

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING 25th OCTOBER 2019
ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE HINKLEY POINT
EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 2019

The Emergency Planning Consultative Committee (EPCC) provides a regular forum for all organisations with responsibilities for preparing emergency plans in response to an event at Hinkley Point Power Stations. Representation includes all three Hinkley sites (A/B/C), Emergency Services, Somerset County Council, Environment Agency, ONR, Public Health England, NHS, Wessex Water, and Food Standards Agency among others. The purpose is to review the adequacy of the emergency arrangements to enable the Hinkley Point Emergency Plans and Off Site Emergency Plans to be put into operation effectively should a situation arise which requires this. The committee members meet twice a year and have met on 6th March and 3rd September 2019.

Emergency exercise programme 2019

All three Hinkley sites have a comprehensive programme of emergency response exercises spread throughout the year.

Hinkley Point A have tailored their exercise programme to reflect the changing risk profile of the site and have practised scenarios throughout the year including security, fire and radiological events as well as some conventional aspects such as rescue from confined spaces and asbestos events.

Hinkley Point B have completed 8 comprehensive emergency exercises so far this year designed to stress the full range of emergency responders. In July, they successfully demonstrated managing a combined security / nuclear event scenario to the satisfaction of the ONR and ONR Civil Nuclear Security in accordance with the site licence requirements.

Hinkley Point C have also undertaken a full range of emergency response exercises, again tailored to their risk profile such as rescue from height, fire, security, environmental spills and confined space.

Activation of Emergency Arrangements 2019

The majority of emergency responses across all three Hinkley sites are for personnel taken unwell at work rather than any site based emergency situations. All three sites have recognised the value of having trained on site first aiders and occupational health support in the first instance which, in some cases, has saved lives. One conservative declaration of a site incident was enacted at Hinkley Point B in May due to a leak of clean CO₂ from a small-bore (1/8") pipe, which became dislodged from a flange. The event was dealt with quickly and stood down after two hours. There was no impact on plant or personnel as the plant was shut down at the time undergoing maintenance.

National Issues

The 2019 Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPIR) came into force on 22nd May. Under the new legislation Somerset County Council is now the duty holder for determining the extent of detailed emergency planning required in relation to Hinkley Point B. There is a 12-month implementation period with the expectation that all duty holders under REPIR 2001 will be compliant with the new regulations by 22 May 2020. Under these requirements, Hinkley Point B has completed a "consequence report" and submitted this to Somerset County Council, which is part of the ongoing process of becoming compliant with REPIR 2019.

Date of next meeting

The next EPCC meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 11th March and 17th September 2020.

D.Uminski
Hinkley Point EPCC chair