



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2022**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

Marianne Fellowes	Independent Chair, Co-Opted Member
Pete Wilkinson	Deputy Chair
Trevor Branton	Co-Opted Member
John Carey	Staff Rep Magnox Sizewell A
Cllr Nicky Corbett	Leiston Town Council
Declan Foy	Staff Representative EDF Sizewell B
Rachel Fulcher	Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth
Joan Girling	Co-Opted Member
Pat Hogan	Sizewell Residents' Association
Cllr Maureen Jones	Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Cllr Peter Palmer	Aldeburgh Town Council
Cllr Russ Rainger	East Suffolk District Council/Snape Parish Council
Cllr Craig Rivett	East Suffolk Council (Portfolio Holder for Economic Development)
Cllr Mary-Anne Woolf	Leiston Town Council

Operators and Officers

Sohail Ashraf	Site Director Sizewell A and Bradwell
Carolyn Barnes	East Suffolk Council (Transport & Infrastructure Manager)
Marjorie Barnes	EDF Senior External Communications Manager
Shannon Bowie-Wooler	Minute Taker
Tracey Finn	Magnox SSG Secretariat
Daniel Gregory	Office of Nuclear Regulation Inspector SZB
Robert Gunn	Station Director Sizewell B
Bill Hamilton	Magnox Communications
Karl Littlewood	Environment Agency Inspector SZA
Alex Lord	Environment Agency Inspector SZB
John McNamara	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Head of Stakeholder Engagement
Kirsty Ramsden	Magnox Communications & Socio-Economic Lead SZA
John Rogers	Office of Nuclear Regulation Inspector SZA
Niki Rousseau	Communications & Community Relations SZB
Andrew Stone	Environment Agency Inspector SZB (previous)
Eirian Vaughan-Lewis	Communications SZA

Members of the public

Alan Hatt
Robert Hoggar
Jenny Kirtley
Mike Taylor
Chris Wilson

Apologies

Graham Bickers
Ian Mallet
Peter Reynolds

Suffolk Association of Local Councils
Suffolk Fire and Rescue
EA Inspector SZA

1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4588 List of attendees will be made available as part of the minutes.

Marianne welcomed the group to today's meeting. Marianne explained that the meeting will be recorded for the purposes of the minutes only and a record of the minutes will be made available publicly after the meeting has concluded. Tribute was made towards Chris Wheeler, who sadly passed away last year, a very active member of the SSG and he will be missed. Marianne asked the SSG group to introduce themselves.

Pete Wilkinson asked, as there has been some time since the last meeting, if questions that are unable to be answered during today's meeting will be followed up in the future. Marianne confirmed that this will happen.

2. SIZEWELL A REPORTS

A. Sohail Ashrad (Site Director, Magnox)

4589 Sohail explained to the SSG that there have been some exciting developments throughout Magnox, these include during 2021 a new portfolio of work announced. This will see EDF Advance Gas Reactors transferring to the NDA once defueled, with their decommissioning work overseen and managed by Magnox. Magnox and Dounreay will be joining together for future opportunities and better joined up working moving forward.

Sohail delivered his report and highlighted the following points:

4590 Safety and Compliance:

- 2,079 days without a lost time accident. There are 189 staff in total on site.
- Safety reps have been conducting weekly site safety tours with the site director and lead team. Regular ongoing campaigns to focus on safety topics including winter preparedness, human performance and driving safety.
- There has been ongoing work on gull management approach

4591 Covid-19

- Staff on site continue to follow stringent guidelines to keep staff and local communities safe. Staff have been encouraged to volunteer in the vaccination programme.
- Magnox response to Covid-19 has been recognised nationally including:
 - Shortlisted in NDA Group Safety and Wellbeing Excellence Awards (Safe Workplace Award – Meeting the Covid-19 challenge category)
 - Runner up in the UK Nuclear Skills Awards community awards.
- Slight changes were made due to a small outbreak amongst the staff group. This allowed Magnox to look at the testing arrangements. This was for a period of one week.

4592 Sizewell Sustainability Group

- Magnox launched the sustainability strategy last year and the site sustainability action plan activities have included:
 - Installation of LED lighting

- Removal of plastic cups
- Engaging local stakeholders on the provision of habitats for protected bird species at Sizewell.
- Dialogue with Orsted about the Kittiwake colony and what learning can be taken forward for the future.

4593 Turbine Hall – Preparing for demolition

- Progress turbine hall isolation programme which includes alterations to the emergency lighting / cable isolation.
- There will be a complete identification, verification, terminal disconnection, and cable cutting of supplies between turbine hall and reactor building.
- Scoping of the turbine hall demolition plans and the boiler house asbestos strip is currently ongoing.

4594 Ponds Progress

- Work has been ongoing towards the stabilisation of the pond walls, including:
 - Using mobile elevating work platforms
 - De-planting the remaining pipeworks and steelwork
 - Pressure washing walls to meet the decontamination criteria.
 - Focus for 2022/2023 will be on pond floor stabilisation.

4595 Waste Management

- Waste operations team has dispatched the first very low-level waste shipment off site
- Waste handling slab project – this is to create a lay down area for plant and materials for supporting our decommissioning activities.

4596 Asset management

- Emergency control building refurbishment complete and ready for occupation by our teams:
 - installation of new electrical cabling
 - includes new kitchen, mess room, offices, ceilings, flooring, corridor, and heat recovery fresh air ventilation system
- Former National Grid building:
 - investigating routes for electrical supplies
 - legacy portable buildings have been removed, with the remaining buildings to be repurposed
 - ground investigation survey has been completed
 - licensing documentation is now under development

4597 Bradwell annual inspection

- Completed three weeks ahead of programme with around 200 routine tasks undertaken
- Bradwell's care and maintenance phase is currently managed by Sizewell

4598 Future focus

- Next financial year focus will include:
 - Pond floor stabilisation
 - Reactors/boilers – legacy scaffold removal, isolations/disconnections
 - Turbine hall – tender/contract activities, asbestos removal and starting de-plant

4599 Apprentices

- 40 Magnox apprentices to start September 2022, these will include technical apprentices at Sizewell
- Advertising now for two apprenticeships which are being advertised through www.energus.co.uk

4600

Magnox Socio-economics

- £25,000 to East Suffolk Council to support Covid-19 response in Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Community Partnership area (allocated in two tranches as needs identified). This has been allocated to groups responding to residents' needs, including:
 - Saxmundham & District Foodbank
 - IP16 and IP17 Good Neighbour Schemes
 - Access Community Trust (Sax'Cess House)
 - Leiston & District Citizens Advice Bureau
 - Leiston Worry Tree
 - Leiston Foodbank

4601

Socio-economic contacts:

Projects over £1k Haf Morris, Socio-economic Lead - England: Haf.e.morris@magnoxsites.com

Good Neighbour Level (up to £1k) Kirsty Ramsden: Kirsty.Ramsden@magnoxsites.com

2020/21 funding: £208,555

- Kelsale CEVC Primary School garden re-design project – £950
- Saxmundham Art Station – £94,000
 - development of workspace and supportive creative network and hub – £87,000 (NDA)
 - mobile desks with removable screens – £7,000
- Long Shop Community Recovery – £42,005 (NDA)
- Long Shop Community Programme – (£189,800 over 3yrs) £46,600 year 3

2021/22 (to date): £2,699

- Leiston Primary School – £1,000 towards Covid-19 summer house
- Leiston Community Land Trust – £1,000 for two garden waste bins
- AFC Kesgrave U14s Youth Football Team – £699 for football kit

Further information, guidance, and application form:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/magnox-working-with-our-communities

Sohail asked for questions from the SSG, some were posted in advance and Sohail will answer these first.

4602

Maintenance of Sizewell A rigs and the sewage works this will be planned in 2022 weather dependant. Periodic inspections will be ongoing. There was some minor remedial work carried out last year. Regarding the sewerage plant, Magnox holds this responsibility and works were completed in December to bring this to a modern standard. Costs are shared 80:20 between EDF and Magnox.

Marianne shared the questions from the Zoom Chat

4603

Rachel Fulcher: What were the reasons behind cutting the trees down at the front of the building, as these are used by migrating birds? This has caused upset in the local community.

Sohail Ashraf: This was not a piece of work undertaken by Magnox. There had been some dialogue between Magnox and EDF, in terms of our safety case there was no impact. This was not an activity that we had undertaken.

Robert Gunn offered further clarification on the matter

Robert Gunn: During a review with our consultant engineers on the sea defences, recommendations were made that four trees were felled as they could have an impact our sea defences. This was under the EA guidance on Sea and Flood defences.

Marianne: Was there any communication to residents?

Robert Gunn: I am not sure, there was social media information.

Marianne: I was not aware of this, and it was not in the community update.

4604 Joan Girling and Mike Taylor asked the following questions (*responses included under each question for clarity*)

1. You mentioned gull management in your presentation, does this include the Sizewell rigs?

This does not include the well-established Kittiwake colony on the rigs. We have been working alongside Orsted, as they are looking to establish colonies. We will be taking on this learning for the future works.

2. Road Safety training, do all personnel get this and if so, how frequently?

This takes place regularly, and we take several steps to reinforce the standards. We do take the time to advertise what these standards are. There is not a specific training programme, this is common sense and an expectation. When staff have fallen foul of the standards expected we have taken them to task on that. We share this approach with EDF and work together closely to manage this.

3. Are staff and contractors told about the compensation scheme for radiological disease?

I will take this away, and work with our HR Teams to ensure that this is shared via comms.

4. What is the annual and total budget for Sizewell A?

I will need to take this away, as I need to ensure that I can share certain information.

5. Is there an update or new thinking on how the graphite core will be managed?

I will need to take this away, as I need to ensure that I can share certain information.

ACTION: SA to find out and supply answer to q3, 4 & 5 above.

4605 Marianne Fellowes: My question is around the language used in the industry. In your report you mentioned stabilisation of the pond walls. This may make people think that this means that the area is unstable, am I right in thinking this is regular works to ensure that the ponds no longer have water in them?

Sohail Ashraf: The stabilisation refers to dealing with the waste eg the waste water which has been removed and now we are focusing on removing the contamination.

4606 Peter Wilkinson: Could you tell me what happens to the product and contaminants of the pond stabilisation programme, and could you tell me if you do any calculations on what the health impact may be on decontamination process.

Sohail Ashraf: I will need to provide a formal response to this question. What I can say is we have an active Effluent Treatment Plant, and we monitor the discharges under the permit issued by the Environmental Agency.

ACTION: SA to provide formal response.

4607 Comment made by Peter Wilkinson, The SSG is meant to be a liaison between the industry and the community. It appears to me that we are failing on this. To cut down trees that people have an interest in, without telling people what is going on. We need to formalise a method of communication to share with the community and not relying on social media.

Marianne Fellowes: I will take responsibility on some element of this, as it has been unprecedented times and I need to improve on communication. We need to be aware of things as they are happening, rather than through a report. Offer has been made that regular check-ins take place and these have been booked.

Sohail Ashraf: I am happy to do this. I recognise that an open channel is better for all.

B. John Rogers (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

4608 John Rogers delivered his report verbally and highlighted the following points:

- Joint inspection was due to take place in conjunction with the Environment Agency regarding licence condition 32 and 34 (waste management). This is an inspection that I have done on

several sites. This was planned for December but has been postponed due to an increase in Covid-19 cases and rescheduled to March 2022.

- Regular contact has been maintained with the Magnox site; discussions have taken place around asset management. No safety concerns have been raised.
- Traffic management on site is not something that myself or other ONR colleagues have looked at for Sizewell. The sites are older now, and were constructed to different legislation, traffic management was not considered then. John is seeking improvement at another Magnox site; no concerns have been raised for Sizewell.
- Asset Management covers the reactor buildings, turbine hall and office buildings. They contain various risk elements such as electricity and radioactive matters. One of the priority inspections will cover ageing assets in the nuclear industry as concerns have been raised. No concerns at Sizewell. Further reports on the asset management of the Magnox fleet will be issued to all SSGs.

C. Karl Littlewood on behalf of Peter Reynolds (Environment Agency)

4609

Following on from Pete Wilkinson and Marianne Fellowes comments, within the Environment Agency we recognise that it is important to maintain SSG communications, not only to provide information to the community about activities on site but to provide a platform to understand the concerns and values of local stakeholders.

Peter Reynolds is on leave currently, so a full report will be provided upon his return and Karl will deliver a series of highlights at today's meeting.

- The EA has maintained regular contact with the site and continued to support operators to maintain compliance and generally the environmental compliance at their sites.
- The EA role has been able to provide advice and guidance, to maintain an overview and check compliance. Where possible remote inspections took place, in person site visits have been maintained during the period. Exact numbers will be provided on the report.
- Regulatory actions, regulatory position statements were made across the industry to allow nuclear site operators to focus on Key Performance Indicator aspects. This allowed certain relaxation on some monitoring permits, these had no environmental impacts as it was concerning staffing numbers.
- Rife report has been issued and can be found via the below link (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>)

It has shown that there is less than 2% of safe dosage, as per safe levels.

Karl Littlewood invited questions from the SSG

4610

Peter Wilkinson: On the point of the less than 2% of relevant limits, I do hope that the EA acknowledge that the link between safe dosage and risk has been recognised that you may have a low dosage but over a sustained period can still have a significant consequence to that dose. The complacency with which you say that 2% is within the prescribed limit does not really give anyone cause for comfort and, there are different ways of calculating the risk and especially from ionising radiation. I feel that the regulatory body needs to take that on board, and question PHE and CoMARE about the way in which they calculate and set these regulations. We have Sizewell C, and we need to take a different approach to how the risk is calculated.

Karl Littlewood asked for clarification on the question posed

Peter Wilkinson: Do you acknowledge that there are different ways of calculating these limits, as 2% can still have a significant health issue. The regulatory bodies do not accept that there is uncertainty with these methods.

Karl Littlewood: In the UK, the PHE is not part of the EA, and we use the best available scientific evidence put forward. What I would like to highlight, there are limits in the permits and there are overarching conditions on the permits to ensure that operators minimise their discharges and the exposure as much as they practically can. This provides better evidence on how the industry are complying with this.

Peter Wilkinson: I am asking for you to acknowledge that there are uncertainties in these methods of calculations, the same way there was with asbestos and lung cancer from smoking. This will happen with radiation; you need to be aware of that.

Karl Littlewood: I feel this question would be better directed at PHE and CoMARE.

Marianne Fellowes: Certainly, we can pose the questions to PHE around current thinking, as there is a school of thought that low level exposure could have an impact on the health and wellbeing.

Karl Littlewood: The radiological impact to the community is less than 2% and is less than 1% against the average dose that the UK population receives annually.

Marianne Fellowes: Some particulates are a further risk than others, although radiation is a natural phenomenon, it is not conducive to the concerns of the community.

Karl Littlewood: I apologise if I came across like that, I was trying to provide a background to the report that has been issued.

ACTION: Report from PW and question to be forwarded to PHE to answer.

4611 Joan Girling: Do you have any data on the Rim Net system?

Andrew Stone: The results are uploaded to the Rim Net system, so reference data can be obtained if there is an overseas nuclear data.

Marianne: Mike and Joan if you have a particular question about the Rim Net system?

Joan Girling: Is it available online?

Marianne: This will be taken as an action.

ACTION: EA to provide Rim Net data for individual collection sites please, either via circulation of report or specifically in response to this question.

3. NDA REPORTS

John McNamara (NDA) clarified his position on the SSGs. It was confirmed that although these meetings are funded through the NDA, they are community meetings, and the NDA will attend when invited. It is a good opportunity for information to be shared.

John delivered his report to the SSG and highlighted the following points:

4612 Covid-19 Update

- NDA staff are still working at home, there is a progressive managed return to the office taking place. The NDA will continue to adopt a hybrid mix of home and office working. The stakeholder groups are still being consulted on how we continue to respond to the Covid-19 situation and how we engage with external stakeholders.

4613 NDA Sustainability report

- The first NDA Sustainability report was published on 8 March 2020 and was aimed at:
 - Investing in people, communities and protecting the environment for the longer term.
 - Identifying key opportunities and projects to improve sustainability across the NDA group.
 - NDA Group supported participation at the recent COP26 meetings (<https://ukcop26.org/>) and is working to achieve the net zero target.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-sustainability-report-financial-year-april-2020-to-march-2021>

4614 Mission Progress Report

- Published on 4 November
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/814660/Mission_Progress_Report_July_2019.pdf
- The report demonstrates how much progress has been made in our mission since 2005, and how much further is left to go over the next 120+ years.
- Progress and goals have been aligned with those in strategy 4, published in March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-strategy-effective-from-march-2021>

4615 **Nuclear Waste Services**

- NDA's waste division on target to launch 31 January 2022, bringing together LLWR and RWM under a common executive team. It will be known as the Nuclear Waste Services (logo and identity still in development)
- Day to day work for majority of employees will remain unchanged and the departments and functions will be integration following the launch. The new executive team do not take up positions until 31 January 2022.

4616 **New Appointments**

- Adrienne Kelbie has been appointed Chair of Nuclear Waste Services, appointed on 1 January for a period of 3 years. Previously CEO for two terms at the ONR.
- Chris Train has been appointed as non-exec director of the NDA for 3 years. Chris brings experience from the National Grid and Transco and specialises in regulation.

4617 **NDA to decommission Advanced Gas Reactors**

- The NDA has been directed by government to take on future ownership of seven EDF AGR sites for decommissioning.
- Magnox LTD will be responsible for decommissioning the seven sites following the defueling of the seven sites including Dungeness B.
- This is a testament to the skills, knowledge, and experience in the NDA group – and government confidence in NDA's capability to deliver the expectations set by government.

4618 **Theddlethorpe Working Group / Mid Copeland Community Partnership**

- RWM welcomes the formation of the Theddlethorpe Working Group, providing the platform for starting local discussions on the possible siting of a geological disposal facility (GDF).
- Marks the starting point in an exploratory, fact finding and discussion process.
- The Mid-Copeland Community partnership has been formed and brings in the opportunity for further discussions within the local community.

4619 **Personnel Changes**

- Jamie Reed joined the NDA this week to become director for Social Impact
- Dr Sam Harris has joined the NDA as Head of Government Affairs
- Jonathan Jenkins will join BEIS, Simon Napper from RWM will be his replacement moving forward.
- Gillian Elliot joins the Stakeholder team from her current role at Cumbria County Council.

4620 **NDA Supply Chain Event**

- New date 3 February at The International Centre, Telford. This was originally planned for June 2020 and was postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This will be the largest supply chain event in Europe with 1,700 visitors and over 300 suppliers.

4621

NDA – “Keeping the conversation going”

- NDA Stakeholder event took place on 26 November. This was an invite only event and all SSG members were welcome. Virtual conference where stakeholders can ask live questions and hear panels on a live streaming platform. The NDA is looking to hold a similar event in April 2022.

John McNamara invited questions from the SSG

4622

Marianne Fellowes: The NDA stakeholder event was on Glisser. This is not the same as MS teams or Zoom. You can only type your questions in the chat, and then the moderator will determine whether this has been answered or not by the presentation. I have not seen a report from this. I am very much hoping that the April meeting will be held in person, or a different moderation system.

John McNamara: I take that onboard, and on occasions we need to talk to people collectively. There are webinar techniques that we are looking at, it is not ideal, and I will take this back. We have a date in September for the NDA Stakeholder Summit. We are still hoping for that to be a face-to-face meeting, with the possibility of the hybrid solution for those who do not want to travel.

4623

Marianne Fellowes: I would like to offer a comment around BEIS and the NDA, and the lack of independence. I welcome new people joining the board, but they usually come from the industry or from county councils, who are usually pro nuclear development. You said it yourself that BEIS Agenda is the GDF. We need more independent thinking. The Holliday report stated that BEIS and the NDA do not see things the same way.

John McNamara confirmed that this is national policy.

4624

John McNamara provided an update on the land transfer to EDF

Since the last SSG and the special SSG meeting regarding the land transfer, the heads of terms have been agreed for the land transfer and the NDA legal team is drafting the options and documents currently.

The outstanding issue, more clarification was needed on what EDF wanted the land for and an agreement has been reached between Magnox and EDF. Waste and chemical storage has been excluded. The ONR will need to confirm that the site can be relicensed for EDF's purpose. This will be the next stage.

The sale has been structured as a 3-year option agreement, whereby once EDF can option for a lease or for a freehold purchase. At this stage, if you want an additional special meeting with the Land Team please let me know, as they are happy to meet with you.

Marianne Fellowes: I am very disappointed in this result, as we wanted a lease option for EDF as we were hopeful that the land could be decommissioned and returned to the community. Local people do not want virgin land used for the relocation of Sizewell B to make way for Sizewell C. We do not want to use Magnox land to EDF. Our views have not been considered.

John McNamara: They have been considered. The option is for lease or purchase going forward. From our strategy 4 we need to optimise reuse and generate income where we can. In this issue, EDF has made it clear that by using this land there will not be a development on pillbox field. The land is not needed for decommissioning by Magnox.

We have committed to ongoing engagement, and we will commit to an additional special meeting with the land team. John provided a timeline of the sale (subject to change)

- Final agreement on legal drafting – end of January 2022
- National Grid look to surrender lease by end of February 2022
- EDF and Magnox exchange contracts – end of March 2022
- Option of lease or purchase – end of Quarter one 2022
- Operational use of land by EDF – Mid 2023

Peter Wilkinson: I would like to raise the issue; my concern is that the NDA is a publicly funded organisation getting into bed with EDF who are in significant debt. I think there is a larger issue of the decommissioning fund. There is a lot of mystery and uncertainty of who will be paying for this, where will the spent fuel go. This needs to be laid out on the table for us to look at, particularly the funding.

Marianne clarified Pete Wilkinson's question: The nuclear liabilities fund, is that still being committed to.

John McNamara: We have been asked by government to facilitate the programme as more sites come offline. The future of the Nuclear Liabilities Fund is beyond my knowledge. Robert and his team may be more aware of this than me.

Mike Taylor: What we have seen from the presentation from Sizewell A, is the amount of work that is needed and the need to retain workers. What I have seen from the announcement from Dungeness B site by EDF, that it would take ten years to reach defueling. Hunterston by comparison said three years. There appears to be grey areas, and I have found it difficult to find what the budget is for Sizewell A including a future. It appears to me that the government is avoiding proper scrutiny of the final bill for decommissioning.

Marianne Fellowes: We can ask for this in writing. Questions about the land, will come in the special land meeting.

Joan Girling: Could John supply information about the lease and the freehold prior to the meeting.

John McNamara confirmed this was possible.

ACTION: To provide information about the lease and freehold. Follow up meeting to be arranged with the land team.

4. SIZEWELL B REPORTS

A. Robert Gunn (Station Director, EDF)

4625

Marianne confirmed that as the SSG has received the community newsletter, the presentation can be sent out to SSG participants. Marianne asked Robert Gunn to provide answers to the questions that have been raised prior to today's meeting.

Question 1: What the progress of the relocation of Sizewell B infrastructure is. (Answers provided below for clarity)

This is dependent on what happens with Sizewell C, now the site is preparing for the relocation of facilities programme. Work has been carried out such as obtaining planning consents and engaging with local stakeholders. The current plan is to have new training facilities, and an admin office block to be developed. This is a large programme, and the site is in its early days.

4626

Question 2: Background to the pinhole assembly fault and what will be done regarding the cask and what will be done with the lifetime of the cask in general. (Answers provided below for clarity)

During planned works of the dry fuel programme, this was going well and on the final cask we picked up during final testing that there was issue with the fuel pins as soon as this was realised appropriate action was taken. The cask in question is still in the fuel building and is contained in a safe space.

The site kept regulators up to date, and the appropriate safety case is currently being worked through including the appropriate steps to take with that cask. Further updates will be provided.

The dry fuel store safety case confirms that the casks can be held for 100 years, it would be run for an initial 20 years and then 10 yearly reviews following that period.

Marianne Fellowes: This is something that has not happened in the UK before, so it is more serious than you have stated.

Robert Gunn: Sizewell B is the only site in the UK to have this type of system. These are seen across the world. The usual process is to store this on site upon agreement with the regulators.

Marianne Fellowes: This would need to be stored in the ponds, as the UK safety case does not allow this to be stored in the dry fuel storage.

Robert Gunn: There will need to be an amendment to the safety case, as we have not seen this before. The casks are robustly designed, and we would not go ahead without doing the correct changes. To secure the fuel for 100 years, we will need to do some work and review. The SSG will be updated on this.

4657 Question 3: Damage to the Taishan Nuclear Plant and the damage to the rods, and how this would impact Sizewell B.

Robert Gunn: There is no impact to Sizewell specifically, and we are awaiting the reports from our Chinese colleagues.

ACTION: To forward reports or circulation to Members when received.

4658 Question 4: Sea wall and shoal, issues around sea life and whales which was documented in France.

Being part of EDF we are getting initial reports in, and it is early days now. Consideration will be made at our next outage to carry out inspections. There are fundamental design differences between ourselves and those sites. Sizewell B will not be complacent, and this will be reviewed moving forward.

4659 Question 5: Since the shutdown, how much monitoring has taken place and has the regulatory inspections increased? (Thermal Sleeve issue)

Robert confirmed that this will be inspected regularly during outages and we will be picking up on international operating experience from this. Every sleeve was inspected during the last refuelling outage.

4660 Question 6: Monitoring of radioactivity of the site and surrounding areas

Robert Gunn: There has not been any specific increase to this programme. It is line with the regulatory monitoring that takes place.

4661 Question 7: Reason for increased tritium discharges?

Robert Gunn: Not aware that there had been an increase, is there any additional background on this?

Peter Wilkinson: There was an increase to the permit issued by the EA for additional tritium discharges, and this was requested by EDF.

Alex Lord confirmed this was Carbon 14

Robert Gunn: This was due to a specific chemistry issue that we needed to increase the margins.

Peter Wilkinson: What about the health consequences of increasing the Carbon 14 discharges?

Robert Gunn: When we took the EA through this, they were clearly comfortable with the justification.

Marianne Fellowes: Can you put it in into everyday language, why there was a need?

Robert Gunn: I will need to put that into writing, as it was prior to me starting in post.

ACTION: Rational for required increase in Carbon 14 to be circulated to Members.

- 4662 Robert Hoggard: I would like reassurance as the US AD international fuel containers, are only guaranteed for 25 years. What will EDF and your partners do about this situation, are you hoping to make these safe for 100 years?
- Robert Gunn: That is correct, the safety case for the dry fuel storage is for 100 years, with the view to inspect and review regularly. Like most things, the manufacture puts in a limited guarantee for parts and components, there is good confidence that we can go beyond that.
- Marianne Fellowes clarified that the containers are initially licenced for 20 years and then it will be applying for regulatory approval to go beyond the initial 20 years.
- Robert Gunn: That is correct, it will need to be justified properly.
- Marianne Fellowes: At or before the 20-year deadline, the regulator may say that it is not suitable, and other options will need to be looked at. It is difficult when we hear that 'we will use these for 100 years'
- Robert Gunn: Yes that is correct, and reversal is an option and there several technical options to be reviewed.
- Daniel Gregory: The regulatory view on this is that the Dry Fuel store has a 100-year safety case. That is based on the existing casks which are used elsewhere in the world for 20-year periods. It has been recognised that there is not experience in using them beyond that period. Analysis has been carried out, and changes have been made to the casks to increase their life, these are not identical to the ones used in the US. There is a monitoring programme to review these across their lifespan.
- Mike Taylor: Incident that happened during the last outage, this was reported by the ONR – a rupture of the pipework in the cooling water system. Was this a corrosion failure?
- Robert Gunn: An incident took place, where two colleagues had a hot water scald. This was high-density polyethylene pipe that ruptured, it was not a corrosion issue. Detailed investigation took place.
- Mike Taylor: Fuel rod with the pinhole, was this manufactured in France or the UK?
- Robert Gunn: I will take this away and provide feedback.
- ACTION: To provide answer regarding manufacture of fuel rod.**
- 4663 Question 8: Introduction to Robert Gunn
- Robert Gunn: Due to Covid-19, there has been difficulty in getting this information round. Briefings have gone out to confirm my appointment. I am in the process of relocating to Suffolk from Scotland where I have based most of my career. Hopeful to get to meet everyone face to face soon, covid permitting.
- 4664 Question 9: Increase of cars and vans around Leiston
- Robert Gunn: There has been several briefs to staff around driving safely in the area and we will continue to do so. Any feedback on this matter is gratefully received.
- 4665 Question 10: Increase of lighting around the site, causing sky glows.
- Robert Gunn: We have reviewed this, and we cannot see any change in how we operate the site. No additional lighting systems have been installed.
- 4666 Question 11: Reference to ONR correspondence regarding in service inspections
- Robert Gunn: This has been briefed to the SSG by Niki.
- 4667 Question 12: Old vessel reactor head changed
- Robert Gunn: This was changed back in 2008, due to metallurgical issues that were picked up early in the station life. The head has now been dispatched to be recycled and has been sent off site.
- 4668 Question 13: Reactor vessel head and instituting a suitable routine for penetrating wells and operator doses for operators.

Robert Gunn: This is part of the routine inspection, and there were no adverse findings during the last inspection and the regulators are happy with the results.

4669

Question 14: Is it true a seal was caught and died?

Robert Gunn: We have had a couple of seals end up in the fore bay and one has been removed and one is still there. We have used expert support and they have/will be released back into the sea. There has been no feedback that the seal has died.

Marianne Fellowes: How does this happen, as I thought the filters were smaller?

Robert Gunn: The intake that is out in the foreshore, there must be a hole in the grating and travelled up through and feeding on the fish. We will do remedial works during the next outage.

Marianne Fellowes: What was the humanitarian agency that you involved to support with the removal?

Robert Gunn: We used a charity-based organisation.

Marianne Fellowes: This was not shared with us, and the information came third hand.

Robert Gunn: It is not uncommon for marine life to enter Power Stations. If this is of interest to the community we will ensure this is shared moving forward.

Questions from the SSG

4670

Peter Wilkinson: Question that was put through to you by John McNamara around in service inspections was quite complicated and had many sub questions, are you able to go through that in your own time and provide a response? I have requested a copy of the ISI regarding the control rod mechanism issue, are you able to provide that?

Robert Gunn: I will come back to you on this with a written response.

ACTION: ISI regarding control rod mechanism issue and other answers to questions to be provided.

4671

Peter Wilkinson: Revised REPPIR requirements in terms of emergency planning, will they be put to the community for acceptance rather than just the industry?

Robert Gunn: I do not know the answer to that, I am not aware of the consultation process, and I would need to check with the regulator.

ACTION: REPPIR revision and community consultation? RG to enquire and report back.

4672

Joan Girling: I understand that you do not feel there is any increase to the lighting. For some reason the lighting on the frontage of Sizewell A & B is more than it used to be. Maybe there needs to be some considerations to lower the lighting, or to the angle. Secondly, for the road safety, there have been incidents of speeding and accidents on the Lover's Lane road. Would Sizewell be willing to put pressure on the council to implement a much-needed speed limit?

Robert Gunn: This is something that we can have a look at.

ACTION: as above on reducing the lighting and speed limit on Lover's Lane

4673

Chris Wilson: What monitoring is being undertaken at Sizewell to record the mortality of small fish, impinging on the cool water system such as Gobi, Lamprey, Sand Eels, Spratt, Anchovy and Pilchard? This question has been prompted by a report by Marine Ecologist Dr Peter Henderson, which he explains based on his experience.

Robert Gunn: From personal experience we do not get a lot of fish that come through our intake system. A detailed review will need to be taken by Sizewell C to review the effectiveness of providing power versus the environmental impact and the EA will be heavily involved in this.

Chris Wilson: The issue is you are not capturing the data, as Dr Peter Henderson was saying that millions of these small creatures go through the grills and through the cooling water system, but do not reach the pump sampler. You do not have the knowledge to say that these fish are being killed.

Robert Gunn: We will do some work on that and provide a written reply.

Marianne Fellowes: We will provide you with the report so you can comment against that.

Alex Lord: Fish impingement would have been considered in the initial permitting and licencing of the station; I am aware that further work has been done on the revised eel regulations back in 2014. We asked sites to review best practice for screening, this can be provided to the SSG.

Significant work is going on to understand the effects and the impact of fish impingement and cooling water intake at Hinckley C, and a similar level of scrutiny will take place for Sizewell C. We will look at what data is captured and how.

ACTION: CW to provide report to Secretariat and SZB & EA to comment please.

4674 Pat Hogan: I wanted to say thank you to EDF, firstly for changing your plans for the use of Pillbox field and for the change in height of the intended building. Thank you for your work at Kenton Hill and thank you for arranging the covid vaccine vehicle to site and offering residents to come to site to receive this.

4675 Jenny Kirtley: As you were aware there was an event where over 600 attended to protest about Sizewell C and I wondered why the drone was not allowed, even though it had been used twice before and permission was granted.

Robert Gunn: It wasn't a personal issue, this is a restrictive air space as per the Civil Aviation rules, there is no flights allowed within a certain area.

B. Daniel Gregory (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation)

Daniel offered his response to earlier questions posed during the meeting:

4676 Relocated Facilities: We have remained engaged with the site, NDA and Magnox and we will have a process to assess any changes to the boundaries and we are awaiting further information from Magnox and EDF.

4677 Damage Fuel Cask: There were three possibilities on how to move forward A) the cask could stay where it is now, which would be fine from a regulatory perspective but would significantly impede operations. B) It could be retrieved, whilst they do not need our permission we would be interested in inspecting the process. C) any other option would need a safety case.

4678 Taishan Fuel Rods: We have a separate engagement with the Chinese, Finnish, and French regulators.

Daniel Gregory invited questions from the SSG

4679 Peter Wilkinson: What are the consequences of the Taishan issue for Sizewell C. There must be some consequences, as they are trying to build these things in the UK.

Daniel Gregory: We are awaiting the results of the Chinese investigation; we have routine communication with the regulators and the site licensee is conducting their own inspection. Until we know the root cause, it is too early to say what the impact would be.

Peter Wilkinson: As far as I am aware you have not said anything to the inspectorate, surely there must be some caution as they have gone wrong in China, and we are building these in the UK.

Daniel Gregory: we have acknowledged that they have gone wrong. It will be dependent on the root cause.

Marianne Fellowes: I understand that the option would be to stop development of future stations, until we know what went wrong. This is government policy, and that will not change now. The ONR is an independent regulator, and we would encourage them to maintain their independence and understand our concerns.

Peter Wilkinson: I disagree, I do not think that the ONR are an independent organisation, I feel they are an enabling organisation for government policy.

Daniel Gregory: I fundamentally disagree that we are not an independent regulator, what I can commit to is to inform the SSG of what updates I receive.

4680 Robert Hoggar: How can we proceed with Hinkley Point and Sizewell C, following comments from French and American Engineers of distinction. Why are we still moving forward with these projects at great expense.
Daniel Gregory: I feel that would be a better question for EDF, from a regulatory perspective then we are aware of what standards they would need to meet.

4681 Mike Taylor: The issue fuel problem and the pinhole, is that cask in the dry fuel store or the ponds building?
Daniel Gregory: It is in the ponds building
Mike Taylor: How was this issue detected?
Daniel Gregory: At several points, they test for failed fuel. During this routine test they found failed fuel and it is stored in the ponds.
Joan Girling: We have previously had a presentation on the fuel storage, it would be helpful for new members to have this. It would also be helpful if we could have a briefing, as we get asked questions. This briefing from Sizewell A and B, and any updated information for Sizewell C.
Marianne Fellowes: We will work to get monthly briefings issued, and we will work with EDF and Magnox to achieve this.

ACTION: Secretariat to invite attendance and reports from EDF Energy re: SZC regarding fuel storage and other matters relating to operational issues.

C. Alex Lord (Environment Agency)

4682 Alex introduced himself as the new EA Inspector for Sizewell B and has taken over from Andrew Stone.
Inspections have continued, and where onsite inspections allow we have done this. No significant issues found, and no permit breaches issued in this timeframe.

4683 Relating to the Carbon 14 permit variance, EDF applied in July 2020 and a public consultation was carried out. After a period of scrutiny, the variation permit was issued in September 2021. Full details can be found <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/nuclear/consultation-on-the-variation-of-permit-xb3538dh-t/> This details the reasons why the permit was issued.

EDF exceeded the quarterly notification level for discharges for Carbon 14, the report does detail this in full. Exceedance of QNL is not a permit breach, it is to flag elevated levels and would trigger a review if EDF did not proactively approach us about this. No other QNLs have been breached, the report will be issued within the next few weeks.

4684 Alex invited questions from the SSG
Joan Girling: We have noticed that the government have intentions to bring regulators and agencies together. How will that reflect your role?
Alex Lord: I am not sure what you are referring to there, and I have not been made aware that the EA Nuclear will be moved to another area.
Joan Girling: We hear that there are moves afoot to join EA, Natural England etc. into one organisation. As you have not heard, I do not expect you to answer. We have it in mind, and questions continue to be asked.
Alex Lord: I will ensure that if there are changes these will be presented to the SSG,

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

- A. Minutes of the last main meeting held on 2nd October 2020
- B. Minutes of the special SSG meeting held on 5th March 2021
- C. Other matters or correspondence received

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4685 Due to time constraints this agenda item was not addressed in the meeting and will be dealt with via email.

ACTION LIST

Ref number	Brief description	Who responsible	Update/comments
4604 (3)	Are staff/contractors told about the Radiological Disease compensation scheme?	SA and RG	
4604 (4)	What is SZA annual budget?	SA	
4604 (5)	What is latest plan for Graphite core decommissioning?	SA	
4606	What happens to the products & contaminants of Ponds stabilization programme & how are health impacts calculated?	SA	
4610	Report sent to SA to be forwarded to PHE to comment re: impact of low level radiation on public health	PW/ Secretariat	
4611	Rim net data to be circulated to members so level at individual collection sites could be understood.	EA	
4624	SZA land NDA to provide lease & freehold documentation, ahead of follow up meeting with Land team	JMcN/NDA Land team	
4657	Taishan – damage to fuel rods, circulate report when received	RG	
4661	Rational for increase in Carbon 14 to be circulated to Members	RG	
4662	Where was fuel rod manufactured that developed pin hole?	RG	
4670	ISI for control rod mechanism and other questions – to be answered	RG	
4671	What public consultation on revised REPPIR emergency planning requirements?	RG	
4672 (i)	Can light pollution be reduced at SZB	RG	
4672 (ii)	Would SZB work with SCC Highways regarding speed limit on Lovers Lane	RG	
4673	Prof Henderson report (small fish in cold water system) – comments needed from EA and SZB	CW to provide, AL & RG to respond	
4681	Future fuel storage and update/attendance by EDF Energy so they can address SZC overlap issues	Secretariat to invite	