

Report to Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group

July 2017

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period between March and June 2017.

Our Regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance with the permits by making regular inspections at Sizewell A & B.

Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs) detailing our inspections and any non-compliances found are placed on the Public Register.

We also regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including surface water discharges to surrounding water bodies and emissions to air from emergency diesel generators. We are also the joint technical authority, alongside the Health & Safety Executive for the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) regulations that apply to Sizewell B.

Current Regulatory Activities

Sizewell A

Bradwell power station will be entering care and maintenance in 2018. Sizewell A will be the "buddy" site when Bradwell enters care and maintenance and will be responsible for compliance to the Bradwell environmental permit. On 15th March we attended a meeting where we discussed with Magnox staff from Bradwell and Sizewell A how the handover of knowledge and responsibilities will take place. We were reassured that Magnox have actions in place to ensure a smooth process going forward.

On 20th April we carried out an inspection on management arrangements at Sizewell A. We also had a catch up meeting before the inspection with the Operator where we discussed various site related

issues and how decommissioning is progressing. There were no non-compliances noted from the inspection.

On 5th June we attended the 2nd annual regional review of safety security and environment with the Office of Nuclear Regulation. This was hosted by Magnox at Bradwell and encompassed a review of activities at all 3 South East sites (Sizewell A, Dungeness A and Bradwell).

Sizewell B

We have carried out two inspections in the period March- June. Our inspection in March looked at the Gaseous Radioactive Waste System (GWRS), specifically the gaseous discharge points and associated sampling equipment. A further inspection was undertaken in May focusing on the Liquid Radioactive Waste System (LRWS). Both systems measure the volume and radioactivity of liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment from Sizewell B. They are also used to clean up discharges before release, if required.

The main purpose of the inspections was to ensure that Sizewell B power station is compliant with its environmental permit for the discharge of radioactive effluents (Liquid and Gaseous) to the environment and to ensure that Best Available Techniques (BAT) continue to be used to ensure that radioactive discharges are minimised.

Overall from our inspection we noted no non-compliances associated with the monitoring, measurement and release of discharges from the station to the environment.

Enforcement

We have taken no enforcement action and noted no non-compliances during the period March – June 2017 for Sizewell A or Sizewell B.

Discharge Reports

The operators at Sizewell A and B are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. These reports are placed on the public register.

Liquid and gaseous discharges from both Sizewell A and Sizewell B sites were at levels well within

permitted limits and no Quarterly Notification Levels (QNLs) were exceeded in the period.

Other News

Prolonged Dry Weather

The East Anglia Region has been upgraded from normal to an area with 'Prolonged Dry Weather'. This does not mean that drought is imminent, but that the Environment Agency is carefully monitoring the impacts of the prolonged dry weather on the environment.

If you notice any effects from dry weather impacting on the environment such as fish dying due to reduced river flow- Please report them via our 24 hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 (For further details please see <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>)

Also please look at information from Water Wise on ways in which you can save water.

<http://www.waterwise.org.uk/pages/save-water.html>

Contacts

The Environment Agency's Regulators for the Sizewell A and Sizewell B sites are Phil Fahey and Victoria Thomas respectively. Phil and Victoria are both Nuclear Regulators and part of the Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

Phil and Victoria undertake environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England and Wales. They work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

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