

Bradwell B: Our role and involving you



Welcome to our first e-bulletin

We're sending this e-bulletin to organisations, groups and individuals located near to the site of the proposed Bradwell B new nuclear power station. We hope this information is of interest to you and you would like to hear from us again when we have updates to share. Please forward this email to friends, family and colleagues who may also be interested. However, if you would prefer not to hear from us again, please click 'unsubscribe' at the bottom of the email.

Our role

We are the environmental regulator of the nuclear industry in England. This includes regulating disposals and discharges of radioactive waste, discharges of cooling and process water and operation of standby generators. We also regulate other environmental matters such as discharge of surface waters and effluents during construction and we provide advice through the planning system to others, for example on flood and coastal risk management.

We work closely with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), who regulate safety and security, to ensure that any new nuclear power stations meet high standards of safety, security, environmental protection and waste management.

What's happening now?

Proposed ground investigations

Bradwell Power Generation Company Ltd has made us aware that it intends to carry out Ground Investigations works (load testing) at the site this summer. To do this they need to apply for and obtain relevant environmental permits and licences.

Bradwell Power Generation Company Ltd will need a transfer licence to abstract (take) water and a water discharge activity (WDA) permit to discharge water. The abstraction of groundwater is

required for dewatering whilst the load testing pit is being excavated/constructed, and during load testing.

The WDA permit application is required for the discharge of water to a tributary of the Weymark's Ditch. This discharge will be a mixture of abstracted groundwater (from the load testing pit excavation), direct rainfall inputs and surface water runoff.

From 30 April to 15 June 2020 these permits and licences will be available online for the public to comment on. [Read more](#)

Due to the current situation with Coronavirus we've extended the duration of this consultation from 4 weeks to 6 weeks to provide people with more time to read the documents and respond to us.

What is the difference between consultations on operational phase and site investigation/construction phase environmental permits?

Our decision making process for **operational** permit applications includes **two** periods when we will be consulting, which to date has always included public drop-in sessions. We'll also make interested parties aware of these consultations. Firstly we'll ask for your comments on the permit applications. Later we'll have an additional consultation when we'll provide a document setting out our views and ask for your comments on our draft decision. Only after we have carefully considered the comments we receive in that consultation will we make our final decisions.

For **site investigation/construction phase** permit applications we will also have a period of consultation on the application, but this would be **online only**. We'll also make interested parties aware of the consultation – as we are doing for the two applications described in this e-bulletin. Once we have carefully considered the comments we receive in that consultation we will make our decision.

We're mindful that site investigation and construction activities are not unique to nuclear developments and are time-limited so we will process the permit applications as we would for any construction site. This is a proportionate approach that will help us exercise the best regulatory control on rapidly changing construction activities.



Assessing new nuclear power station designs

The Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) developed a process called Generic Design Assessment (GDA). We use this process to scrutinise new nuclear power stations at an early stage - before a developer has formed detailed proposals for building at a specific site or applied for licences or permits. This means that the regulators can identify potential design or technical concerns early on and ask the designer to resolve them. The GDA process for UK HPR1000 began in January 2017. Step 2, an initial, high level technical assessment was completed in November 2018. ONR completed its Step 3 assessment in February 2020. [Read more about our GDA process](#)

The comments process

Any nuclear power station design company going through GDA is required to set up a website, publish information about the design and invite comments and questions about it. You can make a comment or ask a question and the design company will respond to you. As regulators, we will see the comments and questions submitted and the responses provided and can use these to

help inform our work. Comments can also be made to our Joint Programme Office. The comments process stays open throughout GDA until about four months before we make our decisions. [Make a comment](#)

Bradwell Power Generation Company Ltd proposes building this reactor design at its Bradwell site in Essex. Find out more by visiting the company's [website](#).

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We are aware communities, businesses and the environment rely on our services. This includes the advice and guidance we offer, our regulatory work which continues to protect the environment, people and wildlife from harm, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management and other roles. We will continue to review the situation in light of further advice from the government. [Read more](#).

Our approach to public and stakeholder engagement for the GDA of the UK HPR1000 nuclear power station

We've held meetings with representatives from local councils and community groups - last September and in February. Colleagues from the Office for Nuclear Regulation joined us to discuss the GDA and environmental permitting, site licensing, and our roles in the planning process (DCO). It was also an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and give their views on future community engagement.

While it will always remain the responsibility of the regulators to make decisions in GDA about the acceptability or not of a reactor design, we consider our decisions will be better informed through engagement. The Environment Agency and Office for Nuclear Regulation have published a joint approach to stakeholder engagement. [Read the plan](#)

You can feedback on our approach to engaging. [Email your comments](#)

If you have any questions about our regulatory role at Bradwell [email our local project team](#)



Our Chair Emma Howard Boyd has written a blog about the Environment Agency and the Coronavirus. [Read more](#)



Regulating Sizewell

Find out more about the Environment Agency's regulation of Sizewell A, B and C, environmental permits and other activities at these nuclear sites. [Read more](#).

Evidence

Nuclear power station cooling waters: protecting biota

SC180004/R1

We've published a review of evidence on the effectiveness of technologies which can protect biota from large-scale cooling water systems at nuclear power stations. [Read more.](#)



Radioactivity in food and the environment (RIFE)

We've published our annual assessment report about radioactivity in food and the environment. It includes information about the Bradwell and Sizewell nuclear sites.

[Read more.](#)