

## Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Dungeness A and B sites and related environmental matters.

## Nuclear regulation

Phil Fahey is the lead regulator for the Dungeness A site. Andrew Stone is the lead regulator for the Dungeness B site, assisted by Eddie Osondu.

Phil, Andrew and Eddie all work in the Nuclear Regulation Group (South). Officers from the Kent Area Environment Agency team also visit the site for general environmental protection matters such as groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction.

We work closely with other regulators such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in areas of common interest.

## Attendance at site

We regulate radioactive waste disposals through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance with the permit by making regular inspections. These are recorded on Compliance Assessment Reports which detail our inspections and any non-compliance(s) found; they are placed on our Public Register.

We visited Dungeness A on 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 plus 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

We visited Dungeness B on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018. We also attended a planning meeting for the off-site emergency exercise that is planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

Regular contact is also maintained with the sites by telephone and e-mail in addition to formal correspondence.

## Discharge reports

Both sites are required to report to us liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment and transfers of radioactive waste to other sites on a regular basis. These reports are placed on the public register. Liquid and gaseous discharges from both Dungeness sites remain within the limits set by the Environmental Permits.

## Environmental monitoring

The Operators carry out monitoring of various environmental samples at periodic intervals and report the information to us. Dungeness B staff carry out the work on behalf of both sites. The programmes are slightly different to reflect the radionuclides that are being discharged, the historical discharges and the operational activities taking place at each site.

In addition to the Operators' environmental monitoring programme the Environment Agency participates in an independent UK-wide monitoring programme. The results of these monitoring programmes are published annually and are used to assess the dose received by members of the public in the vicinity of nuclear licensed sites. Radiation doses to people living around nuclear licensed sites from authorised releases of radioactivity were well below the UK national and European limit of 1000 micro Sieverts ( $\mu\text{Sv}$ ) per year in 2016.



## Current regulatory issues

### Dungeness A

We are in regular contact with the Head of Radiation Protection and Environment to ensure that we are kept in touch with progress on actions and any emerging issues at the site. We have been liaising recently with several projects such as the continuation of ponds decommissioning and the commencement of ILW retrieval, processing and dispatch to Bradwell.

#### Inspection

On 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 we joined with ONR to perform an inspection on asset management.

There were no non-compliances noted from the inspection but we were not happy with all arrangements. The issues of degradation and water ingress means that large amounts of money now needs to be spent to take down large assets.

We recognise that a lot of issues are outside the control of the site and have arranged to meet Magnox Corporate on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to progress a national solution for Magnox on asset management.

#### Regional waste teleconference.

In February we dialled in to the SE sites waste strategy meeting. This forum discusses with Magnox and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) radioactive waste strategies for Bradwell, Dungeness A and Sizewell A.

#### Particulates in aqueous waste discharge samples.

We have been liaising with the Operator regarding particulates in aqueous discharge samples. There has been a programme of refurbishment of one of the final delay tanks. This has enabled the site to discharge some aqueous waste through this route.

#### Groundwater and Contaminated Land

We received a satisfactory response including a Materials Management Plan that will facilitate filling any on-site voids. We have yet to give detailed feedback on groundwater and contaminated land but will be varying the permit to request a Waste Management Plan.

### Dungeness B

#### Combustion Plant

In October 2017, some diesel oil was transferred to a third party for disposal without any hazardous waste consignment notes. The diesel oil was removed from the site by a licensed waste carrier and transferred to permitted facility. However, no prior duty of care checks were conducted on both the carrier and receiving site because those involved did not believe the diesel oil was a waste.

Following our investigation of the event, we served a formal warning letter in April 2018 on EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Limited in line with our Enforcement and Sanctions Policy.

We believe Dungeness B has implemented corrective actions to prevent any future recurrence.

#### Inspections

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 we carried out an Asset Management inspection. We examined in detail the policies, strategies and plans which underpin the arrangements for asset management at Dungeness B. There were no non-compliances noted from the inspection and we identified areas of good practice, such as implementation of a corrosion management programme to minimise the effects of corrosion on the plant.

#### Effluents

A small leak was identified from an isolation valve for the level transmitter on Dump Water Storage Tank 22. The leak discharged onto an area of hard standing and there was no evidence of dump water going into ground. Leak management was put in place to divert to an authorised discharge route. The environmental monitoring of nearby boreholes will detect if there has been any impact on ground water. It is believed the leak was caused by the very cold weather experienced in March 2018.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0345 988 1188  
0845 988 1188

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

## Other News

### Changes to Environment Agency Charging

Changes to our charging scheme came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. This followed consultation on charging proposals between 29 November 2017 and 26 January 2018.

As a result of the review, charges for these regulatory regimes will change:

Environmental Permitting;  
Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH);  
European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS);  
Producer Responsibility for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment;  
Water Resources.

Charges for other regulatory regimes were not included in the review and these have not changed.

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### Flood Alert



What it means  
Flooding is possible. Be prepared.

#### What to do

- Be prepared to act on your flood plan.
- Prepare a flood kit of essential items.
- Monitor local water levels and the flood forecast on our website.

### Flood Warning



What it means  
Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.

#### What to do

- Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place.
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so.
- Put flood protection equipment in place.

### Severe Flood Warning



What it means  
Severe flooding. Danger to life.

#### What to do

- Stay in a safe place with a means of escape.
- Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home.
- Co-operate with the emergency services.
- Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.

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