

Report to Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

December 2017

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period between September and November 2017.

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

Bradwell nuclear site will be entering care and maintenance in 2018. Sizewell A will be the "buddy" site when Bradwell enters care and maintenance and will be responsible for compliance to the Bradwell environmental permit. We continue to work with the Operator to ensure that Sizewell A will be ready to take over the required responsibilities.

On 11th and 12th September 2017 we had a catch up meeting and performed an inspection on low level waste. There were no non-compliances noted from the inspection.

On 5th October we dialled in to the SE sites waste strategy meeting. This forum discussed with Magnox and the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

radioactive waste strategies for Bradwell, Dungeness A and Sizewell A.

Suffolk County Council are holding a consultation on the preferred options to develop a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The Environment Agency is responding to this consultation which covers many areas of our regulation. The consultation includes some sections that involve radioactive waste at Sizewell A.

Next inspection on 12th and 13th December on gaseous and aqueous waste.

Sizewell B

We carried out a pre-outage inspection on the 5/6th October to look at the stations preparations for Reactor Outage 15 (RO15). A reactor outage is a period of maintenance in the stations life, resulting in the generation of radioactive waste. We looked at radioactive waste management and pollution prevention issues. We found that the station was well prepared for the forthcoming outage and had put measures in place to minimise the generation of radioactive waste and the risk of a pollution incident.

We altered the Compilation of Environment Agency Requirements Approvals and Specifications (CEARAS) to allow SZB to fit a new level gauge on liquid radioactive waste discharge tanks. This will enable the station to continue calculation of liquid discharges as required under their environmental permit.

Sizewell B reported an event to us, on discovery of a minor defect with one of the steam generators during the outage in November. This has been reported to ONR who will need approve any repair before issuing consent to re-start the reactor. We are satisfied that there are no environmental concerns but will continue to monitor the situation via our routine regulatory programme.

Enforcement

We have taken no enforcement action and noted no non-compliances during the period September – December 2017 for Sizewell A.

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.

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.

Contacts

The Environment Agency's Regulators for the Sizewell A and Sizewell B sites are Phil Fahey and Victoria Thomas respectively. Phil and Victoria are both Nuclear Regulators and part of the Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

Phil and Victoria 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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