

# Report to Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

October 2018

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period between July and September 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 later 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. We have been involved in several meetings, visits to Bradwell and teleconferences with Magnox and the Office of Nuclear Regulation on the arrangements for care and maintenance entry.

#### Inspections.

On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 we visited Sizewell A for a routine meeting and to perform an inspection on gaseous discharges. We found no non-compliances during this inspection.

We are due to undertake an inspection of the Sizewell Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> September for both Sizewell A and B stations. This will include witnessing some environmental samples being taken. We will also discuss the updated best available techniques document for the EMP supplied by Sizewell A in August 2018. We will report our findings of this inspection in the next SSG report.

#### Other regulatory input.

On 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 we attended the annual regional review of safety, security and environment with Magnox and the Office for Nuclear Regulation. This meeting reviews operations at Dungeness A, Sizewell A and Bradwell over the past year and enables a discussion on future decommissioning at the sites.

## Sizewell B

#### Joint Inspection with ONR

We participated in a systems based inspection of Sizewell B's Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August. This system is used particularly in radiological areas to remove any air that may contain radioactivity away from operators to ensure their doses are As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). The system is used to monitor and discharge this air from stacks on the roof of the power station, through filters to reduce the radioactivity of the discharges. We are currently reviewing our findings with ONR, and will report our findings in the next SSG report.

#### SZB application to vary their radioactive substances environmental permit.

We received an administrative variation to the Sizewell B Radioactive Substances Regulation (RSR) Environmental Permit (EPR/XB3539DH) at the end of August. The operator is seeking to remove a gaseous discharge disposal outlet from their permit, after routing the discharge route into a larger outlet at the station. This will reduce reliance on some redundant

monitoring equipment. The discharge limits that are listed in the current permit will remain the same.

## Enforcement

We have taken no enforcement action and noted no non-compliances during the period July – September 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 Government published on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August a technical guidance note on how the regulation of the ownership, movement and safeguarding of nuclear material will be regulated if the UK leaves the EU with 'no deal'. The details can be found at the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-nuclear-regulation-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>. Further technical notes are due to be published in the autumn which will relate to the work of the Environment Agency.

## 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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