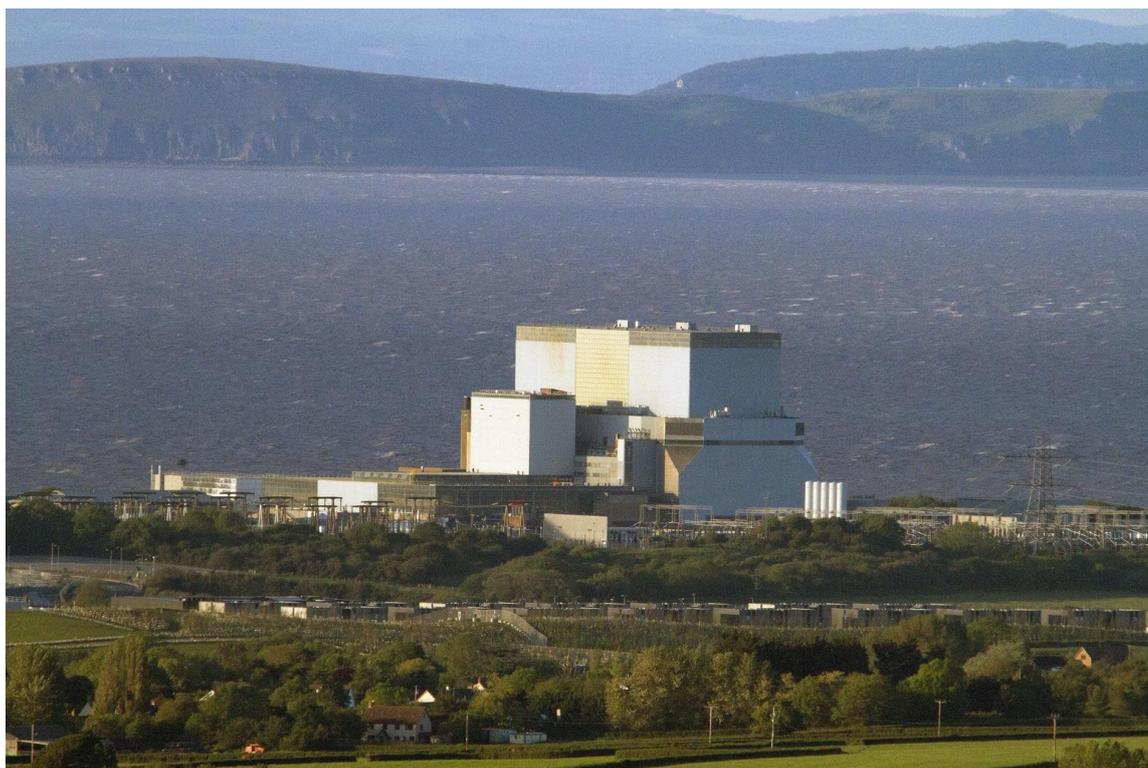


# Site Stakeholder Group Report

**Peter Evans, Hinkley Point B Station Director**  
**Friday 25 October 2019**



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## 1. Safety and station issues



On behalf of the team at Hinkley Point B, thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my report and operational update.

Last week we reached the thirteenth anniversary since the power station's last Nuclear Reportable Event. This performance is comparable to some of the best performing nuclear power plants in the world, and we are all very proud. We have a healthy and open reporting culture, our decision making processes are robust, we have nurtured an environment where everybody is personally accountable for their actions, and we effectively embrace the use of organisational learning tools. These are just some of the reasons which have contributed to us reaching where we are today and achieving this world-class level of performance.

We measure our safety performance against top tier indicators, and I am pleased to report our strong environmental performance continues. It is now over 10 years since years since our last environmental event.

In terms of industrial safety, it has been over three years since the last lost time incident to an EDF Energy member of staff. However, disappointingly on 10 September one of our contract partners was injured and sustained a lost time injury after she was knocked by an open door of an electric vehicle, which suddenly moved forward. The individual was treated by station first aiders, before being taken to Musgrove Park Hospital, where she was later released. I am pleased to report the individual made a full recovery and has since returned to work. An investigation into the event was launched immediately, and we have now completed a full review of the operation and procedures relating to the use of these vehicles and pedestrian / vehicle separation on site. During the reporting period and apart from the accident described above, there have been 8 minor first aid injuries at the site, all of a very minor nature.

Hinkley Point B's strong and positive nuclear safety culture was recognised in an assessment in September. A joint independent INA (Independent Nuclear Assurance, EDF Energy) and ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation) team visited the station and, over the course of a week, spoke with station workers through a series of interviews and focus groups, and observed key meetings and training. At the end of the assessment, positive feedback was given on the strength of the station's safety culture, together with some ideas for continual improvement.

During the reporting period, both units have operated at nominal full power apart from short load reductions for refuelling activities. Reactor 3 / turbine 7 has been on-line since 16 June 2019, and reactor 4 / turbine 8 has been on-line since 21 February 2019. Station output for the period between 17 June to 13 October was 1.840 TWh (one terawatt equals 1,000,000 megawatts: one terawatt-hour represents one hour of electricity consumption at a constant rate of 1TW).

Earlier this month I was privileged to attend the 2019 EDF Energy Generation apprentice graduation ceremony in Worcestershire, where three of our apprentices were formally recognised for their efforts over the past four years. A special mention must go to Samuel Uminski who won the Hinkley Point B

apprentice of the year award. At the event, Brian Cowell, EDF Energy Generation's Managing Director praised the dedication and challenge which the new graduates have each brought to the business, and described the pride he felt in seeing the next generation of engineers, technicians and business managers starting out on their careers.

## 2. Environmental update

The Environment Agency site inspector has visited the station throughout the period to complete themed inspections. These inspections have not raised any findings of significance. Small improvement opportunities have been identified and are being tracked and resolved as part of the station's action tracking process.

Radioactive gaseous and aqueous discharges arising from normal plant operations remain at levels well below those authorised by the Environment Agency.

During the period there was a non-compliance with our environmental permit after five active samples of gas dryer desiccant were mistakenly consigned to an offsite radioactive waste management facility. Once the station discovered the anomaly, a thorough examination of our records confirmed the samples were missing and we identified the exact drum where they had been consigned. The station immediately contacted the Environment Agency and the waste management facility and we were able to quarantine the drum while its suitability for disposal was assessed. We have completed a full investigation into the event and subsequently placed corrective actions to reduce the risk of reoccurrence.

In early September some fuel storage pond water was inadvertently transferred to the active effluent treatment plant receiving tanks, while we were replacing the Ion exchange resins for the pond. The pond water is part of a closed system and the transfer did not lead to an increase in authorised monthly discharges. As soon as the issue was identified, the operation was immediately stopped and following a detailed investigation, the cause of the event was identified and procedures were amended to ensure a repeat occurrence could not take place.

Both of the events described above have been classified at the lowest level of non-conformance – a technical breach with no actual environment harm.

Also since the last meeting, Hinkley Point B has completed all of the short-term actions to improve the power station's defences against a loss of oil from the site. These have included:

- Modifying the drains in locations close to bulk chemical or oil storage, which allows the drains to be blocked when deliveries occur.
- Completing a physical test of the site oil interceptor and thereby improving confidence in its design
- Purchasing an emergency trailer containing recovery equipment that can be quickly deployed in response to an oil or chemical spill

In addition, we have completed a survey of the drains within the reactor building to determine their condition. This survey confirmed there are not any defects in the reactor building drainage system.

These actions were completed to improve the site's environmental resilience and demonstrate our continuing commitment to environmental protection.

No other events of environmental significance were recorded during the reporting period. As per normal process, all events on site that are of interest environmentally are recorded and trended to determine the potential for improving our business activities.

### 3. Emergency arrangements

Since the last site stakeholder group meeting, the station has completed the 2019 exercise programme. The final two exercises were Exercise *BEECH*, a radiological-based scenario which was demonstrated to a team of peers from across the fleet, and Exercise *BONSAI*, a security themed scenario which was the Level 1 demonstration of our emergency arrangements to ONR & ONR (CNSS). Both of these exercises were deemed to be adequate demonstrations of our arrangements.

The planning for our 2020 exercises is well underway, with the shift exercise programme beginning in the first week of January. The 2020 Level 1 exercise is planned for Tuesday 29 September, and the counter terrorism demonstration is planned for Wednesday 24 June.

Ongoing on-site fire training and first aid training have been taking place, with positive feedback received from our trainees regarding the realistic training environments our recently opened heat and smoke training facility and fire attack unit provides. We will continue to make good use of these training facilities.

During the reporting period, there have been four ambulances called to site for station workers who have been taken unwell at the workplace. I am pleased to report all four are in the process of making full recoveries, and have already returned to work. There has been no attendance from either the Police or Fire brigade to site in the period.

### 4. Production statistics

For the period Monday 17 June to Sunday 13 October 2019:

TWh (terawatt-hour) Production:

>	Reactor 3	0.933
>	Reactor 4	0.907

Unit Capability Factor (% load factor) is based on a rated unit power (RUP) of 485 GNN (Gross Net Net) for reactor 3 and 480 GNN for reactor 4.

>	Reactor 3	98.17% excluding planned shutdowns and refuelling
>	Reactor 3	96.53% no allowance for planned events
>	Reactor 4	98.12% excluding planned shutdowns and refuelling
>	Reactor 4	94.90% no allowance for planned events

Number of channels re-fuelled on both units: 25 plus 11 shuffled channels.

Number of flasks despatched: 14

**Source: station records.**

As promised at our last meeting, I have once again included some simple descriptions and definitions about the general output and generation terms we use. I hope the following paragraphs bring some extra clarity.

The terms power and energy are frequently confused. Power is the rate at which energy is generated or consumed and is measured in units (e.g. watts) that represent energy *per unit time*. For example, when a light bulb with a power rating of 100W is turned on for one hour, the energy used is 100 watt hours. This same amount of energy would light a 40-watt bulb for 2.5 hours, or a 50-watt bulb for 2 hours.

Power stations are rated using units of power, typically Megawatts or Gigawatts. This reflects the maximum power output it can achieve at any point in time. A power station's annual energy output, however, would be recorded using units of energy (not power), typically Gigawatt hours. Major energy production is often expressed as Terawatt hours for a given period of time, and the case of SSG reporting this period is typically four months. One Terawatt hour of energy is equal to a sustained power delivery of one Terawatt for one hour.

Kilowatt	-	1,000 watts
Megawatt	-	1,000,000 watts
Gigawatt	-	1,000,000,000 watts
Terawatt	-	1,000,000,000,000 watts

## 5. Community relations

### Site visits

Since the last meeting the station has hosted a variety of organised external group visits, including representatives from Bridgwater & Taunton College, Bristol National Trust, Cardiff Model Engineering Society, Castle School – Taunton, Holyrood Academy – Chard, National Grid, Norton Hill School – Midsomer Norton, South Charnwood High School - Leicestershire, Taunton & District Friendship Club, Taunton Model Engineers Group, UK Tesla Owners Club and Ysgol Dyffryn Aman School – Ammanford, Wales. Each group received presentations on EDF Energy, Hinkley Point B and nuclear power at the visitor centre before being taken on a guided tour of the site.

Towards the end of July, I had the pleasure of welcoming many members of this Site Stakeholder Group to Hinkley Point B for a site tour. I do hope those who attended found the visit both informative and interesting.

### Sponsorship and Donations

EDF Energy continues to support local charities and organisations. Since the last meeting, beneficiaries have included:-

- > **Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival** - a donation towards the purchase of hi-vis safety clothing for marshals
- > **Burnham-on-Sea Motor Boat and Sailing Club** - a donation towards a public access defibrillator
- > **Nether Stowey School PTA** - a donation towards outdoor play equipment
- > **Somerset County Council** - a donation towards annual achievement awards for care leavers
- > **Watchet Town Football Club** - a donation towards new kit and equipment for the youth team

### Charity of the Year – Breast Cancer Now

EDF Energy is celebrating after raising £601,597 for Breast Cancer Now as the three-year partnership with the popular charity came to an end on 30 September. Employees have undertaken hundreds of activities, from hosting 'Pinknics' and bake sales across its 30 sites, to taking part in endurance challenges.

Staff and contract partners at Hinkley Point B also played their part by raising £28,546, and in doing so helped the site top the fundraising league of all of the other nuclear power stations throughout the fleet. I even agreed to wear an England rugby shirt as part of the site's fundraising exploits. All the funds raised from the partnership will help Breast Cancer Now will help the charity to provide funding for life changing support for today and life-saving research for tomorrow.

Apart from Breast Cancer Now, Hinkley Point B staff and contract partners have also busy raising monies for other charities. During the reporting period *Team Hinkley* have raised thousands of pounds for other charities, including Elliot's Touch Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support, Hope for Tomorrow, and The Alzheimer's Society, to name just a few.

## 6. Staff

- > 525 full-time EDF Energy employees
- > 12 EDF Energy apprentices plus 9 ex-Horizon apprentices
- > 200 full-time contract staff
- > 2 industrial placement students

## 7. Company news

### Cottam power station powers down after half a century

A beacon on North Nottinghamshire's skyline for the past 50 years, Cottam power station, has switched off its massive generating plant for the final time. Since it started generating in 1968 the station has produced nearly 500 terawatt hours of electricity – enough to single-handedly power the UK for around 18 months. It was originally planned to operate for 30 years.

The station's staff have been preparing for the eventual closure of the site for almost two years. In addition, Cottam's management team have also worked closely with the site's unions to ensure the minimum disruption for staff. Some have stayed closer to home and moved across to West Burton A coal

station which currently has capacity market contracts to operate until September 2021 or to the West Burton B Combined Cycle Gas Turbine station which started operating in 2013. All the apprentices have also secured roles at EDF Energy sites, continuing to build exciting futures with the UK's largest low carbon generator.

*P. G. Evans*

**Peter Evans**