

Report to Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

July 2018

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period between April and June 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 November 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 19th April and 14th June 2018 we attended Sizewell A for site review meetings and discussions on gaseous monitoring.

Other regulatory input.

We shared a draft permit for care and maintenance at Bradwell so Sizewell A could establish the environmental resource required for compliance. We also continue our work at Bradwell in ensuring the store there is suitable for receiving future Higher Activity Waste from Sizewell A.

Sizewell B

We undertook an inspection in April focusing on Environmental Management and Leadership. The main purpose of the inspection was to review the site's compliance with its environmental permit, specifically condition 1.1, which focuses on general management. We view this as a key component to ensuring high levels of environmental protection as part of the station's operations. We concluded Sizewell B has robust arrangements in place with regards to environmental management/ leadership and compliance with its environmental permit, with no non-compliances and areas of good practice noted. An observation was made regarding the roll out of environmental awareness refresher training to staff at Sizewell B. We see this awareness training as essential to ensuring staff are and remain up to date with environmental protection issues at the station and will track progress as part of our routine regulatory engagement.

In June we undertook an inspection of the minor discharge routes for both gaseous and liquid discharges listed in the sites environmental permit. These are authorised discharge outlets which make up in total less than 5% of the site's permit limit for specified radionuclides. Although these discharge outlets make up a small total of the permit radionuclide limits, there are more of them to manage and maintain than the main discharge outlets. As a result we routinely check these minor discharge routes to ensure that the Best Available Techniques (BAT) are being applied and compliance with the requirements of the environmental permit maintained. The inspection included a walk round of all the accessible discharge routes. We found that the station managed its minor discharge routes well, with no non compliances identified.

Enforcement

We have taken no enforcement action and noted no non-compliances during the period April – June 2018 for both Sizewell A and B.

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.

Other News

The Environment Agencies in England, Scotland and Wales have approved new Guidance on Requirements for Release (GRR) offering Magnox / EDF (and the NDA) extra options in agreeing interim and final end states. We expect to vary both Sizewell permits later this year to require submission of documents to an agreed timetable.

We met Magnox Limited to review asset management nationally, discuss preparations for the termination of the Cavendish Fluor Partnership in August 2019 and discuss Higher Activity Waste matters.

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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