed, advising that he had written to Dr Savage, ONR CNI, to seek confirmation of this. Mr Wilkinson advised that he had received a holding reply before subsequently receiving confirmation that permission to restart had been granted. He expressed his concern about the integrity of the Sizewell B RPV and questioned why granting permission had not waited until the review was completed. Mr Holt advised that ONR had sought confirmation from Areva that no Sizewell B components had been affected by anomalies. He clarified that the French Nuclear Regulator, ASN, had required an audit by Areva of the records for 10,000 components. This audit had been completed and ONR informed of the outcomes for Sizewell B, prior to permission being granted to restart Sizewell B. Areva continues to review the anomalies identified, but none of these affect Sizewell B.
- 3137 Mr Holt advised that in total 22 components manufactured in the Creusot Forge have been located in the RPV and the steam generators at Sizewell B. The audit trail confirms that none of these have anomalies and, therefore, ONR were content that the outcomes of the further checks being undertaken by Areva would have no impact upon Sizewell B. Mr Wilkinson rhetorically questioned why this was not explained by Dr Savage in his communications about this matter.
- 3138 Mr Wilkinson referred to an ONR statement released 03.06.16 titled "ONR Consent to Sizewell B Return to Service" (<http://news.onr.org.uk/2016/06/onr-permission-for-sizewell-b-return-to-service>) and asked the following:
- Ref "ONR specialists reviewed *reports and quality documentation* that demonstrate that the Sizewell B reactor pressure vessel domes are not affected by the carbon segregation issue currently the subject of regulatory scrutiny in France for the Flamanville 3 domes", can the SSG see these reports? Mr Holt suggested that a FOI request for this detail was submitted. He advised that an overview would be contained in overall ONR Assessment Report covering the return to service which would shortly be published on the ONR website.
  - Ref "Areva has confirmed that the reactor components supplied to Sizewell B by its Le Creusot Forge facility are not implicated as a result of its recent review of historical records." can the SSG be supplied with a copy of this report? This was confirmed.
  - Ref "ONR completed an independent review of the lifetime records held by EdF NGL for the reactor components supplied to Sizewell B by Areva's Le Creusot Forge facility", can

the SSG have a copy of this review? This was confirmed as about to be published on the ONR website.

- 3139 Cllr Howard asked what the periodic review of the Sizewell B RPV had found. Mr Holt advised that the inspection complied with the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Inspection Programme and that this had focussed on welds within the RPV, the most likely place for deterioration. This inspection was then extended to consider the entire core shell region, after hydrogen flaking issues at Doel 3 and Tihange 2 had been identified. ONR considered the inspection validation work, undertaken on the robotic arm to be used for this part of the inspection, to be sure that it would reliably detect defects of the type of concern. No reportable defects were detected giving confidence that the Sizewell B RPV does not suffer with the problems identified in Doel 3 and Tihange 2 and supporting the earlier detailed review of both the manufacturing and quality assurance processes.
- 3140 Mr Griffith-Jones suggested that it was purely fortuitous that none of the components supplied by the Creusot Forge were affected. He expressed concern about the ONR system of regulation, suggesting it was reliant upon the integrity of information provided and that the ONR accept this without question. He questioned why the anomalies found had taken so long to materialise, suggested that deception and lack of transparency was prevalent in the nuclear industry and quoted the report on the Japanese parliament on this disaster, stated that the cause of the Fukushima disaster was man made. He asked for reassurance that the industry and regulators were independent and transparent.
- 3141 Mr Holt advised that, at the time of manufacture, there should be independent quality control and quality assurance checks undertaken. He advised that Lloyds Register were appointed as the independent qualification body for the Sizewell B RPV components. He confirmed that the lifetime records for Sizewell B were stamped with the Lloyds register mark and signed to indicate that they had been independently verified. Additional checks were also undertaken by the procuring company (Central Electricity Generating Board) to confirm that appropriate QA checks had been undertaken. He concurred that the ONR do not undertake the checks themselves but instead verify that the processes involved are sufficiently robust. He asserted that this would continue to be the mechanism for any future procurement, which would continue to be reliant upon the layers of independent checks undertaken. He advised that the anomalies found at the Creusot Forge were not yet in the public domain and speculated that in most cases they would not have any material effect on the component but would indicate that the independent assurance of quality was insufficient concluding that this would need to be addressed. He reiterated that the independent assurance of quality for Sizewell B components was robust on a number of different levels.
- 3142 Mr Moorcroft added that ONR were legally able to audit the records for the supply chain for nuclear components. Mr Holt responded to the suggestion that the ONR could be deceived by stating that the processes followed for checking the components manufactured for Sizewell were robust and that the Areva review may identify where the independent checking undertaken by other procuring companies could be improved upon.
- 3143 Chair questioned how the Creusot Forge falsification issue was revealed. Mr Holt advised that after the carbon segregation issue identified with the Flamanville reactor, the French nuclear regulator, ASN, required Areva and an independent body to undertake a review of records that revealed this falsification issue.
- 3144 Cllr Fisher asked when the quality assurance checks were undertaken, whether any components at Sizewell B were rejected. Mr Holt advised that as far as he was aware no components were rejected. He clarified that this did not mean that every aspect of every component met the specification; a formal concessionary process was implemented that considered whether not meeting a particular specification made any material difference to the integrity of the component. Importantly the inspections undertaken at the time of

manufacture of the Sizewell B components were varied and detailed and did not identify any flaws in the forgings.

3145 Chair suggested that the public were concerned and that to restore public confidence that the 22 Creusot Forged components within Sizewell B should be removed and replaced. Mr Holt advised that the components involved included the main shell of the RPV and the main shell of the steam generators and that all 22 were within these systems. Mr Moorcroft stated that the provenance of these components is now at the most in depth and highest level and confidence would not be improved by them being replaced.

### **3c. Environment Agency Report**

3146 Stuart Parr, Environment Agency Inspector for Sizewell B, drew attention to the combined Environment Agency Report dated June 2016 (covering the period March to May inclusive) and gave the apologies of his counterpart for the A Site, Phil Fahey. He invited questions about the combined report.

3147 Janet Fendley referred to the previously reported low level detection of Strontium<sup>90</sup> found at Aldeburgh beach and asked the locations of the five other beaches also tested. Mr Parr advised that he did not have this information with him today but that it had been detailed previously as part of the report describing what environmental monitoring was undertaken in this area. **He took an action to provide this information.** Chair asked that Mr Montague, Closure Director for Sizewell A site, update the meeting regarding Strontium<sup>90</sup> and this was agreed.

3148 Mr Parr provided a detailed presentation "Q4 Sizewell Operator Environmental Monitoring Results" that began by describing what was required of the operator by the EA. At this point Mr Wilkinson asked whether the EA accepted the criticism that environmental monitoring looked in the wrong way in the wrong place for only 40% of the radionuclides that should be considered to provide a clear picture of the real environmental contamination occurring. Mr Parr accepted this concern, countering that the EA set out what was monitored by the environmental programme and determined the standards and objectives to be considered. He advised that the EA had to balance stakeholder concern with resources in a proportionate way and that they used their judgement about what is appropriate.

3149 Mr Parr went on to describe the environmental monitoring undertaken as a single programme, managed by Sizewell B on behalf of both stations and reported quarterly. He advised that some analysis took a long time (e.g. the tests for Strontium<sup>90</sup>), hence the data set referred to in this presentation was for Q4.

3150 Cllr Howard asked whether sewage discharges were now monitored at Sizewell beach. Mr Parr advised that legislation required that sewage discharge monitoring was undertaken off of the Suffolk coast but not specifically at Sizewell beach. He added that information had been provided previously to the SSG about how to apply for blue flag status for Sizewell beach so that this monitoring would be required. He confirmed that the sewage treatment works were inspected and that marine discharges via the cooling water outlet were covered in a permit.

3151 Mr Parr drew attention to the standards and guidance used for environmental monitoring (Radiological Monitoring Technical Guidance Note 2: Environmental Radiological Monitoring, dated December 2010 [version 1]) noting that this sets out the generic objectives and principles and details the performance criteria.

3152 Mr Parr described the Sizewell programme in summary as follows:

- 13 radiation monitoring locations (maps available if required)
- 10 passive shade monitoring locations (changed monthly)

- 3 different milk samples
- Sampling of 10 species of fish, molluscs and crustacean during the year
- 13 coastal locations for radiation monitoring
- Biannual radiation monitoring of the strandline close to the power stations
- Radiation monitoring of local fishing equipment
- 5 locations for grass and soil samples
- 5 locations for sand/ sediment samples.

- 3153 Ms Girling referred to the milk samples asking whether samples were now taken from suckling herds, given that previously this had not been the case. **Mr Parr agreed to take an action to find this out** adding that it was helpful to understand from the local community where it may be useful to sample. Mr Wilkinson stated that the EA were supposed to be the experts not the local community.
- 3154 Mr Wilkinson questioned whether prevailing weather was considered at the time of sampling. When this was confirmed, he asked whether the EA would now be able to explain in detail tritium monitoring from steam releases. Mr Parr advised that he had already provided dates to the SSG for a meeting to discuss monitoring for steam venting and Chair confirmed that these were for the end of July.
- 3155 Mr Parr described the detailed results for each of the parameters listed above (para 3152) and it was noted that annual average results were  $\leq 0.2\text{mSv}$  for dosimeters. He reported that one result for the outer arc had been unusual in that it was marginally above the threshold but found not to be linked to any trend. He clarified that there was a lot of natural variability with environmental samples and that identifying an unusual trend would result in further investigation. Chair asked what the unusual result was caused by and Mr Parr explained that it was a dosimeter so the quantity not type of radiation was detected and that it had exceeded the  $0.01\text{mSv}$  threshold set. He provided context, in that a chest CT scan would give a dose of  $7\text{mSv}$ . Cllr Howard asked what the likely cause of the unusual result was and Mr Parr explained that natural variability could account for this.
- 3156 Janet Fendley expressed her alarm at this unusual result and asked to be provided with a map of monitoring locations. She asked for details and it was explained that this was a radiation dose rate so it was detected in air. Mr Wilkinson asked for qualitative details and heard that a dosimeter was an instrument that picks up dose rate not the analysis of type of radioisotope.
- 3157 Mr Wilkinson asked whether tachyshades detect alpha emitters. Mr Parr advised that they collect particulates from the atmosphere and that analysis involves dissolution of these particulates and extraction of any isotopes. Mr Parr advised that the gamma spectrometer would detect fission products and the isotopes associated with decommissioning activities (like Cobalt<sup>60</sup>). Mr Wilkinson asked if there was any monitoring undertaken for alpha emitters. Mr Parr advised that from recollection the monitoring did not look for specific alpha emitters as these were not associated with operating power stations. He offered to bring a complete schedule of radioisotopes to the planned July meeting.
- 3158 Chair asked Mr Parr to conclude his presentation and Mr Parr flicked through the results slides commenting that the levels of detection were extremely low and often right at the limits of possible detection being less than a becquerel (Bq) per kilo; 1Bq is one disintegration per second. He drew attention to the unusual result identified at Aldeburgh beach of  $4\text{Bq/kg}$  of Strontium<sup>90</sup> reported at the previous meeting. He commented that the positive detection of  $7\text{Bq/kg}$  of Caesium<sup>137</sup> was not unusual, that this level was consistent with previous findings and that this was attributed to the tidal patterns.

3159 **Chair commented that this presentation had been enlightening and agreed an action to circulate a copy of the slides to all members.** Ms Girling asked that **additional questions about the presentation were submitted in writing and discussed at the meeting in July and this was agreed.** Chair encouraged members to attend the additional meeting planned for July.

3160 JG provided feedback that the presentation needs to include explanation for the scientific symbols used to enable the lay person to fully understand the content. Mr Wilkinson asked for the details about what impact each isotope would have on the body to be included. Mr Parr advised that the purpose of the additional meeting was to discuss these finer details. Mrs Fendley stated that the slides were very clear and that the presentation had been pitched very well.

3161 Mr Taylor asked whether the active commissioning of the Dry Fuel Store (DFS) would impact on the monitoring regime and heard that no changes were planned as the DFS has no discharges to the environment as each cask contained therein was hermetically sealed.

## 4 **SIZEWELL A REPORTS**

### 4a. **Closure Director's Report**

3162 Mr Peter Montague, Closure Director, referred to his written report dated June 2016 and provided a presentation covering the following matters:

- Safety & Compliance: continues to be good; just over one year since first aid or lost time accident. Other Magnox sites have incurred accidents and current campaigns address height awareness and slips, trips and falls.
- Strontium<sup>90</sup> Update: Further sampling of Aldeburgh beach and sites north and south have been tested for the presence of Strontium<sup>90</sup>. Different sample preparation techniques were utilised (old style and a new finer filtration method) and the only the finer filtration detected any Strontium<sup>90</sup> (at 0.08Bq) in one sample. All other results were below the limits of detection. There is no risk to members of the public or the environment.

3163 Cllr Howard questioned why the samples were filtered and Mr Montague explained that the samples were collected, crushed, dried and sent off for chemical extraction. The filtration is an essential process to enable the detectors to pick up any radioactivity in the final concentrated sample.

3164 Mr Wilkinson objected to the statement "There is no risk to members of the public or the environment" asserting that whilst the level of dose found is very low or even below the levels of detection, that it is well established that there is no safe level of exposure and that there is no link between dose and impact. He suggested that the statement should read "As far as we know, there is no risk to members of the public or the environment". Mr Montague disputed this asserting that the presentation stated his belief in line with current scientific thinking.

3165 Chair questioned what other radionuclides were being tested for and Mr Montague suggested that this question was raised at the monitoring meeting planned with the EA during July. He confirmed that gamma spectroscopy is deployed to detect the presence of any radionuclide not specifically tested for.

3166 Mr Montague continued his presentation:

- Emergency Arrangements: formal notification from the ONR to enable Sizewell A to move to new arrangements anticipated. Two demonstrations successfully carried out recently and a formal Level 1 witnessed demonstration planned for July.
- Lifetime Plan: all sites in the Magnox fleet have reviewed their lifetime plans. For Sizewell A this introduces new techniques, such as the use of divers in the ponds to cut

up skips, and new strategies like shared use of regional stores. Site expected to enter Care and Maintenance (C&M) in 2027.

3167 Mr Wilkinson asked how much sludge was left in the ponds and whether this would be characterized as high or intermediate level waste (ILW). Mr Montague advised that volume was just an estimate currently and that all characterization to date was either ILW or low level waste (LLW). He added that conventional pumps would remove the sludge to settling tanks and once characterized the ILW sludge would be placed into ductile cast iron containers (DCIC) and dried ready for storage prior to disposal.

3168 The presentation continued:

- Organisational Restructure: now complete; only 2 people displaced both of whom have now found alternative employment.
- Projects Update:
  - Ponds programme in preparation phase. Team now reassembled back at Sizewell with knowledge gained from ponds work at Dungeness. Waste export route being determined for removal of LLW.
  - Waste Programme now established. Waste retrieval begins next year to include loading of DCIC's.
- Socio-economics: written report details schemes supported. Applications encouraged via <https://magnoxsocioeconomic.com>
- Communications: Sam Fox has joined Secretariat as Magnox Communications and Socio-economic lead for Bradwell, Dungeness and Sizewell.

3169 Questions were invited and John Fisher sought clarification of a DCIC. Mr Montague explained that this was a ductile cast iron container, a self-shielding container. Chair added that these are the 'yellow boxes' previously referred to. Mr Montague advised that these containers are suitable for storage and disposal in the regional and geological facilities respectively.

3170 Ms Girling asked what was proposed for the obsolete Research Centre on Lovers Lane. Mr Cubitt, Sizewell B, advised that this building is currently being stripped of asbestos and that no decision about the use of the building thereafter has yet been decided. Ms Girling asked that the **SSG monitor this outcome and this was agreed as an action**. Chair sought clarification of why Sizewell A did not consult the community when they handed the building to Sizewell B. Mr Cubitt advised that the building was leased to Sizewell A and when it became obsolete, therefore, reverted back to EdF Energy. Ms Girling suggested that it would be very valuable for community use.

#### **4b. Office for Nuclear Regulation**

3171 Mr Jakeways, ONR Sizewell A Inspector, was noted to have sent apologies. Mr Moorcroft, ONR Sizewell B Inspector, agreed to address any concerns arising and none were forthcoming. Chair advised her attendance at a recent NDA meeting to discuss future decommissioning and the respective responsibilities for the ONR and other regulators, adding that she would ensure circulation of information from the NDA about these matters once available.

#### **4c. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Report**

3172 Chair advised that Mr Jenkin, NDA Stakeholder Manager, had given his apologies due to the Purdah period. She drew attention to the NDA monthly updates for April and May 2016 and invited questions. No questions were forthcoming.

*The meeting had a short comfort break at this point.*

## **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER**

### **5a. Minutes from the SSG Meeting held 17.03.16.**

3173 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were agreed as an accurate record subject to the following amendments:

- *Para 3091:* correct CNC to CNS.
- *Para 3105:* correct “Ms Girling advised that she had communicated with Mr Pink and with the EA expressing concern about the dog walkers and subsequent fouling of **who use** the Sizewell beach **and the sea for recreation along with other visitors and local residents.**”
- *Para 3094:* correct Arriva to Areva.

### **5b. Matters Arising, the Action Tracker and Correspondence.**

3174 Ms Girling drew attention to the action tracker and specifically the matters relating to the sewage works and the outfall (ref 2786/2903/3024). She expressed her dismay that the seawater was not monitored but accepted that the beach did not have the blue flag status necessary to require this to be undertaken by the EA. Ms Girling asserted that Sizewell B should pay for this monitoring to be undertaken.

3175 Chair invited any further comments or corrections and none were forthcoming. Chair asked members to indicate their approval of the Action Tracker and this was received.

## **6. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

3176 Chair advised that she had not been notified of any changes and no further amendments were suggested. Chair asked members to indicate their approval of the Constitution and this was received.

## **7. CHAIR’S REPORT**

3177 Chair referred to her written report summarising the past 12 months commenting that it had been a busy period with several changes of key staff at both sites and within the SSG Secretariat.

3178 Cllr Howard commented that there was now insufficient Secretariat for the stakeholder meetings and that it should not fall to the Chair and members to put out chairs and tables for example. Mr Taylor concurred and suggested that Sizewell B should offer more assistance. Chair added that any support would be welcome.

3179 Chair led a vote of thanks to all those that have left and in particular to the retiring Clerk. She advised that Jane Sparkle, Magnox, had volunteered and had been confirmed as the Clerk going forwards. The Clerk was presented with a bouquet of flowers and given a round of applause. Chair extended her thanks to those members standing down at this meeting.

3180 Cllr Bailey expressed his support for the concerns expressed (see 3178) re support and questioned whether he was able to continue to receive hard copies of information. Chair advised that there was a list of those attendees requiring paper copies adding that hard copies of any information was available on request. Cllr Bailey expressed concern that not providing hard copies of information going forward could be a cost-cutting exercise. Chair concurred adding that she had to now request permission from Magnox and the NDA to

host any sub group or additional meetings to reduce expenditure. Chair advised that she had requested comparative costs for each stakeholder group.

- 3181 Mr Wilkinson suggested that the SSG write to the NDA to object to the directive to seek permission for additional meetings. Chair advised that she had conferred with fellow stakeholder Chairmen and they were not concerned as they rarely convened additional meetings. Chair added that whilst permission continued to be granted she was not concerned with the new process, but would object if permission were refused (as previously the NDA had refused to pay fees for an independent speaker on a technical topic). This was discussed further and it was noted that previously funding had been withheld to pay the fees of independent speakers. After further exchanges, Chair advised that the new parent body were directing cost savings across the board and that these included the stakeholder group meetings. Ms Girling expressed concern that the importance of the stakeholder groups was being eroded by imposing financial constraints. She suggested that attendees email the NDA expressing their concern.
- 3182 Chair thanked members for their dedication to attend and communicate with the industry and reminded attendees that the independent review of the SSG held several years ago had concluded that the SSG did represent the community well, were knowledgeable and active in their communications with the industry and regulators.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP**

- 3183 Chair introduced this item inviting any interested bodies to nominate a member. She welcomed any new representatives and thanked those members standing down for their service. She expressed special thanks to Joan Girling for her dedication to the SSG since her first attendance in 1991 and to Mike Taylor, the outgoing Deputy Chairman. This was met with a round of applause.
- 3184 Election of co-opted members was considered and it was noted that the following had requested co-option:
- Mr Trevor Branton
  - Mr Pete Wilkinson
  - Mr Tom Griffith-Jones

Members expressed their unilateral agreement to these co-options.

## **9. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN AND ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

- 3185 Chair advised that the Constitution enabled the current Chairman to continue unless any member wished to stand. No nominations were forthcoming and the Chair agreed to continue to serve for further year.
- 3186 Chair advised that one nomination had been received for Deputy Chairman and sought any further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were forthcoming. Chair sought a proposer and seconder for the nomination previously received and Cllr Howard formally proposed Pete Wilkinson; Tom Griffith-Jones seconded this proposal. Chair welcomed Pete Wilkinson to the role of Deputy Chairman.
- 3187 Outgoing Deputy Chairman, Mike Taylor, thanked members for their diligence wrestling with difficult topics, for their friendship and in particular for the contribution of the B station representative members of the SSG. He also thanked Marianne Fellowes for her Chairmanship of the group and the Clerk for her dedicated service. Members applauded.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 3188 Rachel Fulcher, Coordinator for Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth, thanked Mike Taylor for representing the group and advised that Janet Fendley would now represent Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth. Chair thanked Ms Fulcher adding that if Ms Fendley was unable to attend meetings, that an alternative representative could attend.
- 3189 Mr Wilkinson commented that the Action Tracker seemed to be both lengthy and convoluted and questioned when content would be either actioned, removed or closed. Chair agreed that the Action Tracker required some re-wording to clarify what issues remain, explaining that there had been technical issues with this document. **Chair agreed to undertake remote conferencing with the Secretariat to enable a more concise Action Tracker to be brought to the next meeting.**
- 3190 Cllr Howard asked that Mr Barnett was advised of some of the outcomes of this meeting that addressed the concerns he had previously raised regarding the safety of the Sizewell B RPV. **Chair agreed to take this action.**

Meeting closed at 21.35

Next Meetings: **10.00 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Sizewell Sports and Social Club**  
**10.00 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Aldeburgh Community Centre**