

Report to Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

April 2018

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period between December 2017 and March 2018.

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 Care and Maintenance.

Bradwell nuclear site, in Essex, 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 the Bradwell environmental permit compliance. We continue to work with the Operator to ensure that Sizewell A will be ready to take over the required responsibilities.

Inspections.

On 12th and 13th December 2017 we attended Sizewell A for a site review meeting and performed an inspection on aqueous and gaseous discharges.

There were no non-compliances noted from the inspection.

On 13th and 14th March 2018 we attended a site review meeting and undertook a site inspection on asset management. This inspection was not part of the Environment Agency themed audit on asset management (see below for Sizewell B inspection on asset management). Other Magnox stations were chosen to be part of the themed audit and this inspection was part of our normal regulatory inspection programme. There were no non-compliances noted from the inspection.

Other regulatory input.

On 15th February 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.

Sizewell B

We attended the reactor start up meeting and associated plant tour on the 5th December 2017 along with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). This meeting reviews the performance of the station in the previous cycle and discusses any issues to be solved before the reactor is started up again for the next operating cycle (Cycle 16). The meeting was held a few weeks before the reactor was re-started due to the repairs taking place on the steam generators. We were kept informed of progress on these repairs and were consulted by ONR prior to them issuing consent to re-start the reactor.

On the 1st February 2018 we undertook a national themed inspection on Asset Management at Sizewell B. This inspection was rolled out across the UK and it is hoped the findings will help to improve best practice in the management of assets across the nuclear industry. We looked at a range of management system documentation, systems used to manage assets, investment decisions and had a walk round of relevant plant. We found no non-compliances at Sizewell B and found evidence of good practices, such as maintaining the rights to asset management information and systems when outsourcing work to third parties, and participating in internationally recognised groups such as the World Association for Nuclear Operators (WANO) to help

maintain good practice and continuous improvement. We did raise an issue regarding the corporate EDF system for managing and maintaining redundant assets, and this will be managed through the EDF corporate regulation and the core inspection team.

Enforcement

We gave Sizewell B a CCS4 non-compliance score (the lowest level) for a minor error on their gaseous discharge return in 2017. The return was reissued and the station are putting in place systems to prevent a reoccurrence.

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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