

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)  
HELD AT  
SIZEWELL SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB, KING GEORGE'S AVENUE  
LEISTON IP16 4JX  
ON THURSDAY 23 MAY 2019 AT 19.00**

**MEMBERS**

Ms M Fellowes	- Co-opted Member, <i>SSG Chair</i>
Mr P Wilkinson	- Co-opted Member, <i>SSG Deputy Chair</i>
Cllr D Bailey	- Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Cllr S Betson	- Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Mr T Branton	- Co-Opted Member
Ms P Hogan	- Sizewell Residents Association
Cllr P Palmer	- Aldeburgh Town Council
Mr B Howard	- Co-opted Member
Mrs J Girling	- Co-opted Member
Mr M Taylor	- Suffolk Friends of the Earth

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr C Barnes	- Economic Development and Regeneration Officer, East Suffolk Council
Ms M Barnes	- Public Relations Officer, EDF Energy Generation
Mr N Cofield	- Planning & Development Consents Manager, EDF Energy
Mr R Cook	- Inspector (Sizewell A), ONR Operating Nuclear Reactors Inspection Team
Mr P Fahey	- Inspector (Sizewell A), Environment Agency
Mr D Gregory	- Inspector (Sizewell B), ONR Operating Nuclear Reactors Inspection Team
Mr R Lee	- Inspector (Sizewell B), Environment Agency
Mr J McNamara	- Head of Stakeholder Relations, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr S Verrall	- Engineering Manager, EDF Energy
Mr A Neiling	- Closure Director, Magnox
Mr A Osman	- Head of Emergency Planning, Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit
Mr S Payne	- Regional Communications Lead, Magnox
Ms L Thomas	- Emergency Preparedness & Response Delivery Lead, ONR
Ms S Foxon	- Magnox
Mr P Reynolds	- Bradwell Lead Regulator, Environment Agency
Mr K Littlewood	- NRG South Team leader, Environment Agency
Mr M Dent	- Minute taker, Ubiquis

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mrs B Chadwick  
Mr Peter Chadwick  
Mr A Hatt  
Mrs P Dorcey  
Mr S Dorcey  
Ms C Morling

## **CHAIR'S OPENING COMMENTS**

3992 The Chair welcomed all attendees, and provided domestic arrangements.

### **1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3993 Apologies for absence had been received from Janet Fendley, Suffolk Friends of the Earth, Colin Tucker, SZB Staff Representative, Niki Rousseau, Community Liaison Officer, EDF

3994 There were no new declarations of interest. As it was the AGM, members would be provided with the template to re-declare their interests.

### **2. PRESENTATION ON NEW REPPIR REGULATIONS**

3995 ONR Update

Liz Thomas presented to the meeting on the new Radiological Protection / Emergency Preparedness and Response (REPPIR) regulations and emergency planning in general. Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) had developed REPPIR 2019 during 2018, and they had become law on 22 March 2019. These applied to all nuclear and radiological sectors, though separate regulations covered transport, and the principle regulators were the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) for the nuclear sector and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for the rest of the radiological sector. There was a 12-month transition period, by which point dutyholders had to fully comply. ONR was writing an Approved Code of Practice and Guidance to support compliance.

REPPIR 2019 introduced a new duty for local authorities, which was to determine the Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZs) based in technical distances provided by the operator, as well as developing and testing outline plans. There were also new duties regarding prior information to the public, and setting off-site reference levels. Outline planning would be required to a distance of 30 kilometres.

Approved Codes of Practice (ACoP) were provided for in the new REPPIR, but had not been in the older version. They were not mandatory, but if a duty holder did not comply they had to demonstrate they were using equally effective means. The ACoP was out for public consultation, with stakeholders free to comment. Comments on the guidance would also be taken into account. The consultation was open until 5 June and until 27 June for local authorities. Liz Thomas' presentation is an attachment to these minutes.

#### **Questions to Liz Thomas**

3996 Pete Wilkinson queried what 'setting Off-Site Reference levels for the public' referred to. Liz Thomas explained that these had been set in the Euratom directive and transposed into the regulations. Reference levels were set for the residual dose allowable for a member of the public, based on the basic safety standards directive.

3997 Bill Howard queried whether the operator or the local authority set the Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZ). Liz Thomas explained that the operator was required to set a technical distance, and then the DEPZ was set by the local authority taking account of that technical distance. Bridget Chadwick queried the distance that this would cover. Liz Thomas said that the work was still being done. As the hazards from the Sizewell site had not changed, it was not anticipated that the distances would change. Pete Wilkinson noted that the hazards would change

if Sizewell C came onstream, and that he had been told that the ONR would only be required to look at emergency planning three months before the plant went critical. He suggested that at this stage the ONR would not rule that the plant could not go ahead. Liz Thomas said that if Sizewell C progressed there would be a separate consequence assessment provided to the local authority, which may well change the DEPZ. The licensing process was a continuing process, including emergency arrangements. The Chair summarised that the SSG would like to understand how hazards would change should Sizewell C be built, and the stages in the process that would be considered.

- 3998 Joan Girling queried whether it was the operator's responsibility to notify of an accident, and who to. Liz Thomas said that there was a duty of the operator to notify a number of people, including the Secretary of State and the regulator. Joan Girling asked whether it was the ONR or the operator who assessed the risk. Liz Thomas said that it developed over time. Once an event had been notified, emergency arrangements came into play. Automatic countermeasures were built into the emergency plan. Joan Girling commented that the important element was the timescale, as residents at a certain distance would hear about an accident before the emergency plan came into operation. Liz Thomas said that this was the point of automatic countermeasures. Pete Wilkinson queried the automatic countermeasures. Liz Thomas believed that they were potassium iodate tablets and sheltering.
- 3999 Carol Morling asked whether these tablets were still issued. Andy Osman confirmed that they were issued within a distance of 1 kilometre. Members of the public living within 1 kilometre indicated that this was not the case as far as they were aware. **The Chair asked for more information to be provided to resolve this matter.** Daniel Gregory explained that the evolution of the Sizewell A site had led to the radius of issue for the tablets being reduced. Steve Dorcey highlighted that the nuclear waste from Sizewell B was now stored at the Sizewell A site. Daniel Gregory said that this would be taken into account. Steve Dorcey asked whether the Sizewell C waste would be stored in the same place. The Chair understood that Sizewell C may have its own store. Liz Thomas added that the distances for countermeasures were set by local authorities on advice from Public Health England (PHE). Andy Osman confirmed that the two bodies with a statutory role in decisions around potassium iodate were NHS England and PHE, which was currently a one kilometre radius measured from the Sizewell B reactor building.
- 4000 Mike Taylor understood that the ONR's Project Assessment Report (PAR) drove the DEPZ, which had been reviewed when Sizewell A had been de-fuelled, but still left at three to four kilometres. He was unclear as to whether this included Leiston, and the situation pertaining to the one kilometre zone around Sizewell B. Liz Thomas explained that the determination of distances under the new regulations had not yet been made. The current determination had been made by the ONR and published in the PAR, and was not a circular radius in order to avoid bisecting communities. Countermeasures were not necessarily the same everywhere within the DEPZ, there simply had to be a detailed plan covering that zone. The Chair emphasised the level of reassurance that may be needed by the public which may outweigh a strict risk assessment.
- 4001 Bridget Chadwick queried why distances were given in kilometres rather than miles. Andy Osman explained that the offsite plan used both miles and kilometres. **The Chair asked for the equivalent distances to be provided.**
- 4002 It was queried how the outline planning distance would change. Andy Osman noted that four or five years ago a local outline emergency planning zone had been introduced of 15 kilometres, which would now be extended to 30 kilometres

- 4003 Pete Wilkinson queried who could bring a prosecution under REPIR, the community or the ONR. Liz Thomas said that it would be the ONR as the regulator. Pete Wilkinson asked whether the community would have to go to the ONR. Liz Thomas confirmed this, if the community believed someone was not in compliance with the ONR, and their inspectors would investigate.
- 4004 Cllr Peter Palmer queried what the Approved Codes of Practice (ACoP) would be based on. Liz Thomas explained that they were based on how the ONR wished dutyholders to comply with the regulations. Rowland Cook noted that there was a lot of data based on practical experience of nuclear disasters. Concern was raised by attendees around dose and effect, especially with low levels of radiation. Liz Thomas said that the regulations were based on the Japanese lifespan study. Pete Wilkinson noted that there was no internal radiation data in the lifespan studies. Liz Thomas emphasised that all regulations in the UK were based on the best, peer-reviewed science, such as that from United Nations Security Council Regulations (UNSCR). The Chair summarised that there were conflicting views, and more advice may be needed.
- 4005 The Chair queried whether REPIR was the minimum safety standards, or whether it went beyond that. Liz Thomas explained that REPIR brought in the European Directive basic safety standards, which were set on the basis of conservative science from UNSCR and International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). Mike Taylor felt that there had been a failure of government to properly consult on EU Directive 2014/87. Liz Thomas said that this was related to the Convention to Nuclear Safety. She could not comment on consultation.
- 4006 *Suffolk County Council Update*
- Andy Osman presented the County Council's new responsibilities under REPIR 2019. A lot of the guidance was still being drafted. One of the key changes was that the County Council was now responsible for determining the DEPZ, based on work by Magnox and EDF, as the nuclear operator. On prior information to the public, the SSG could help shape what it would look like. On the Outline Planning Zone (OPZ) there was already a 15-kilometre zone, which would be increased to 30 kilometres. Emergency workers included those who need to continue to work around Sizewell in a low-level radiological environment to keep services going, as well as emergency services. Finally, there would be a three-yearly test of the plan, which had always been the case, but the outcome of the exercise would now be assessed.
- Implementation was ongoing, involving around 35 local, regional and national agencies. The key work would begin in late summer, following the consequence assessment and report from EDF and Magnox. The DEPZ would be determined at the County Council cabinet meeting on 5 November. Prior information would be re-issued at the end of 2019, with the draft offsite plan being consulted on early in 2020, with the SSG having advance sight of it. The off-site plan needed to be reissued by March 2020, to plan for the statutory exercise Eagle 20 in early summer 2020.
- Questions to Andy Osman**
- 4007 Pete Wilkinson queried whether the consequence reports would be in the public domain. Andy Osman confirmed that they would, once completed, as would the off-site plan and the prior information.
- 4008 Cllr Peter Palmer queried the headings that the exercise would be judged under. Andy Osman said that this would be prescribed in the draft guidance.

- 4009 The Chair queried the use of traffic modelling in past exercises. They had been told that, compared to a real-life demonstration of an evacuation, modelling technology could not always predict how the public would react. Andy Osman noted that evacuation was not currently an automatic countermeasure, and there was no legal power to compel the public, and not having all of the public participating eroded the value. There was, though, experience of evacuation of urban and rural areas from tidal surges. The ONR had to agree any exercise before it was undertaken. An evacuation study had been done in the past, and linked to the Sizewell C planning that would be repeated if a development control order was submitted. The Chair noted that the public would also like to see independent observers. Andy Osman said that this was a matter for the ONR and Suffolk Constabulary.
- 4010 Pete Wilkinson queried whether the re-issued prior information would assume the present situation, or include Sizewell C. Andy Osman said that it was based on the current situation. Until Sizewell C became a nuclear site, it was a construction site. An environmental impact assessment had been produced in draft by EDF for Sizewell C, part of which covered the changes to the site in terms of vulnerability in the event of a major accident. The Chair asked whether this assessment was in the public domain. Andy Osman was unsure, but it would form part of the Development Consent Order (DCO). **Joan Girling understood that the impact assessment would not be released to the public until the DCO was submitted to the planning inspectorate. Andy Osman was not sure. The Chair said that they would find out.**
- 4011 Cllr Peter Palmer queried the definition of a community under the new regulations. Andy Osman said that this would be clarified in the guidance.
- 4012 Andy Hatt queried whether the plan would include the evacuation of workers building Sizewell C on the single route currently extant. Andy Osman reiterated that evacuation was not currently an automatic countermeasure, but for anybody within the area of the Outline Planning Zone (OPZ) there would be consideration of how to move people out of the area. Andy Hatt queried whether this would be in the public domain. Andy Osman confirmed that the offsite emergency arrangements and the evacuation study would be.
- 4013 Bridget Chadwick asked how far any evacuation would be in distance from the site. Andy Osman did not know the guidance yet. Bridget Chadwick asked whether the public would be told. Andy Osman confirmed this; following the principles for flooding, people were moved out of flood risk areas with evacuation centres for those who needed them. All of this needed to be pre-communicated. Steve Dorcey queried how many people were within the 30-kilometre zone. Andy Osman said that there were 34,000 people within the 15-kilometre zone, and the demographic assessment would be redone. Pete Wilkinson recalled that at Fukushima, US advice to their nationals had been not to go within 80 miles of the site.

### 3. **SIZEWELL B REPORTS**

#### 3a. **Sean Verrall, Engineering Manager, EDF**

##### 4014 Operation of the Station

The station had been operating at full load and safely. There had been no nuclear reportable events, no lost time injuries, and no environmental incidents.

##### 4015 Refuelling Outage

The station would shortly be shut down for its 16<sup>th</sup> refuelling outage. It would shut down for seven weeks for routine works including refuelling the reactor and undertaking maintenance, as well as a number of projects focused on long-term

safe and reliable operation. 1,200 specialist contractors would be coming to the site. A strong emphasis had been placed on road traffic safety, and the impact on the local community.

4016 Community Benefit

£257,380 had been awarded in grants since 2012, into local community projects, particularly those related to access to amenities. They were interested in local applications for grants. There had also been investment in local Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), via the Visitor Centre.

**Questions to EDF**

4017 Mike Taylor queried whether it was possible to carry out noise tests on Sizewell B during the outage. Sean Verrall said that it would be possible, but clarity would be needed on reasoning. Mike Taylor said that there was a noise limit in the site licence conditions.

4018 Mike Taylor queried whether EDF had seawater temperature data, as the data in the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) website was from 2013. **The Chair would take this question away for an answer.**

4019 Mike Taylor queried what was in the nuclear site licence area for Sizewell C, as there was some confusion. **The Chair asked him to submit the question in writing, for clarification.**

**3b. Daniel Gregory Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation**

4020 The site licence boundary should be physically marked, and Daniel Gregory could check whether Coronation Wood was included. **Daniel Gregory agreed to provide this information.**

**Questions to the ONR**

4021 Mike Taylor queried what was involved in the control systems referenced in the report. Daniel Gregory explained that it was the whole of the plant control system, and not the systems that automatically shut down the plant. It was for operational tasks, and was being replaced during the outage. Sean Verrall commented that it would not affect any safety-related controls. **The Chair asked for a report back at the next meeting. Daniel Gregory noted that there were a number of outage-related activities which would feature in the next report.**

**3c. Richard Lee, Environment Agency**

4022 Non-compliance had been identified in February, where a tank of effluent had been discharged without appropriate testing having been done in advance. This had been disappointing, and a warning letter had been issued. The Environment Agency was satisfied with the response taken. It had been wastewater containing effluent from the turbine hall, non-radioactive. The mistake had been human error; the tank had been within limits, but it had been a technical breach.

**Questions to the EA**

4023 The Chair invited questions to the Environment agency, but none were forthcoming.

**3d. Sizewell B – planning application**

4024 Sean Verrall said the consultation had been held on relocated facilities in January. This had now closed, and an application had been formally made to East Suffolk Council, and the period for comments would run until mid-June. It was acknowledged to be a contentious project. It was an essential part of enabling works for Sizewell C; the vast majority of the work was about like-for-like building

moves within the nuclear licence site. The one exception was the relocation of the outage car park to the back end of Pillbox Field. That piece of work, though part of the relocated facilities proposal, would not begin until after there was approval for Sizewell C.

### **Questions to EDF**

- 4025 The Chair queried what would go in Coronation Wood. Sean Verrall said that this area was being designated for a storage area, equivalent to the outage store on the north side, as well as a visitor centre and training centre. The Chair noted that it was a wood enjoyed by the community as a visual buffer. Sean Verrall said that the site had been reviewed, and the quality of the wood was low. The Chair said that EDF were the people who had been maintaining the wood, and if it was poor she was surprised the SSG had not been told before. Sean Verrall said that they had been maintaining the wood, and had had to remove a number of trees.
- 4026 Steve Dorcey said that if trees had been removed, then they should have been replanted over a course of years, and suggested that they had deliberately allowed the quality of the wood to deteriorate. Sean Verrall disputed this.
- 4027 Peter Chadwick expressed concern that this was a land-grab of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), using local planning law when it was part of the Sizewell C project. It was wrong for it to be determined by the local planning authority; several councillors worked in the nuclear industry, and there was a conflict of interest with the Council receiving money from the Sizewell operators. Bridleway 19 was a big tourist route, which would be greatly affected. Sean Verrall said that they were following due process for any construction or building works. Many of the policy and approach questions needed to be addressed to the local planning authority. The Chair said that it could be determined by local planning law or as part of the DCO, and there was a difference, including a better deal to the public if dealt with as part of Sizewell C. The public wanted it determined in the larger DCO. The SSG would like EDF to withdraw the application. Sean Verrall did not think they would be withdrawing it, but offered assurance that that part of the development would not continue until Sizewell C was approved. Joan Girling noted that there would be three planning committees, a north committee, a south committee and a strategic planning committee, and it was hoped it would go to the strategic committee in the summer.
- 4028 Bridget Chandler understood that Coronation Wood had featured in the application for the dry fuel store building as a screen. Regardless of the quality, the wood was a visual and audio screen, which should be maintained. It was part of the AONB, and replanting something else would not replace the habitat. Additionally, the footpath proposed to run from the car park to Sizewell B would cross a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). She strongly objected, and felt that EDF had been double-dealing.
- 4029 Trevor Branton said that the wood had not been nurtured in the past 23 years. 5,000 people had been involved in construction of Sizewell A, as with Sizewell B, and the quoted numbers involved in the construction of Sizewell C were the same. He was unclear why additional preparatory building was necessary for this site, which had not been for the other sites. What would benefit the area would be some relief for the roads through the existing A12. The Chair queried whether there would not be room for the Sizewell C present design if the proposed moves were not carried out. Sean Verrall confirmed this; it was facilitative work should Sizewell C go ahead. The Chair felt that supportive communities would turn against the industry over this.

- 4030 Cllr Peter Palmer queried whether some of these buildings would be moved regardless of whether Sizewell C went ahead. Sean Verrall explained that the consent would be to press ahead with facility relocation ahead of the Sizewell C approval and decision. The car park area, however, would not proceed until they were assured the Sizewell C project would go ahead.
- 4031 Cllr Sammy Betson noted that Leiston Town Council had looked at the consultation earlier in the year, and firmly recommended refusal. Their view was that, of itself, the application had no merit and proposed unacceptable incursion into green-field sites. Unless there was an urgency to replace these facilities for compliance there was no reason for the application until the DCO.
- 4032 Bridget Chadwick queried whether multi-storey car parking had been considered. Sean Verrall confirmed that it had been an option explored, and he could feed back on that.
- 4033 Joan Girling said that the only option was to put objections into the district council. There were alternatives to the proposed car park, and if it was not to be proceeded with until Sizewell C was approved then it should not be included. She felt Coronation Wood must not be felled, especially as it was mentioned in the planning conditions of the dry fuel store. She noted that the extant visitors centre was also for Sizewell C. Sean Verrall noted that the footprint and design of the visitor centre would be unchanged, as a like-for-like replacement, with the opportunity of not increasing the footprint further if Sizewell C went ahead. The Chair noted that there were examples elsewhere of training and visitors centres further away from sites.
- 4034 Peter Chadwick noted that national guidelines stated that with proposed development in an AONB, the planning authority must consult Natural England. He queried whether this would be done properly. **The Chair would take this question away for an answer.**
- 4035 Cllr Peter Palmer felt that the stand-alone application had no merit, and was being done because taking extra land because the Sizewell C site was too small would not go down well with the planning inspectorate. This had destroyed faith with the local community.
- 4036 The Chair would circulate the comments to members and officers to get comments back, to go to East Suffolk Council. Sean Verrall appreciated the passion demonstrated, and would feed back the SSG's comments.

#### **4. SIZEWELL A REPORTS**

##### **4a. Allen Neiling, Closure Director, Magnox**

###### **4037 Personnel Change**

Allen Neiling would be leaving his role in September, and the NDA would be taking over all Magnox sites. His replacement would be Ian Cuthbert, currently the Integration Director at Dungeness A.

###### **4038 Safety Report**

There had been no events, injuries or significant releases to report. Safety campaigns on-site related to hazards around asbestos, working at height, and mental health and wellbeing. A monthly site safety culture survey was also conducted, to allow staff to feed back.

###### **4039 Bradwell**

Sizewell managed the Bradwell facility in Essex, and was in the process of demobilising from that facility, which had entered the care and maintenance phase. The ONR had permitted the safety case to be changed from care and maintenance

preparations, to a quiescent period to sit until final site clearance. Packages were still being received at an intermediate waste store at Bradwell, prepared at Dungeness, because there was room to store those packages.

4040 Operations

At Sizewell A, the old National Grid substation was being demolished. Asbestos remediation was underway, to be finalised in July and followed by the demolition of the physical shell. The ponds work was the most complex work on-site, around removal of the remaining waste from the pond. The water level had begun to be drained down, and would continue as waste was removed. 22% of the water had been removed, and completion was projected for late summer/early fall.

Asset care was beginning a new set of projects, so there was not much to report. Asbestos care was ongoing, so that it remained in good condition until funds were available for complete removal. This was expensive, and there was a shortage of asbestos workers.

4041 Socioeconomics

On the socio-economics programme, Sizewell had been very successful in the last year. The NDA and Magnox had given £189,800 contribution to the Long Shop Museum. Russ Rainger thanked the NDA and Magnox for the funding over three years, to allow employment of additional personnel and work on the building itself. Allen Neiling invited further bids for funding.

**Questions to Magnox**

4042 Bill Howard queried whether National Grid is paying for the demolition of the substation. Allen Neiling confirmed that they are; the building had been constructed on NDA land, on lease terms, which included a requirement to remove all hazards.

4043 Cllr Peter Palmer queried what was in the pond water. Allen Neiling said that it was contaminated cooling water, in which splintering of fuel had taken place, leading to sludge at the bottom. The general contaminants were caesium and strontium. The Sizewell pools had been kept very clear over the years, and so it was not as contaminated as others.

4044 Mike Taylor queried how many Magnox workers were on-site, as opposed to contractors. Allen Neiling explained that around 200 people came on-site each day, around 160 of whom worked for Magnox. The contractors were generally asbestos workers and scaffold builders, and the demolition team taking down the substation. Mike Taylor queried whether they knew when their job would be finished. Allen Neiling said that the planned remediation of the site was to 2027, with depopulation as it progressed, but there were no immediate plans for reduction in workforce. The Chair noted the proposal to relocate Sizewell B infrastructure, around which there was some local concern, and consequent interest in asking the NDA around speeding up work at Sizewell A to make a brownfield site available rather than using green-field sites, and Sizewell B relocating car parks and training facilities to the Sizewell A site. Allen Neiling noted that Sizewell A was a small facility, and only a small portion could be made available before the final site clearance. The footprint for this work was significant. Peter Chadwick noted that the Sizewell A site was too small for any windfarm project, but felt the relocation of the Sizewell B to Sizewell A was possible. Allen Neiling noted that the issue was timing of when the facility would be demolished, which would not be until late summer. Conversations had been had to assess viability, however.

4045 Pete Wilkinson queried whether there was irradiated graphite still in the core. Allen Neiling confirmed that there was around 4,400 tonnes. Pete Wilkinson queried whether it was high-level waste which would decay to ILW. Allen Neiling was not

sure; samples had not yet been taken and it had not yet been characterised. Pete Wilkinson queried whether it would have an impact on emergency planning. Allen Neiling said that it was considered ILW, as it was not heat-generating. Cllr Peter Palmer noted that graphite absorbed energy, which could be released as it cooled down. Rowland Cook explained that this was a function of the radiation and the way that graphite aged in that environment.

4046 Cllr Sammy Betson queried whether the car park land might be available, aside from the issue of timescale. The Chair noted that this would depend on the NDA providing funding to accelerate Sizewell A projects. A business case would need to be put together for this and, with the council elections complete, now would be the time to do this. Allen Neiling reiterated that what was being proposed by Sizewell B would not fit on the Sizewell A footprint.

4047 Pete Wilkinson queried the water that would be discharged from the ponds, and what happened with the radionuclides filtered out. Allen Neiling said that they would go into the ILW stream. Pete Wilkinson asked whether the water discharged was still contaminated to small amount. Allen Neiling confirmed that it was within permitted levels.

4048 The Chair noted that she had attended a national meeting at which it had been discovered that the assumptions about Bradwell had underestimated the work to be done. This was being taken into account and looked at.

**4b. Rowland Cook, Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation**

4049 It had been a quiet quarter at Sizewell A, with preparations ongoing for the demolition of the National Grid building, as well as the ponds programme and the Bradwell transfers.

4050 It had been a big scheme of work to prepare the Bradwell site for care and maintenance over three areas: the physical works on-site, the administration arrangements for procedures being adopted by Sizewell, and a programme of training Sizewell people to capture the knowledge of Bradwell. Once the main work had been done to leave the site in a safe state, it had been felt an appropriate point to issue the consent, and monitor the clearance of the remaining portacabins and equipment.

**Questions to the ONR**

4051 The Chair invited questions to the ONR, but none were forthcoming.

**4c. Phillip Fahey, Environment Agency**

4052 A ponds inspection had been carried out, and no non-compliance had been found. There would be some levels of radioactivity in environmental monitoring programmes carried out at all nuclear sites, but these were assessed, and it was not felt there were any issues with very small amounts of radioactivity.

**Questions to the EA**

4053 Cllr Peter Palmer queried heavy metals in discharge. Phillip Fahey explained that the site had a water discharge permit, and there were limits.

4054 Pete Wilkinson queried whether there was caesium and strontium particulate in the discharged water. Phillip Fahey said that there was a requirement with the permit to remove particulate as far as reasonably practical. There were discharge criteria that needed to be met, including particulate. Pete Wilkinson noted that discharged particulate would coagulate and come back ashore, dried out, and blown in the wind. Leukaemia incidence near to Sellafield had been linked to this. He queried whether the Environment Agency tested for where coagulated particulate might come back ashore. **Phillip Fahey said that they could ask Sizewell A to provide**

**discharge criteria and detail how they dealt with discharge. Allen Neiling would provide this.** He noted that sediment sampling was undertaken in the area, as part of the Sizewell A programme, which had increased as the ponds were discharged. Nothing had been found in sediment sampling. Cllr Peter Palmer queried whether real-time monitoring was possible. Allen Neiling said that it was sampled, prior to discharge, in a batch process.

#### **4.d John McNamara, NDA Representative**

##### 4055 Geological Disposal Facility

The site search for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) facility had entered a new phase. An NDA-subsi-dary, Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), was taking forward an engagement process with communities which might be interested in discussing hosting the final repository. RWM would be hosting roadshows, where the NDA would update on issues and RWM would present in-depth on the GDF process. Invites would be sent to SSG members, with the date for a workshop for the South East to be announced.

##### 4056 Magnox Transition

The Secretary of State had two years prior produced guidance on the ending of the contract to run Magnox sites by the Cavendish Fluor Partnership. This two-year period will expire on 1 September. There will be more in-depth information about this on 31 August, but the Cavendish Fluor Partnership will end on 31 August and Magnox will become a direct NDA subsidiary. Recruitment was ongoing for the new Magnox directorate, which was almost complete. Lawrie Haynes would be Chair, and Gwen Parry-Jones would be Chief Executive. The Chair noted that the roadshow would be early July, with the SSG meeting a few weeks after that where there could be a presentation on the transition. It was hoped that Allen Neiling would be at the July meeting with his successor, for the SSG to thank him properly

##### 4057 One NDA

A process was ongoing of closer integration between the NDA and the Site Licence Companies. The cultural change was towards more direct integration and easier movement between the companies. The cultures of some of the organisations had not always dovetailed as desired.

##### 4058 Socioeconomics

The NDA was looking at its socio-economic programme. Part of its remit is to ensure sustainable futures for nuclear communities post-nuclear. This would be standardised in approach. They had recently given £5 million to the redevelopment of Scrabster Harbour near Dounreay. Bids were invited for projects of sustainable and social value to the area of operation.

#### **5. Review and agree the minutes circulated**

##### **5a. Minutes of the last main meeting held on 14 February 2019**

4059 The Chair had received no changes, but if there were any then attendees were invited to send them in.

##### **5b. Other matters arising from minutes and action tracker or correspondence received**

4060 The Chair noted that some changes had been made to the action tracker with updates with answers from the Environment Agency. This would come back after the meeting.

#### **6. Review of Constitution and membership/declarations of interest**

4061 The Chair noted that there had been no requests for changes, but she invited members to let her know of any in the following two weeks.

## **7. Membership**

### **7a. Welcome new individual members representing Town/Parish, District & County Councils**

4062 The Chair welcomed new members, and noted that not all of the councils had had meetings to determine their new representatives.

### **7b. Confirmation of co-opted members**

4063 There had been requests for co-optation from Joan Girling, Bill Howard and Alan Hatt. These were agreed as per the constitution, and they were welcomed.

## **8. Any Other Business**

4064 There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

### **Next Meeting date TBC**

#### Glossary:

ACoP	Approved Codes of Practice
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
DEPZs	Detailed Emergency Planning Zones
DCO	Development Consent Order
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
ICRP	International Commission on Radiological Protection
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NHS	National Health Service
ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation
OPZ	Outline Planning Zone
PAR	Project Assessment Report
REPPiR	Radiological Protection / Emergency Preparedness and Response
RWM	Radioactive Waste Management
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Regulations