

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE DECEMBER 2011 MEETING OF
THE SIZEWELL A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Since the last meeting I have visited Sizewell A four times and Sizewell B once; I plan to visit Sizewell A once more before the 1st December meeting.

Other duties undertaken have been: attending the half-yearly briefing for Magnox SSG Chairman in London on 6 October, meeting with Nigel Smith as part of his induction as a new member on 18 October, attending in Manchester on 21 October (as the County Council's representative to NuLEAF – the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum) a briefing from Dr Andy Hall, ONR Deputy Chief Inspector, on the Fukushima Report, chairing the Sub-Group meeting on 31 October, meeting Donald Urquhart the new Sizewell A ONR Inspector on 1 November, and attending the half-yearly EPCC meeting on 3 November, the report of which appears below. As usual, I have met the Site Directors of both A & B during the quarter.

With the Deputy Chairman (who has been assigned a place) I will be attending the NDA National Stakeholder Event in Manchester on the 23 and 24 November. This event has now become annual rather than biannual and has been reduced in size and time, with only one overnight stay. I am told the whole cost of the event, excluding travel costs, will be kept to within the budget of £10,000. The Deputy Chairman will give a verbal report on this meeting at the SSG.

The EPCC half-yearly meeting was very well attended as usual with representatives from all emergency services, local government and the A & B sites, and was chaired (in rotation) by Jim Crawford. We were informed that the emergency planning functions operated by Suffolk Police are being merged early in 2012 with Norfolk Constabulary. A series of emergency exercises have continued both on-site and off-site and more joint exercises are being considered. Both sites have undertaken four exercises each in the last six months and, for example, the scenario of a scaffold collapse was tested at A and a chemical spill at B were simulated, with the full involvement of the emergency services, including the Ambulance Service whose attendance had been patchy in the past. The on-going series of exercises was outlined for 2012, and will again demonstrate and challenge credible scenarios, under the watchful and judgmental eye of the ONR.

The ONR Final Report on the Fukushima incident was discussed, with the requirement from the European Council for stress tests to be carried out as part of a complete safety re-assessment which will include assessments for severe weather and severe accident capabilities. In the UK this will be co-ordinated by the Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group, of which Andy Osman of Suffolk County Council is a member and the local point of contact. DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) is the sponsoring Government Department, and Charles Hendry, MP the relevant Minister. There is also Cabinet Office involvement, through meetings of COBRA. Following the ONR Report, there will also be a review of the UK's Designated Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZ) around nuclear sites.

Both sites have tested their arrangements with the new Fire Service emergency control room, now re-housed in Cambridgeshire, and all procedures are working properly. New calendars,

giving emergency arrangements and dates of planned exercises, will be delivered to all households within the DEPZ in the week commencing 5 December, and replacement Potassium Iodate tablets will be offered to all residents, initially for collection from either of the pharmacies in Leiston; non-collection will be followed up by a personal contact, but there is no compulsion for DEPZ residents to have the tablets. Old tablets are requested to be returned and arrangements are in place for them to be safely destroyed. Other supplies of the tablets are kept at six sites within east Suffolk.

Richard W.L. Smith, MVO

16 November, 2011