



Sizewell B Power Station  
Nr Leiston  
Suffolk  
IP16 4UR

1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Dear Resident

## **Sizewell B Nuclear Power Station - Emergency Planning Arrangements**

We are writing to you as a resident within the Sizewell B Radiation (Emergency Preparedness & Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPiR) off-site emergency planning area to provide you with information on the emergency planning arrangements around Sizewell B Power Station and to explain how this affects you.

Every nuclear power station in the UK has an area around it where well-established emergency planning procedures, developed by the local authority and emergency services, are regularly tested for the unlikely event of a release of radioactive material from the site. Countermeasures, such as sheltering and taking stable iodine tablets, are put in place for local people within a predefined area. It is important to stress that an incident of this nature is extremely unlikely but emergency planning measures are in place.

Historically there was a zone around the Sizewell power stations where urgent actions could be required to protect the public in the event of an Off-Site Nuclear Emergency which extended to 2.4km from the site. This was defined by a potential accident on the older Magnox Sizewell A station when it was operating.

In 2014, as Sizewell A came to the end of its operating life and the nuclear fuel was removed from the site, the potential for accidents resulting in a release of radioactive material off-site from Sizewell A became significantly less than before. As a result, the focus for a 'reasonably foreseeable' accident has shifted to the operating Sizewell B power station. The nuclear safety regulator the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) re-assessed the risk from Sizewell B and found this to be significantly less than that from Sizewell A when it was operating.

### **Determining the emergency planning area**

In 2014, ONR revised its determination principles for off-site emergency planning areas. This takes into account many factors in addition to technical assessment of the hazard from the site, such as; avoidance of bisecting local communities, inclusion of adjacent vulnerable groups, international best practice and credibility of the extent of the planning area.

As a result, and including consideration of the hazard at the site, though reduced due to the removal of fuel from Sizewell A, ONR made a determination a new increased REPPiR off-site emergency planning area that would apply around Sizewell. This area is also the area within which information must be supplied to the public by the operators of the site (EDF Energy).

**EDF Energy**  
Sizewell B Power Station

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## Urgent Countermeasures<sup>1</sup>

Suffolk's Director of Public Health, NHS England, and Public Health England considered the need for urgent countermeasures as a result of the reduction in risk from the Sizewell site. It was determined that the urgent countermeasures of taking stable iodine and sheltering would only be required in a 1km zone around Sizewell B in the case of a reasonably foreseeable accident. Background information on countermeasures can be found in the accompanying PHE leaflet 'Nuclear Emergencies'.

## What does this mean for me?

People who live within 1km of the station who could be required to take urgent action in an Off-Site Nuclear Emergency continue to be given specific information on an annual basis.

The regulator (ONR) has determined that general information should be provided to the public in a wider area, the REPPiR off-site emergency planning area, although there is no requirement to take urgent action in an Off-Site Nuclear Emergency. The REPPiR off-site emergency planning area and the area in which urgent countermeasures would be required are shown in the map enclosed with this letter.

The most likely impacts in your area would include food restrictions which would be advised at the time of the event<sup>2</sup>. A further countermeasure of shelter or evacuation could be required in extreme circumstances; however it is very unlikely that this would be immediately advised.

Your address is in the area in which information must be provided to the public, and two leaflets are attached to provide this background information. This information will be revised and re-issued on a three yearly basis.

Information can also be found on the websites of the Suffolk Resilience Forum, EDF Energy and Public Health England.

## Alerting

If there is an Off-Site Nuclear Emergency, notification will be made by the following communication methods and will provide detail on any actions that should be taken:

- by police officers or other emergency responders
- by loudspeakers on police patrol vehicles
- by local radio and / or television
- by official social media outlets

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<sup>1</sup> Countermeasures would be agreed by the Suffolk Strategic Coordination Group. Shelter would be on advice from Public Health England and the site operator. The taking of stable iodine tablets would be on advice from Public Health England and the site operator, and implemented by NHS England. Evacuation would be on advice from Public Health England, and implemented by the Police. Food restrictions would be on advice from the Food Standards Agency.

<sup>2</sup> If you are sheltering, it should be safe to drink/ use mains tap water, and to consume food and drink stored indoors unless instructed otherwise. People are advised not to eat food stored outdoors, nor fresh produce, nor use private water supplies.

We would like to reassure you that the potential for an emergency at the Sizewell B Power Station is extremely unlikely, and that EDF Energy has a total focus on nuclear safety at all stages of design, construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning. Even so, we have well developed and well-rehearsed emergency arrangements in place should the worst happen.

As you live outside the 1km area in which urgent countermeasures may be required, the likelihood of an event happening that would require you to take countermeasures is extremely small. However we do not ignore this possibility and we work with Suffolk County Council and the local and national responders to ensure that the detailed emergency plans can be extended if needed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul Morton'.

Paul Morton  
Station Director  
EDF Energy  
Sizewell B Power Station

**Enclosed:**

Nuclear Emergencies - Information for the Public

Basic Concepts of Radiation

### Map of the Sizewell B REPIR Off-Site Emergency Planning Area

