

Sizewell Stakeholder Group

Sizewell B report - October 2020

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1. Safety performance and staffing

Station Safety Performance

We measure our safety performance against top tier indicators, including nuclear reportable events, environmental events, and staff and contract partner recordable injuries. During the period of the report there has been:

- No injuries to staff
- No nuclear reportable incidents
- No environmental incidents

Staffing at Sizewell B

We currently have **536** EDF staff this includes **13** Apprentices, **6** Trainees, **2** Industrial Placements and **11** Visitor Centre staff and 250 year round contracting partners.

2. Generation

Sizewell B back to full power following support to National Grid ESO

Sizewell B power station returns to full power on Friday 25 September back to generating 1200MW of low carbon electricity. Sizewell B had agreed to remain at 50% output until 24 September 2020, as the demand for electricity has fallen sharply as a result of paused economic activity during the Covid-19 pandemic. National Grid ESO requested EDF's support back in April to help manage the impact on power demand.

The agreement involved halving output at Sizewell B for a period of over 4 months and ran in parallel to the ESO's existing balancing of all forms of electricity generation.

The ability to deliberately reduce supply from various sources, including nuclear, has provided important help in managing these unprecedented conditions.

National Grid ESO has a target to make the grid capable of operating with 100% low carbon electricity by 2025. Not only is nuclear compatible with this target, but it is necessary to make it possible. Nuclear provides an important mechanical benefit to the system called 'inertia' which wind and solar do not. Inertia acts like a shock absorber, helping the grid absorb constantly occurring changes in electricity demand and supply.

New nuclear plants can also offer flexibility. In France, the system is dominated by nuclear power and the nuclear fleet's output turns up and down in response to demand. The EPRs that are being built at Hinkley Point C will be capable of flexible operation.

To achieve Net Zero, the UK needs nuclear - to provide low-carbon electricity irrespective of the weather or time of day and to make the system operable without fossil fuels.

The shutdown of the turbine has given the Sizewell B team the opportunity to safely and successfully carry out planned routine maintenance work activities. This has all been completed while we manage the Covid-19 risks.

As previously communicated, as a result of operating at reduced power we have taken the decision to move the start of our next refuelling outage to March 2021.

Please click on the link below for a daily update of the status of our eight nuclear power stations. The link will show which nuclear reactors are in service and what they were generating at the time the information was updated. You

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can also see which reactors are out of service, what the reasons are and when we expect them to return to service. In addition, we have included the expected timing of the next statutory outage of each nuclear reactor.

<http://www.edfenergy.com/energy/power-station/daily-statuses>

Station performance

On Saturday 22 August Sizewell B was automatically brought offline following an electrical switch board fault on the non-nuclear area of the power station. The reactor and turbine 1 was safely shut down.

Following investigation, the issue was resolved and the reactor and turbine 1 was safely returned to service and re-synchronised to the National Grid on Sunday 23 August.

This is the first time that the station has been brought offline in this way for over 8 years and is indicative of the world class performance of Sizewell B.

3. Sizewell B and community news

Leadership changes at Sizewell B

Robert Gunn, is now taking on the role of Station Director at Sizewell B, formerly Station Director at Torness power station. Robert has over 26 years of experience, including almost 20 years in senior leadership positions.

Jon Yates, remains as Plant Manager at Sizewell B and Paul Morton, is now Chief Nuclear Officer within the Generation business.

Covid response

At Sizewell B we are continuing to manage our footfall of staff on site and have brought in a number of measures to protect our key workers safety:

- Formation of a Site Pandemic Working group
- Phased approach for staff to return to work
- Encourage homeworking and flexible working
- Risk assessments for all offices and buildings
- Maintaining 2m social distancing and hand hygiene
- Use of face masks
- Introduced one way systems and keep left walkways
- Introduced staggered start of day patterns
- Enhanced onsite cleaning
- Using technology for onsite meetings wherever possible
- Installation of heat detection cameras and testing

Sizewell B application to the Environment Agency

Sizewell B is applying to the Environment Agency, to change the permit for the release of Carbon-14 at the station.

All nuclear power stations are strictly regulated, and sites must monitor their discharges and any effects on the environment. The Environment Agency is the regulator with responsibility for ensuring sites comply with discharge permits.

This change poses no threat to public health and is still less than the safe levels foreseen during the power station design and very small compared to the amount that is found in the natural environment. The request is to reinstate the original permit limit for Carbon-14. Carbon-14 is produced in very small quantities when we make electricity at the site and is released as methane under a permit from the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency will assess the application from Sizewell B and make a decision on the permit application following public consultation. The consultation is now live, see link below, and will run until the 1st October 2020.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/nuclear/consultation-on-the-variation-of-permit-xb3538dh-t/>

Dry Fuel Store safely completes second campaign

Sizewell B has safely and successfully completed its second Dry Fuel Store Campaign. This campaign has seen irradiated fuel assemblies moved from the fuel storage ponds and are now stored within the Dry Fuel Store Building inside seven Holtec HI-STORMS. The Dry Fuel Store is designed to provide safe storage of fuel until a permanent storage facility is available (the project has adopted a design life principle of 100 years).

The second campaign commenced at the end of January, where three casks were safely transferred into storage. At the end of March a decision was made to pause the campaign for three weeks as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the potential impact to the projects resources. Following a thorough review and completion of risk assessments to ensure the projects process activities protected our people from the threat of Covid-19, the campaign restarted. Each and every task was reviewed and alternative ways of working or mitigations put in place to minimise the risk of potentially passing the infection within the team. The team has now safely completed the project with a further four Multi-Purpose Canisters now safely stored in the Dry Fuel Store.

Relocated Facilities at Sizewell B

The planning application approved in September 2019 which is subject to a Judicial Review claim was heard in front of the Judiciary on 8th September 2020. The outcome is still awaited.

During August EDF held a public consultation seeking feedback on revised proposals for relocating some facilities across the Sizewell B power station site.

Summary of scheme changes are:

- Pillbox Field would remain a greenfield site, with some additional planting provided.
- The training centre would be reduced in height, so would be less visible within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- We propose to use previously developed Sizewell A land.

We are preparing to submit a planning application to East Suffolk Council for the relocation of these facilities later in the year.

Filmed tour of Sizewell B launched to support local students

Sizewell has reopened its visitor centre with a new filmed tour of the power station to support continued learning during the pandemic for those high schools not able to make visits to the site.

The filmed tour is presented by 20-year-old Sizewell B Graduate Apprentice, Poppy Able. Poppy went to Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham and joined the power station after completing her A-Levels and a work experience placement at Sizewell B.

The short film has been launched so education tours can continue either at the visitor centre or, where that is not possible, in school classrooms. It will be used to complement the curriculum for GCSE students and as part of Young Sizewell C, an initiative to deliver support and guidance to 16-21 year olds considering their next steps. Sizewell C announced this week that the project aims to recruit 1,500 apprentices, offering an excellent career path for local students as Sizewell B has for Poppy Able.

Those wanting to book a visit to Sizewell B or see the filmed tour should contact the Sizewell Visitor Centre 01728 653974.

Contacts:

Marjorie Barnes, Senior External Communications Manager
Tel: 07515295488, 01728 653378
Email: Marjorie.barnes@edf-energy.com

Niki Rousseau, Community Relations
Tel: 01728 653258
E-mail: niki.rousseau@edf-energy.com