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RADIATION (EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION) REGULATIONS 2001 (REPPIR)

SIZEWELL OFF-SITE EMERGENCY PLANING AND PRIOR INFORMATION AREA

Dear Mr Watkins and Mr Crawford

As you are aware, ONR has been re-determining the REPPIR off-site emergency planning area⁽¹⁾ and the area within which prior information shall be supplied to members of the public⁽²⁾ around Sizewell A and B nuclear licensed sites, as prescribed in REPPIR Regulations 9(1) and 16(1) respectively.

This process was initiated by the Report of Assessment (RoA) sent to ONR by Magnox Ltd, which indicates a significantly decreased radiological hazard presented by the Sizewell A site. The reduction in hazard is consequent to the removal of the majority of the used reactor fuel from the Sizewell A site. ONR has also received a RoA from EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd that indicates no change in the radiological hazard presented by the Sizewell B site.

This determination is coincident with the development and publication of ONR's revised principles for the determination⁽³⁾ of such areas.

This letter is to inform Magnox Ltd and EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd, as the operators with responsibility under REPPIR for supplying prior information to members of the public around the Sizewell nuclear licensed sites, of the following:

1. ONR notes that, in accordance with the requirements of REPPIR Regulations 5 and 6, Magnox Ltd and EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd have reviewed their respective Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluations for the Sizewell A site and Sizewell B station and have submitted their Reports of Assessment to ONR.
2. ONR has completed its assessment of these submissions and has concluded that these Reports of Assessment satisfy the requirements of Regulation 6(4) and Schedule 5 of REPPIR, and that an off-site prior information area continues to be required.
3. In accordance with Regulations 9(1) and 16(1) of REPPIR, ONR has determined the REPPIR off-site emergency planning and prior information area around Sizewell nuclear licensed sites to be the area within the blue line on the map attached to this letter. The area defined by this



map may be generally described as: *A land area informed by 6-figure postcodes located within a circular radius of approximately 2-3 km with an enhanced boundary to include the conjoined town of Leiston and the majority of the village of Aldringham, and an approximately rectangular seaward area that commences at the points where the land area reaches the coast and extends eastwards (approximately perpendicular to the coast) 2 km out to sea.*

4. ONR is satisfied that there has been a significant reduction of risk associated with the Sizewell A site, and that the risk associated with the Sizewell B site has broadly remained unchanged. As a consequence, ONR is satisfied that the overall risk presented by the two licensed sites has reduced. However, this re-determination represents an effective increase in the size of the REPPiR off-site emergency planning and prior information area when compared with the current circular area of radius 2.4 km. This enhanced planning area does not mean that ONR has identified a greater risk for those living near the site; but recognises the learning that has emerged from global events such as occurred at Fukushima and the need to review the scope of off-site emergency planning.
5. The enhanced planning area reflects the site specific application of ONR's revised principles and related guidance for determination of REPPiR off-site emergency planning areas (which were revised in 2013 and published on the ONR website in January 2014). The area specified is broadly similar to the current area but with boundaries now defined by post-codes, and enhanced so as to avoid the bisection of the conjoined conurbation of Leiston and the majority of the village of Aldringham; where additional off-site emergency planning would be of benefit in protecting the public and restricting exposures so far as is reasonably practicable in the event of a reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency. The changes are part of ONR's continuous improvement process to review emergency planning for the protection of the public in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency.
6. Sizewell is the first site where ONR's revised principles have been applied to determine the extent of the off-site emergency planning under REPPiR. The principles will be successively deployed to all other UK nuclear facilities that ONR regulates.
7. In addition to arrangements under REPPiR, operators are required (in accordance with the standard conditions attached to their nuclear site licenses) to make and implement adequate arrangements for dealing with any accident or emergency arising on the site and their effects⁽⁴⁾. These arrangements extend beyond the on-site response to include certain pre-determined urgent countermeasures to protect those living close to the site. The area covered by these urgent countermeasures has, until now, been the same as the local authority's emergency planning area under REPPiR.
8. As a result of ONR's re-determination of the coincident REPPiR off-site emergency planning⁽¹⁾ and public information⁽²⁾ areas identified within the blue line on the map attached to this letter, Suffolk County Council and the licensees have the duty to revise their respective arrangements accordingly. For your information, a copy of the letter advising Suffolk County Council of the revised REPPiR off-site emergency planning area is also attached.

I have copied this letter to Sizewell A and B lead Trade Union Representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Urquhart
Superintending Inspector (Nuclear Safety)

- (1) The Sizewell REPPiR off-site emergency planning area is the area for which Suffolk County Council is required, under REPPiR Regulation 9(1), to produce an off-site emergency plan for the protection of persons who are, or potentially may be, located in this area in the event of a radiation emergency. The plans will include public information and a range of protection and range of countermeasures and other protection measures relevant and proportionate to the radiological hazards associated with Sizewell A and B nuclear licensed sites, at appropriate locations within the area. In developing the REPPiR off-site emergency plan, the local authority is required to consult a range of persons including the operators, ONR, the Emergency Services, the relevant health authority, and such other persons, bodies and authorities and members of the public as it considers appropriate.
- (2) The Sizewell REPPiR off-site prior information area is the area within which the operators are required under REPPiR Regulation 16(1) to supply to members of the public as a minimum, in an appropriate manner and without their having to request it, the information specified in Schedule 9. The operator shall also make that information publicly available.
- (3) ONR's revised principles for determination of REPPiR off-site emergency planning areas can be found at: <http://www.onr.org.uk/depz.htm>.
- (4) The on-site and urgent countermeasure provisions of the licensee, and the off-site emergency plan put in place by the Local Authority would be complimented by wider food restrictions as determined by the Food Standards Agency in accordance with the Food and Environment Protection Act, 1985.

Distribution

Suffolk County Council: [Redacted]

Licensees: [Redacted]

Site/ Station Directors: [Redacted]

Trade Union Representatives: [Redacted]

ONR: [Redacted]

Map: ONR determination of the REPPiR off-site emergency planning area and the REPPiR prior information area around the combined Sizewell A and B nuclear licensed sites.

The area defined by this map may be generally described as:

A land area informed by 6-figure postcodes located within a circular radius of approximately 2.4 km with an enhanced boundary to include the conjoined town of Leiston and the majority of the village of Aldringham, and an approximately rectangular seaward area that commences at the points where the land area reaches the coast and extends eastwards (approximately perpendicular to the coast) 2km out to sea.

Sizewell REPPiR Regulations 9(1) and 16(1) Off-site Emergency Planning and Off-site prior information areas from 25 April 2014:

