

Sizewell A

Sludge Encapsulation Using the LLW Plant

Project Details:

Project Ref:	NS1130
Value:	£130K
Programme:	6 months
Project Team:	Project Manager, RPS and Technicians

Following the successful completion of the pre-works design and build contract for the retrieval of the sludges within the Final Active Waste Tanks at Sizewell A Power Station, NSG installed and commissioned the retrieval system and the Mark 1 Low Level Waste Mobile Solidification Plant. To enable the retrieval to be carried out in conjunction with the LLW plant, it was modified to interface with the NSG retrieval system. Full works testing of the integrated system was carried out at NSG's Leyland facility prior to dispatch to Sizewell.

The installation of the plant into the process area at Sizewell A presented a number of challenges, primarily caused by the fact that it was one of the smallest process areas in which the LLW plant had been installed. In addition to the logistics of actually fitting the plant into the area, a further challenge was to get the plant

items through the access door, not normally a problem, but the door was 7m above ground!



The retrieval system utilised a submersible macerator pump to retrieve the sludges from the tanks and transfer it directly into the process drum assemblies within the LLW plant. Following processing the drums were transferred out of the process area, to ground level and finally loaded into Half Height ISO containers.



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“Although the project was considered a routine LLW plant encapsulation campaign, the challenges of getting the plant into the area were unique to Sizewell and only by working as a team were NSG, Project Services and Sizewell able to complete the operations in a safe and controlled manner” said the NSG Commercial Manager, Nigel Lowe.