

Institute *of* Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

SIZEWELL NUCLEAR POWER STATION

THURSDAY 23 April 2009

This visit has been organised by Tom Rutherford.

A visit has been arranged to the PWR (Pressurised Water Reactor) at Sizewell in Suffolk. This reactor is known as Sizewell B and is the UK's newest nuclear reactor and the only commercial PWR in the UK. The Sizewell A reactor is older and is being de-commissioned now. Recently Sizewell was bought by the French electricity company, EDF. They are planning to build a new reactor, Sizewell C, which will be an EPR (European Pressurised Reactor) and is the same as the reactors which they build in France.

The reactor is housed in a large building with several flights of stairs, so the visit is unsuitable for the less mobile of us.

The programme will be as follows:

10:30 arrive at station Security Lodge for security checks and access

10:45 coffee and introductory briefing

11:00 Sizewell B performance update

11:30 site tour

13:30 lunch and Q & A session

14:00 depart site

Security is very strict on the site. Before the visit, we have to provide the following information about each visitor: full name, date of birth, address, shoe size and jacket size. You must bring your passport or driving licence with your photograph on it. You should bring the minimum number of bags and cases, because they will all be searched. Mobile phones, blackberries, laptops and cameras are not allowed on site. Our hosts will provide us with hard hats, safety shoes, coverall jackets and hearing protection.

GROUP SIZE The maximum number in the group is 15.

TRAVEL Travelling by car to Sizewell is almost obligatory. You should take the East Anglia road, the A12 (from the M25, take exit 28). Still keeping to the A12, bypass Colchester and Ipswich (A12 merges with the A14 on part of the bypass). Just after Farnham, turn right onto the Aldeburgh road, the A1094, and then turn left onto the B1069 to Leiston. The Sizewell site, which is well directed, is 2 or 3 miles east of Leiston. The postcode is IP16 4UR. You should aim to be at the site no later than 10:15.

COST The cost of the visit will be £2 per person.

CONTACTS Reinalt Vaughan-Williams reinalt@physics.org 020 8946 3399 and 07758 085741

LATE ARRIVALS It probably isn't a good idea to be late. You won't be able to telephone us after we arrive. From junction 28 on the M25, Sizewell is about 82 miles. If you have to drive through or round London, please remember that you will be driving in the rush hour and if you haven't done that recently, it's bound to be worse than last time and allow plenty of time for holdups.