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Meeting:	Water Management Working Group
Date:	6 th February 2024, 11:00 -12:00
Location:	MS Teams
Chair:	Naomi Goold
Attendees:	Steve Manning (Sizewell C), Nick Stayt (AECOM), Andy Brooks (WSP), James Meyer (ESC), Matt Williams (SCC), Naomi Goold (ESC), Ayden Hassan (EA), Ben McFarland (SWT), Chris Strachan (EA), Alastair Bloomfield (East Suffolk Drainage Board), Sean Mahoney (NE)
Apologies:	Mark Halpin (Sizewell B)

Meeting Notes:

1 INTRODUCTION

Members provided introductions to the group.

Sizewell C Limited were confirmed to act as the secretariat on behalf of the group.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE / MEETING PURPOSE

SMan confirmed that the Terms of Reference (ToR) shared for comment are draft and currently reflect the Deed of Obligation (DoO). SMan noted that these can be changed to reflect the views of the group members.

SMan stated that, in respect of the Water Monitoring and Management Plan (WMMP) the ToR are currently very prescriptive of the contents which doesn't reflect the plan for submission to discharge Development Consent Order (DCO) Requirement 11. SMan suggested the scope should be re-worded to reflect what the group will do – which is to oversee the management of water within the Sizewell Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the context of the Sizewell C Project, but also more widely. This will include reviewing water level, water quality and flow data, performance against triggers and trends, agreement of actions needed and oversight/agreement of plan updates in accordance with the wording in the WMMP.

SMan also identified that there needs to be some clarity on the overlap with other working groups.

NS stated that updates have been made to the Water Levels Working Group (WLWG) to reflect that the two groups should remain separate but meetings could be held on the same day, one after the other, if deemed appropriate.

NG confirmed it was always the intention to keep the Water Management Working Group (WMWG) and WLWG separate to adhere to the DoO rather than combining them, but coordination of the meetings was supported. JM raised a query stating that the quorate meetings text needs to be updated to at least include the other statutory organisations (Natural England and the Environment Agency). This was agreed and will be changed.

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NG stated the existing draft states the group is to be chaired by 'the' representative rather than 'a' representative. This is to be updated.

NG also questioned that within the text on the 'purpose of the meeting' suggesting a minor edit for clarity. NG stated that this section also needs to include anything subsequent to the plan being agreed as it seems to be a little limiting.

NG identified that the draft also needs to be updated to clarify that Sizewell C Limited will be performing the secretariat role.

SMah questioned the wording of the 2nd bullet of Section 3. The wording suggests the actions the group identify are for Sizewell C approval. This is to be reviewed and updated as necessary.

NS raised that, as discussed with SMah and SMan, the ToR needs to reflect that non-voting members can also attend meetings to aid discussion as required.

SMan reiterated that the ToR is very prescriptive of the Plan. NG agreed that the details of the plan that would be discharged separately do not need to be in the ToR.

Action – Sizewell C Limited to prepare updated ToR to reflect the above and reshare and request any final comments on the ToR

3 DCO FIRST COMMENCEMENT UPDATE

SMan provided an update and overview of the trigger of the DCO. This has been agreed with ESC and SCC following the completion of a large number of activities that needed to be completed in advance. SMan noted that some actions were required in advance of Commencement and others are required in the month following. SMan clarified that this does not mean that all works can commence.

4 DISCUSSION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE WATER MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

SMan clarified that there was a pre-meeting on the 29th January 2024 that covered the proposed changes to the original draft WMMP where Sizewell C presented the key details of the proposed changes. SMan clarified that there has been some correspondence following this initial meeting with BMcF to address some concerns raised.

AB provided an overview of the WMMP and the updates following the meeting on the 29th January 2024. Further edits have been made to trigger levels text to clarify previous queries relating to passing of triggers at multiple locations (more than two at any one time) that it would trigger a review.

AB stated that other changes that have been made relate to the potential changes in water source that is not picked up by water level i.e. no change in levels but a change in the source of the water. An additional point has now been added on water balance which will be routinely assessed. This leads into the points made by BMcF. Sizewell C Limited have reflected the comments provided by BMcF and in the updated version of the WMMP and are now proposing monthly water quality monitoring in line with his

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challenge. The review of the water balance and monthly water quality monitoring would help to robustly support the outcomes of the assessment presented in the DCO application in that there would be no significant changes.

SMan added that Sizewell C Limited have discussed with ESC that this would be a full discharge of DCO Requirement 11. The plan, when submitted, is the plan at this point in time. It is then the role of this group to oversee the plan and there may be a need to review and update the plan from time to time. This could be in relation to triggers. SMan noted that trigger levels for new monitoring locations will need to be defined by this group. There is a mechanism through this group (the WMWG) to provide these updates as necessary. SMan confirmed it is not that intention for the plan to be re-discharged for minor amendments to the Plan, however there may be scenarios within which it is needed to be discharged again in the future. NG confirmed that minor changes can be approved by the WMWG, but in some instances the WMWG may feel changes are substantial enough to go back through requirement discharge. For each revision there would be an updated WMMP where the whole document would be refreshed rather than just being documented elsewhere, and a record in the group's Agreement Log.

BMcF confirmed he is now satisfied that Sizewell C Limited have updated the plan to include monthly monitoring as suggested and questioned the locations of the monitoring. BMcF identified that M22 (fen meadow habitats) is dependent on groundwater and therefore it is important to recognise the importance of high quality groundwater, this is well documented. BMcF clarified that this is a complex system/network. SMan stated Sizewell C Limited identified the modelling and assessment work agreed with the EA. SMan confirmed the WMMP has been developed to support and maintain that habitat. Sizewell C Limited has increased the proposed level of monitoring to prove that they are committed to maintaining the status of these habitats. AB provided an overview of the monitoring locations and clarified that two of these need to be moved to reflect the area of development. It was confirmed that the locations are within the area of fen meadow habitats (M22) and were agreed as appropriate. AB confirmed that the reporting process would be monthly using a proforma. SMan confirmed that the proforma needs to be agreed by the WMWG. Words have been included in the WMMP to that effect. BMcF, questioned if the water quality metrics to be monitored have been defined? **Action - AB to circulate the metrics/indicators to be detailed within the WMMP.** BMcF questioned what ecological monitoring is to be undertaken. SM confirmed this is for a separate forum but there is a proposal to undertake a detailed survey in 2024 that will set a benchmark for going forward. SMan stated that Sizewell C Limited are happy to agree and discuss the scope of that in the relevant forum. BMcF raised concerns about management actions being undertaken by Freedom Group. It was agreed by SMan and BMcF that this would to be discussed offline outside this forum.

CS raised concerns around response times and identified that there needs to be something in the ToR for this group and the Ecology Working Group that an emergency meeting can be called if necessary. SMan confirmed that there is ability for the members to convene a meeting or raise issues to the Environment Review Group as required. CS confirmed that the concern is that monthly monitoring has the potential to miss an event. JM supported this and identified that the proforma needs to capture what has been done mid-month to address any issues. JM also added that there does not need to be a meeting for every change to the sluice. BMcF stated that water monitoring is very much a point of time activity

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and that, if a change is recorded it may be necessary to visit to take additional samples in between routine visits. AB confirmed that the WMMP allows for additional monitoring as required. BMcF noted that there has been an issue with water level management and clarified that EDF are the landowner and responsible for maintaining the condition of habitats within the Sizewell Marshes SSSI. JM queried who has control of the sluice and will this be clear in the plan? SMan confirmed that this is the case and it is Sizewell /EDF have control of the sluice. SMan also confirmed that Sizewell B are a member of the WMWG but are not in attendance at the meeting today.

5 KEY RISKS, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

SMan reconfirmed the purpose of the plan is to monitor and maintain the water levels and water quality within the Sizewell Marshes SSSI. There are challenges across the catchment as a result of the ditch network not being cleared as often as required. This plan will help to shine light on key influences on water levels within the Sizewell Marshes. This provides opportunities for water management across the network. This then forms the interface with the WLWG.

MW identified that discharge of surface water will happen at some time. Noting that as the construction discharges change, they will need to come through this group given that at the DCO stage it was noted that these would be revisited in time.

6 AOB

No other business raised.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be in April 2024.

Actions raised during the meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
06/02/2024	1	Sizewell C Limited to prepare updated ToR to reflect the above and reshare.	Sizewell C Limited	23/02/2024
06/02/2024	2	AB to circulate the metrics/indicators to be detailed within the WMMP.	Sizewell C Limited	06/02/2024
06/02/2024		Stakeholders to provide any final comments on the ToR	All	10 working days following

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Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
				receipt of update

Author: Nick Stayt (AECOM)