



## **Site Stakeholder Group**

Hunterston B Station Director's Report

Period: May to July 2020

## 1. Graphite update

The ONR is continuing its assessment into the Hunterston B return to service case, using the information EDF has provided after extensive rounds of modelling and analysis. In the last few years, EDF has invested over £200million in understanding the likely impacts on the graphite reactor under a range of worse case scenarios. We remain confident that we would be able to shut down the reactor in all such scenarios.

The safety cases submitted show that as well as there being no challenge to safe shutdown during normal operations that even in an earthquake larger than the UK has ever experienced, every one of the 81 control rods which are used to stop the nuclear reaction, would enter the core and safely shut down the reactor. Just 12 of the 81 control rods are needed to do this.

Market rules require us to give our most likely view of return to service dates. We have been in discussions with the Graphite Team on safety case progress and have concluded that the current trading dates for Reactor 3 needs to be pushed back 10 days to the 30 August.

Reactor 4 came offline in mid-December 2019, following a four month run of safe and reliable generation. We aim to return the unit to service on 17 September 2020, there is no change to this date at present.

## 2. Defuelling and decommissioning

EDF is operating Hunterston B with decommissioning in mind and preparations are underway to ensure a smooth transition into defuelling when the station reaches that stage.

To support the Hunterston SSG's understanding of the plans a briefing note has been prepared which has been submitted as part of the meeting papers and provides more detail on the following.

As outlined in the last Station Director's report, EDF is planning to submit scoping reports to North Ayrshire Council in September 2020. These precede a planning application for facilities for disposal and safe storage of waste from the power station. We expect to submit this application in the first half of 2021.

In July, EDF had confirmation from North Ayrshire Council that some limited 'enabling works', to clear the proposed waste facilities site can be undertaken via 'permitted development rights' which do not require formal planning permission.

The enabling works involve some low rise (2-3 story) ancillary buildings, within the site, which are light industrial in nature. These buildings are not directly used for the generation of nuclear energy, and will either be relocated within the Hunterston B site or removed if they are no longer required.

It is important to be clear that a final decision has still to be taken on the best route for storage of ILW from Hunterston B and EDF is still looking at a range of options. A feasibility study is being carried out on shared use of the Hunterston A ILW store, however, the planning regime requires consent submissions to be made well in advance. To ensure the site can move into defuelling with no unnecessary downtime, applications are being lodged in good time ahead of being required.

A period of consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the local community, will be held later this year, or in early 2021.

### **3. Safety and Environment**

#### **Station Industrial Safety Performance**

Safety performance during the reporting period was maintained and the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) remained at 0.00.

Just outside of the reporting period a member of staff slipped on a recently cleaned floor which resulted in a swollen knee and was recorded as a Lost Time Incident. Appropriate signage was in place and the individual's footwear was in good condition. This will impact our TRIR rate for the next reporting period. An investigation is being carried out.

The station has been proactive in dealing with COVID-19 with a Pandemic Working Group established and a site lead in place. As the easing of lockdown continues the number of staff and contract partners coming to site has increased with additional social distancing measures put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our people. The thermographic cameras installed at the entrance remain as do other measures on site like screens. All changes have been underpinned by specific Risk Assessments.

HR has continued to work closely with Occupational Health and Line Managers to look after our vulnerable people and return people to site where possible. Regular contact has been made with vulnerable people required to isolate at home to ensure they continue to feel included and involved the station.

The thermographic camera is in use for anyone coming to site for people to pass its temperature scanning before being admitted and hand sanitiser required to be used before going onto site. There is also hand sanitiser made available all across the site as well as door wedging allowed on certain high use doors where assessed as safe to do so, to minimise touching.

In June, a fleet iAlways safety campaign started and will continue over the next 12 months. There has been excellent collaboration between EDF and the contract partners with Dropped Objects (June) and Working at Height (July) campaigns built into our monthly team safety meetings. The campaign will continue, covering a varied wide range of Industrial Safety topics into 2021.

Lloyds Register are due undertake a remote inspection of the station in line with COVID-19 arrangements in August to assess the station for 45001 accreditation. ISO 45001 is the world's international standard for occupational health and safety, issued to protect employees and visitors from work-related accidents and diseases.

#### **Radiological Protection**

The radiation dose of each worker is assessed individually by an electronic personal dose meter. A computer database keeps records for each worker. Exposure is constantly monitored and ultimately compared with the levels specified in the Ionising Radiation Regulations (2017) which are the UK Health and Safety legislation that applies to work with radiation.

During the reporting period the Collective Radiation Exposure (CRE) was below plan (see table below). Collective doses are pre-planned on expected work for each year based on scheduled maintenance, outages and routine operations. A breakdown of dose received is shown below (along with a comparison of relevant dose statistics).

All work is fully reviewed and justified in order to ensure all doses received were ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable). This involves justifying and optimising the dose, as well as remaining within those dose limits.

Differences between the actual and planned dose can be down to a range of factors including changes to the work programme, development of new techniques for carrying out work that will result in a lower dose and the deployment of new equipment. In this case the reduced work programme resulted in the actual dose being lower than the predicted.

<b>Radiation Dose to workers (May 2020 to July 2020)</b>		
Planned collective dose	22.1 man.mSv	
Actual collective dose	3.2 man.mSv	
	<b>Employee</b>	<b>Contract Partner</b>
Total Dose	1.9 man.mSv	1.3 man.mSv
Average individual dose	0.005 mSv	0.006 mSv
Highest individual dose	0.15 mSv	0.10 mSv
Individuals	362	227

Chest X-ray	Transatlantic Flight	CT scan	Average UK annual dose to public	EDF Energy Dose Restriction Level	UK legal dose limit for radiation workers
0.014mSv	0.08mSv	2.0mSv	2.6mSv	10mSv	20mSv

Explanatory notes:

- mSv: milliSieverts (SI unit of dose received by an individual)
- man.mSv: The collective dose for a group of workers (i.e. the total of the doses received by each member of a group).

**Environmental Safety**

Hunterston B has submitted an application to SEPA for a variation to its permit to allow the movement of small quantities of material within the fuel flasks between the site and Sellafield. This follows an investigation into loose material which was identified at the bottom of a fuel flask on its arrival at Hunterston B from Sellafield. The material (primarily graphite particles from fuel assembly sleeves and pieces of O-rings from the flask process) is contained in the flask at all times and does not interfere with the safe use of the flask or pose a risk to the environment, workers or the public. Flasks are periodically serviced at Sellafield and during this process any material will be removed and safely managed at the site.

There have been no significant environmental events in the period.

Radioactive gaseous and aqueous discharges arising during an extended period with both reactors shut down remain at levels well below those authorised by SEPA.

Work to process and package solid low level wastes has continued in the period as part of normal operations and consignments have been made to our regular partners. The work arrangements put in place for the pandemic had resulted in a decreased volume of waste being generated, however this resumed to normal levels in July 2020.

The programme of off-site environmental monitoring and radiation surveys in the district has continued throughout the period and demonstrates that the radiological discharges from the station have a negligible impact on the local environment. Reports are made monthly and quarterly to SEPA, detailing the samples and results of analysis performed.

## Emergency Arrangements

As part of our Covid-19 pandemic response we temporarily suspended emergency scheme training and exercises. These activities involve bringing people together on site so the decision was taken to protect staff during the peak of the pandemic. This has been continually reviewed in conjunction with the ONR.

Emergency scheme essential training has now recommenced and in September 2020 we plan to start emergency scheme exercises with reduced scope and numbers and with the correct control measures in place.

To date, the 2020 counter terrorism, peer assessed and Level 1 exercises have been cancelled. EDF will continue to discuss and agree all arrangements with the ONR as the current situation evolves.

EDF is continuing to support work to ensure timely compliance with Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019. EDF has, as required, provided technical advice on the minimum distance necessary for the site's Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) to allow the local authority to make a decision on the appropriate area. There is no change to the risk profile at any nuclear site across the UK with the assessment based on continuous improvement and enhancements to the robust arrangements that are already in place.

## 4. Generation

During the reporting period, Reactor 3/Turbine Generator 7 and Reactor 4/Turbine Generator 8 remained off-line while the company works with the regulator to ensure that the safety case reflects the findings of inspections and includes the results obtained from other analysis and modelling.

## 5. Company Update

### Positive international review of Torness power station published



A group of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have given Torness power station a positive review after a visit to the site.

The report by the independent Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) has been published following a visit to the East Lothian site in September 2019. This followed an initial three-week review in January 2018. During the first visit, they highlighted eight good practices that could be replicated globally and made some recommendations for further

improvements. On their return, the team found that there had been progress in all these areas, with most of the suggestions judged to be fully resolved.

OSART missions allow a thorough review of operational safety at nuclear power stations and promote the continuous development of the industry by ensuring IAEA safety standards are met and good practices shared across the world.

Robert Gunn, Torness station director said: “We are always working to drive forward improvements at our stations and we know that regular in-depth reviews from international experts add great value to our own internal checks and our work with the regulator, the ONR.

“We were pleased when the review team judged that we had eight areas of good practice and put a plan in place to act on recommendations for improvements in other areas. The final OSART peer review clearly acknowledges great progress with all areas either fully resolved or showing satisfactory progress.

“This was a very important visit, not only for Torness, but also as representatives of the wider UK nuclear industry and I’m glad that the team left with such a positive impression.”

You can read the OSART follow-up report [here](#).

### **1,200 new jobs and 300 apprenticeships for next phase of construction at Hinkley Point C**

Staffordshire-based Capula and Exyte Hargreaves from Lancashire are the latest British engineering companies to create new jobs to support the next phase of construction at the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station. Their 80 new engineering posts are a small part of the expected 1,200 new jobs and 300 apprentices who will become part of the 4,000 strong workforce who will fit electrical systems, cables and pipes at the nuclear power station.

The work is being delivered by an innovative joint venture – the “MEH Alliance” formed by EDF and its major contractors Altrad, Balfour Beatty Bailey, Cavendish Nuclear and Doosan Babcock. (MEH stands for Mechanical, Electrical and HVAC - heating, ventilation and air conditioning). Its new forecast predicts 1,200 new posts and 300 apprenticeships will be created. The fitting of the first five out of 156 storage tanks has marked the beginning of major MEH work on site.

Capula’s new contract to design and build instrument and control cabinets will create 50 new jobs. Bury based Exyte Hargreaves will create 30 new jobs to design manufacture and commission ventilation systems. Their success follows the recent announcement by Warrington-based Bilfinger UK that it is creating 350 British jobs to design and manufacture specialist pipework for Hinkley Point C.

Hinkley Point C will deliver a long-term socio-economic legacy for the UK - helping to overcome critical national skills shortages whilst opening up new, sustainable, career opportunities for people throughout the country. Many of the new workers will be making use of new locally based training facilities such as a welding and electrical centre of excellence.

A new welding centre in Bridgwater is supported by the MEH Alliance, the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB), the Weldability SiF Foundation and South West Institute of Technology and Bridgwater & Taunton College. The centre plans to train and qualify 350-500 welders a year, benefitting people and industries across the South-West of England and beyond.

Simon Parsons, Hinkley Point C MEH Programme Director, said: “In this next major chapter for our project, the MEH phase will join together hundreds of small and large companies from across Britain, creating 1,200 new jobs and 300 apprenticeships. Together we are delivering on our promise to build Britain’s industrial capability by creating new jobs and skills. Development of a near identical power station at Sizewell C will bring further opportunities for our extensive and experienced British supply chain.”

The Member of Parliament for Stone, Sir Bill Cash, said: “I’m very pleased to see Stone-based Capula create 50 new local engineering roles. It is great to see how Staffordshire and the wider

West Midlands still leads the way for great British high-quality manufacturing for major projects such as nuclear power stations. Nuclear power not only creates jobs and supports the economy across the entire nation but it is also a vital part of meeting the country's climate targets."

Full details of Hinkley Point C suppliers and spend across Britain can be found [here](#).

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